



# **Consultation Report Appendices**

**Appendix A: Statement of Compliance  
September 2025**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010168**

**Document Reference: APP/5.2**

**APFP Regulation 5(2)(q); Planning Act 2008; and Infrastructure  
Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations**

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## **1 Statement of Compliance**



# **Lime Down**

## Solar Park

# **Statement of Compliance**

**September 2025**

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**APFP Regulation 5(2)(q); Planning Act 2008; and Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations**



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## **1 Statement of Compliance**

### **1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 This Appendix includes a Consultation Compliance Checklist, provided as **Table 1-1, Table 1-2, Table 1-3, Table 1-4 and Table 1-5**.

1.1.2 These tables set out relevant legislation and guidance relevant to pre-application consultation for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

1.1.3 The legislation and guidance comprise:

- The Planning Act 2008 (**Table 1-1**);
- The Infrastructure Planning (Application: Prescribed Form and Procedure) Regulation 2009 (**Table 1-2**);
- Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (**Table 1-3**);
- Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Planning Act 2008 guidance on the pre-application process (2015) (Withdrawn) (**Table 1-4**); and
- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024) (**Table 1-5**).

1.1.4 This Appendix includes the Applicant's written statement on the adequacy of consultation undertaken, which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 20 June 2025. The Applicant's Adequacy of Consultation Milestone is presented in **Section 2** of this document.

## 1.2 Compliance with the Planning Act 2008

1.2.1 The Applicant undertook consultation consistent with the relevant commitments of the Planning Act 2008, with this being sections 42 to 49.

1.2.2 **Table 1-1** describes how the Applicant's pre-application consultation activities have complied with these requirements in the Planning Act 2008.

**Table 1-1: Compliance Checklist for the Planning Act 2008**

Section	Requirement	Compliance
<b>Section 42 (The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application)</b>	(a) such persons as may be prescribed,	<p>The Applicant consulted all relevant prescribed consultees as defined in Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations and the APFP Regulations.</p> <p>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. The Applicant consulted with all of these bodies.</p> <p>The responses received to the Scoping Opinion and how the Applicant has responded are detailed in ES Volume 3, <b>Appendix 1-2: Scoping Opinion Response Table [EN010168/APP/6.3]</b>.</p> <p>In addition to this, the Applicant consulted with further 'non-prescribed' consultees including Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and wider parish councils (who were listed in the Scoping Opinion but no longer within the boundary of the Scheme).</p>
	(aa) the Marine Management Organisation, in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2)	<p>The Applicant consulted the Marine Management Organisation, and received feedback from this prescribed body during Stage Two consultation. This is detailed in Section 11.2: Feedback Analysis Methodology, of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
	(b) each local authority that is within section 43	<p>The Applicant identified and consulted each relevant local authority as defined within Section 43 of the Planning Act 2008. These are listed below:</p> <p><i>'A' Authorities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Forest District Council</li> <li>• Vale of White Horse District Council</li> <li>• Cotswold District Council</li> <li>• Test Valley Borough Council</li> <li>• New Forest National Park Authority</li> <li>• Dorset Council</li> <li>• West Berkshire Council</li> <li>• Bath and North East Somerset Council</li> </ul>

Section	Requirement	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somerset Council</li> <li>• Swindon Borough Council</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> <li>• Gloucestershire County Council</li> <li>• Hampshire County Council</li> <li>• Bristol City Council</li> <li>• Stroud District Council</li> <li>• Monmouthshire County Council</li> <li>• Forest of Dean District Council</li> </ul> <p><i>'B' Authorities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> <li>• South Gloucestershire Council</li> </ul> <p>Local authorities identified by the Applicant under s43 of the Planning Act 2008 are also listed in <b>Table 8-1: Relevant local authorities under Section 43 of Planning Act 2008 of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b> along with the dates during which they were consulted.</p> <p>As detailed in Section 8.5: Identifying Section 43 Consultees, of the Consultation Report, 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).</p> <p>As a result of South Gloucestershire Council becoming being reclassified as a category "B" considered a host local authority, four additional neighbouring local authorities were identified as s43 consultees. Accordingly, alongside the targeted consultation, the newly identified local authorities were provided with at least 28 days to provide comments on the full statutory consultation materials. This included Bristol City Council, Stroud District Council, Monmouthshire County Council and Forest of Dean District Council.</p>
	(c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and	Not applicable.
	(d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44	The Applicant consulted each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44. This is detailed in Section 8.6: Identifying Section 44

Section	Requirement	Compliance
		Consultees, of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b> .
<b>Section 45 (Timetable for consultation under section 42)</b>	(1) The applicant must, when consulting a person under section 42, notify the person of the deadline for the receipt by the applicant of the person's response to the consultation.	The Applicant notified all those consulted under Section 42 of the deadline in writing by email and/or post. This is detailed in Section 8.4: Identifying Section 42 Consultees, of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b> .
	(2) A deadline notified under subsection (1) must not be earlier than the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents.	<p>The Applicant undertook consultation on the PEIR from 29 January 2025 to 19 March 2025 which was a period of 49 days.</p> <p>The Applicant issued hard copy notifications to arrive with consultees on or before 29 January 2025. The Applicant sought to track delivery of notifications and, where delivery was not confirmed, re-issue written notifications before 19 February, being 28 days prior to the stated consultation deadline. In addition to post, the Applicant notified Section 42 consultees by email where contact details were available.</p> <p>This is detailed in Chapter 6: Preparation for Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Oct 2024 – Jan 2025), of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
	(3) In subsection (2) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the person by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the person.	<p>The consultation documents provided to Section 42 consultees comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials; and</li> <li>• A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 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).</li> </ul> <p>A copy of the covering letter is provided in <b>Appendix G-2: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>
<b>Section 46 (Duty to notify Commission of proposed application)</b>	(1) The applicant must supply the Secretary of State with such information in relation to the proposed application as the applicant would supply to the Secretary of State for the purpose of complying with section 42 if the applicant were required by that section to consult the Secretary of State about the proposed application.	<p>The Applicant notified the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, in writing under Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 on 27 January 2025 that it was intending to commence consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 on the PEIR commencing on 29 January 2025 and closing on 19 March 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant included the following consultation documents with this notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A covering letter;</li> <li>• Example copies of the Section 42 covering letters (including examples for prescribed consultees, the MMO, local authorities and landowners);</li> </ul>

Section	Requirement	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A copy of Section 47 and section 48 notices (including details of the community information events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge);</li> <li>• A copy of the final SoCC; and</li> <li>• Copies of Stage Two consultation materials, including consultation newsletter, Feedback Form and project information booklet.</li> </ul> <p>The documents listed above are included in <b>Appendix G: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p> <p>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 <b>Appendix G-3: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>
	(2) The applicant must comply with subsection (1) on or before commencing consultation under section 42.	The Applicant complied with subsection (1) on 27 January 2025, prior to commencing consultation on 29 January 2025.
<b>Section 47 (Duty to consult the local community)</b>	(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.	<p>The Applicant prepared and published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) that set out how the Applicant proposed to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.</p> <p>Copies of the final SoCC as published (confirming the name of the publication and the date) are provided in <b>Appendix E: Publication and compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>
	(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.	<p>To inform the preparation of the statement, the Applicant consulted Wiltshire Council on the content of the SoCC.</p> <p>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 <b>Appendix D: Preparation of Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>
	(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.	<p>The Applicant formally consulted with Wiltshire Council on the draft SoCC between 30 October and 06 December 2024.</p> <p>Before this period, the Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC on 22 October, receiving comments back from Wiltshire Council on 28 October 2024.</p> <p>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, of the Consultation Report details</p>

Section	Requirement	Compliance
		how the Applicant had regard to Wiltshire Council's comments on the SoCC.
	(4) In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).	The consultation documents supplied by the Applicant included a covering letter and email, a summary of how feedback received to the early working draft SoCC had been considered by the Applicant, and the draft SoCC.
	(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).	<p>The Applicant had regard to all relevant responses to the draft SoCC. The Applicant shared a response table with Wiltshire Council to explain how their comments had been considered.</p> <p>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, of the Consultation Report details how the Applicant had regard to Wiltshire Council's comments on the SoCC.</p>
	<p>6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must — 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,</p> <p>(a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and</p> <p>(b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.</p>	<p>The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 on 14 January 2025.</p> <p>The SoCC was uploaded to the document library on the Applicant's dedicated Scheme website and made available to view and collect from the four CAPs (publicly accessible venues) listed in the document and accompanying notice.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The publication of the SoCC was also communicated through emailing identified key stakeholders and any party that had registered to be kept informed of updates to the Scheme.</p> <p>Copies of the final SoCC and notices as published (confirming the name of the publication and the date) are provided in <b>Appendix E: Publication and compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>
	(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.	<p>The Applicant undertook consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 in accordance with the SoCC.</p> <p>This detail is evidenced in Table 6-4: Summary of commitments made in the SoCC and how the Applicant fulfilled these, of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
	(1) The applicant must publicise the proposed	The Applicant prepared and publicised the application in the prescribed manner set out in the Infrastructure

Section	Requirement	Compliance
<b>Section 48 (Duty to publicise)</b>	application in the prescribed manner.	<p>Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 by publishing a Section 48 notice.</p> <p>The Section 48 notice was published in the following publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 16 and 23 January 2025;</li> <li>• Wiltshire Times on 17 and 24 January 2025;</li> <li>• The Guardian on 22 January 2025; and</li> <li>• The London Gazette on 24 January 2025.</li> </ul> <p>This detail is evidenced in Chapter 9: Statutory Consultation under Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008, of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
	(2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.	<p>The Section 48 notice included a deadline of 19 March 2025 for receipt of responses to the publicity. The final notice was published on 24 January 2025, which clearly stated the consultation start and end dates, therefore exceeding the 28 days statutory minimum response time.</p> <p>A copy of the s48 notice is provided in <b>Appendix H: Section 48 Notice [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>
<b>Section 49 (Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity)</b>	<p>(1) Subsection (2) applies where the applicant — (a) has complied with sections 42, 47 and 48, and (b) proposes to go ahead with making an application for an order granting development consent (whether or not in the same terms as the proposed application).</p> <p>(2) The applicant must, when deciding whether the application that the applicant is actually to make should be in the same terms as the proposed application, have regard to any relevant responses.</p> <p>(3) In subsection (2) “relevant response” means— (a) a response from a person consulted under section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by section 45 in that person's case,</p> <p>(b) a response to consultation under section 47(7) that is</p>	<p>The Applicant reviewed all relevant responses made pursuant to Section 42, Section 47, and Section 48 in accordance with Section 49.</p> <p>In reviewing the responses, the Applicant is cognisant of its duty to have regard to any relevant responses.</p> <p>A summary of relevant responses received and how the Applicant has considered these is provided in Chapter 10: Account of Feedback and the Applicant's Response to the Statutory Consultation, of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b> submitted with the DCO application. This is supported by <b>Appendix F-7: Statutory consultation under Section 47 of the PA 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b> and <b>Appendix G-5: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>received by the applicant before any applicable deadline imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under section 47, or</p> <p>(c) a response to publicity under section 48 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed in accordance with section 48(2) in relation to that publicity.</p>	
<b>Section 50 (Guidance about pre-application procedure)</b>	<p>(1) Guidance may be issued about how to comply with the requirements of this Section.</p> <p>(2) Guidance under this section may be issued by the Planning Inspectorate or the Secretary of State.</p> <p>(3) The applicant must have regard to any guidance under this section.</p>	<p>In carrying out the Stage One non-statutory consultation, the Applicant had regard to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG, 2015), Planning Act 2008: guidance on the pre-application process.</p> <p>In carrying out the Stage Two (statutory) consultation, the Applicant had regard to updated guidance published by the Planning Inspectorate in April 2024 and the updated Advice Note on the Consultation Report, published in August 2024.</p> <p>Full details are set out in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b> and <b>Appendix F-7: Statutory consultation under Section 47 of the PA 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b> and <b>Appendix G-5: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>

### 1.3 Compliance with The Infrastructure Planning: (Application: Prescribed Form and Procedure) Regulation 2009

**Table 1-2 Compliance Checklist for The Infrastructure Planning: (Application: Prescribed Form and Procedure) Regulation 2009**

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
<b>The Infrastructure Planning: (Application: Prescribed Form and Procedure) Regulation 2009</b>		
Reg 3	The persons prescribed for the purposes of Section 42(a) (duty to consult) are those listed in column 1 to these in Schedule 1 to these Regulations, who must be consulted in the circumstances specified in relation to each person in column 2 of that table.	<p>The Applicant consulted all persons prescribed in column 1 who were deemed relevant to this application by the descriptions set out in column 2 of that table.</p> <p>A full list is provided in <b>Appendix G-1: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>
Reg 4 (2)	The Applicant must publish a notice, which must include the matters prescribed by paragraph (3) of this regulation, of the proposed application – (a) for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the proposed development would be situated;	<p>The Applicant published a notice which included all the matters set out in paragraph (3) of this regulation. Copies of the notice are provided in <b>Appendix H: Section 48 Notice [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p> <p>The Section 48 notice was published in local newspapers as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 16 and 23 January 2025; and</li> <li>• Wiltshire Times on 17 and 24 January 2025</li> </ul>
Reg 4 (2)	(b) once in a national newspaper;	<p>The Section 48 notice was published in a national newspaper as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Guardian on 22 January 2025.</li> </ul>
Reg 4 (2)	(c) once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette;	<p>The Section 48 notice was published in the London Gazette on 24 January 2025.</p> <p>The Scheme does not affect land in Scotland and therefore a notice was not placed in the Edinburgh Gazette.</p>
Reg 4 (2)	(d) where the proposed application relates to offshore development –	Not applicable.

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	(i) once in Lloyd's List; (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal.	
Reg 4 (3)	<p>The matters which the notice must include are:</p> <p>(a) the name and address of the applicant;</p> <p>(b) a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Commission;</p> <p>(c) a statement as to whether the application is EIA development;</p> <p>(d) a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development;</p> <p>(e) a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location are available for inspection free of charge at the places (including at least one address in the vicinity of the proposed development) and times set out in the notice;</p> <p>(f) the latest date on which these documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection (being a date not earlier than the deadline in sub-paragraph);</p> <p>(g) whether a charge will be made for copies of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge;</p> <p>(h) details of how to respond to the publicity; and</p> <p>(i) a deadline for receipt of those responses by the applicant, being not less than 28 days following the dates when the notice is last published.</p>	<p>The Applicant's Section 48 notice included all matters required by this regulation, including stipulation of a deadline for responses being 19 March 2025.</p> <p>All matters listed under Reg 4 (3) were included in the Section 48 notice.</p> <p>The published Section 48 notices are included in <b>Appendix H: Section 48 Notice [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>

## 1.4 Compliance with Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

**Table 1-3: Consultation Compliance Checklist for The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017**

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
<b>The Infrastructure Planning: (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017</b>		
Reg 8	<p>(1) A person who proposes to make an application for an order granting development consent must, before carrying out consultation under Section 42 (duty to consult) either –</p> <p>(a) request the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates; or</p> <p>(b) notify the Secretary of State in writing that the person proposes to provide an environmental statement in respect of that development.</p>	<p>The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State on 16 July 2024.</p> <p>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.</p>
Reg 12	<p>The consultation statement prepared under Section 47 (duty to consult local community) must set out –</p> <p>(a) whether the development for which the applicant proposed to make an application for an order granting development consent is EIA development; and</p> <p>(b) if that development is EIA development, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information.</p>	<p>The Applicant's SoCC, under Section 8: Environmental information, states that the Scheme is classified as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development. Further to this, in the Section 47 notice outlines that the Applicant has prepared a SoCC that explains how people living in the vicinity of the Scheme will be consulted throughout the pre-application process, and how it intends to consult on the PEIR which will inform the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>The Applicant's SoCC sets out how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information in Section 7: How we will consult, Section 8: Environmental information, and Section 10: Next steps and contact details.</p> <p>The Applicant's SoCC also explained that environmental information, through the PEIR and PEIR Non-Technical Summary, would be published as</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>part of the consultation materials during the statutory consultation.</p> <p>In addition to this, a Section 47 notice was placed publicising the SoCC, and this notice also referred to the PEIR and ES.</p> <p>The Applicant's published SoCC can be viewed in <b>Appendix E: Publication and compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>
Reg 13	Where the proposed application for an order granting development consent is an application for EIA development, the Applicant must, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under Section 48(1), send a copy of that notice to the consultation bodies and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with regulation 11(1)(c).	<p>The Applicant provided a copy of the notice published in accordance with Section 48 of the 2008 Act to all prescribed consultees.</p> <p>The list of Section 42 consultees is included in <b>Appendix G-1: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p> <p>A copy of the Section 48 notice is included in <b>Appendix H: Section 48 Notice [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>

## 1.5 Compliance with The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Planning Act 2008 Guidance on the Pre-Application Process (2015) (Withdrawn)

**Table 1-4: Consultation Compliance Checklist for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Planning Act 2008 Guidance on the Pre-Application Process (2015) (Withdrawn)**

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
<b>Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Planning Act 2008 guidance on the pre-application process (2015)</b>		
17	When circulating consultation documents, developers should be clear about their status, for example ensuring it is clear to the public if a document is purely for the purposes of consultation.	<p>The suite of materials published at Stage One were clearly titled as being for consultation, and that 'stages' were used to be able to distinguish between updated consultation documents at future stages.</p> <p>For example, a clearly titled "Consultation Leaflet" was produced for two distinctly titled stages of consultation ("Stage One" and "Stage Two"). In addition to this, the PEIR was clearly marked "preliminary", and this was reiterated in public documents.</p>
18 and 20	<p>(18) Early involvement of local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees can bring about significant benefits for all parties.</p> <p>(20) Experience suggests that to be of most value, consultation should be:</p> <p>based on accurate information that gives a clear view of what is proposed including any options;</p> <p>shared at an early enough stage so that the proposals can still be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed;</p> <p>and engaging and accessible in style, encouraging consultees to react and offer their views</p>	<p>The Applicant commenced engagement with consultees, including local authorities from 05 March 2024, prior to the launch of non-statutory Stage One consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken a series of defined stages of consultation during the pre-application period, to allow for iterative involvement, engagement and feedback throughout the development of proposals.</p> <p>This included a non-statutory Stage One consultation on early-stage proposals, held for six weeks between 14 March to 26 April 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant's strategy of undertaking an iterative consultation process has allowed for feedback to inform the Scheme in a timely manner, including reporting back to consultees at an interim stage.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>The Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation and has made changes where possible as documented in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the iterative approach to the Scheme, with stakeholders playing a key role in the design of the proposals.</p> <p>The Applicant has prepared and published a range of consultation materials available in various formats to cater for differing preferences and levels of interest and expertise. For example, this included: a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR); a Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR; Stage Two Consultation Leaflet; and a Feedback Form.</p>
23	<p>In brief, during the pre-application stage applicants are required to:</p> <p>notify the Secretary of State of the proposed development;</p> <p>identify whether the project requires an environmental impact assessment; where it does, confirm that they will be submitting an environmental statement along with the application, or that they will be seeking a screening opinion ahead of submitting the application;</p> <p>produce a Statement of Community Consultation, in consultation with the relevant local authority or authorities, which describes how the Applicant propose to consult the local community about their project and then carry out consultation in accordance with that Statement;</p> <p>make the Statement of Community Consultation available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land where the development is proposed, as required by Section 47 of the Planning Act and Regulations;</p>	<p>As set out in this document as well as detailed in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>, the Applicant has complied with all requirements listed under point 23 of the DCLG Guidance (2015).</p>

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	<p>identify and consult statutory consultees as required by Section 42 of the Planning Act and Regulations;</p> <p>publicise the proposed application in accordance with Regulations;</p> <p>set a deadline for consultation responses of not less than 28 days from the day after receipt/last publication;</p> <p>have regard to relevant responses to publicity and consultation; and</p> <p>prepare a consultation report and submit it to the Secretary of State.</p>	
24 and 25	<p>The requirements of the Planning Act and associated Regulations form the framework for the pre-application consultation process. The Government recognises that major infrastructure projects and the communities and environment in which they are located will vary considerably. A 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not, therefore, appropriate. Instead, Applicants, who are best placed to understand the detail of their specific projects, and the relevant local authorities, who have a unique knowledge of their local communities, should as far as possible work together to develop plans for consultation. The aim should be to ensure that consultation is appropriate to the scale and nature of the project and where its impacts will be experienced.</p> <p>Consultation should be thorough, effective and proportionate. Some applicants may have their own distinct approaches to consultation, perhaps drawing on their own or relevant sector experience, for example if there are industry protocols that can be adapted.</p> <p>Larger, more complex applications are likely to need to go beyond the statutory minimum timescales laid down in the Planning Act to ensure enough time for consultees to understand project proposals and formulate a response. Many proposals will require detailed technical input, especially regarding impacts, so sufficient time will need to be allowed for this. Consultation should also be sufficiently flexible to response to the needs and requirements of consultees, for example where a consultee has indicated that they would prefer to be consulted via email only,</p>	<p>The Applicant carried out non-statutory consultation in accordance with the s50 guidance: Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Planning Act 2008 Guidance on the pre-application process (2015).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Applicant also considered the local geography, and industry precedent to determine appropriate Core Consultation Zone, number and location of events, media publicity, and length of the consultation period for non-statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Core Consultation Zone for the Scheme was identified by the following methodology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Where proportionate, the Core Consultation Zone was extended further to include reasonable consideration of areas in the vicinity of the Scheme site</li> </ul>

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	this should be accommodated as far as possible.	<p>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.</p> <p>The Applicant allowed for consultation periods exceeding the minimum 28 days for consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant maintained a range of free-to-use communication channels (Freephone, Freepost and email) throughout the pre-application period.</p>
26 and 27	<p>(26) The Planning Act requires certain bodies and groups of people to be consulted at the pre-application stage but allows for flexibility in the precise form that consultation may take place depending on local circumstances and the needs of the project itself [...] In addition, applicants may also wish to strengthen their case by seeking the views of other people who are not statutory consultees, but who may be significantly affected by the project.</p> <p>(27) Applicants are therefore encouraged to consult widely on project proposals.</p>	<p>In addition to statutory consultees identified under Section 42 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant sought to identify and consult who may have an interest in the Scheme.</p> <p>A full list of non-prescribed consultees identified by the Applicant and consulted with under Section 42 of the 2008 Act is provided in <b>Appendix G-1: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant also strived to raise awareness of the application more widely. This included sharing press releases, advertisement in regional publications, and through hosting community information events.</p> <p>As detailed in Table 7-1: Community Access Points (CAPs), of the Consultation Report <b>[EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>, the Applicant made documents available at CAPs and distributed posters with Local Information Points (LIPs) throughout the consultation zone.</p> <p>Along with advertisements and the publication of notices, in addition to directly distributing community consultation leaflets to over 14,100 residential properties, the Applicant ensured wide consultation on the Scheme.</p>

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28	<p>From time to time a body may cease to exist but, for legislative timetabling reasons, may still be listed as a statutory consultee. In such situations the Secretary of State will not expect strict compliance with the statutory requirements. Applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have the original body.</p> <p>Where there is no obvious successor, applicants should seek the advice of the inspectorate, who may be able to identify an appropriate alternative consultee. Whether or not an alternative is identified, the consultation report should briefly note any cases where compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.</p>	<p>The Applicant reviewed the consultee list on a regular basis to ensure that the contact details were up to date and that any successor body was consulted.</p> <p>See the Consultation Report <b>Appendix G-1: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b> for the list of Section 42 consultees.</p> <p>The Applicant also had regard to any changes in contact details that it was made aware of via the information lines.</p>
29	<p>Applicants will often need detailed technical input from expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the social, environmental, design and economic impacts of projects, and other important matters. Technical expert input will often be needed in advance of formal compliance with the pre-application requirements. [...] Applicants are therefore advised to discuss and agree a timetable with consultees for the provision of such inputs.</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken extensive engagement with expert bodies and technical consultees throughout the pre-application process. This began in 2024, and continued through iterative stages of consultation, as described in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
34 and 35	<p>(34) Local authorities have considerable expertise in consulting local people. They will be able to draw on this expertise to provide advice to applicants on the makeup of the community and on how consultation might best be undertaken. In addition, many authorities will already have a register of local interest groups, and should be able to readily provide applicants with an appropriate list of such groups for the purposes of consultation.</p> <p>(35) The Applicant has a duty under Section 47 of the Planning Act to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation, and then to conduct its consultation in line with that statement. Before doing so, the applicant must consult on their Statement of Community Consultation with each local authority in whose area the proposed development is situated. This may require consultation with a number of different local authorities, particularly for long linear projects.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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. This is detailed in Chapter 6: Preparation for Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Oct 2024 – Jan 2025), of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council provided informal comments on the draft SoCC to the Applicant on 28 October 2024.</p>

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		<p>These comments and the Applicant's response to them are set out in <b>Appendix E: Publication and compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>, including a description of where and how the draft SoCC was updated accordingly.</p> <p>The Applicant issued the revised draft SoCC to the host local authority Wiltshire Council for consultation on 30 October 2024 (<b>Appendix D: Preparation of Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>).</p>
36	<p>Even where it is intended that a development would take place within a single local authority area, it is possible that its impacts could be significantly wider than just that local authority's area – for example if the development was located close to a neighbouring authority. Where an applicant decides to consult people living in a wider area who could be affected by the project (e.g. through visual or environmental impacts, or through increased traffic flow), that intention should be reflected in the Statement of Community Consultation.</p>	<p>Section 6 of the Applicant's SoCC (as provided in <b>Appendix E: Publication and compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>) sets out who the Applicant intended to consult.</p> <p>This included describing the methodology behind a defined Core Consultation Zone of over 14,100 residential properties, as well as the Applicant's methods for publicising consultation opportunities beyond the Core Consultation Zone through advertising in local media, maintaining a register of interested individuals, publishing informative consultation materials online, and making them available for collection from defined CAPs.</p>
37	<p>...prior to submitting their draft Statement of Community Consultation applicants may wish to seek to resolve any disagreements or clarifications about the public consultation design. An applicant is therefore likely to need to engage in discussions with local authorities over a longer period than the minimum requirements set out in the Act.</p>	<p>The Applicant engaged relevant local authorities prior to undertaking a non-statutory stage of consultation, as described in Chapter 4: Non-statutory consultation and engagement (March – October 2024), of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook a non-statutory stage of consultation on early-stage proposals between 14 March to 26 April 2024. This consultation included inviting feedback on the methods of consultation. The Applicant reflected on this feedback,</p>

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		<p>alongside the level of engagement with the consultation when preparing the SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant's preparation of the SoCC is described in Chapter 6: Preparation for Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Oct 2024 – Jan 2025), of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant sought feedback from Wiltshire Council on an early working draft of the SoCC on 22 October 2024, prior to commencing formal consultation on the SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant formally consulted on a draft of the SoCC on 30 October 2024.</p>
38, 39, 40 and 41	<p>(38) The role of the local authority in such discussions should be to provide expertise about the make-up of its area, including whether people in the area might have particular needs or requirements, whether the authority has identified any groups as difficult to reach and what techniques might be appropriate to overcome barriers to communication. The local authority should also provide advice on the appropriateness of the applicant's suggested consultation techniques and methods. The local authority's aim in such discussion should be to ensure that the people affected by the development can take part in a thorough, accessible and effective consultation exercise about the proposed project.</p> <p>(39) Topics for consideration at such pre-consultation discussions might include:</p> <p>The size and coverage of the proposed consultation exercise (including, where appropriate, consultation which goes wider than one local authority area);</p> <p>The appropriateness of various consultation techniques, including electronic based ones;</p> <p>The design and format of consultation materials;</p> <p>Issues which could be covered in consultation materials;</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted Wiltshire Council on the content of an early working draft of the SoCC and then formally on the draft SoCC, as detailed in Chapter 6: Preparation for Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Oct 2024 – Jan 2025), of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant endeavoured to respond to all issues or concerns raised following consultation on the draft SoCC. Where this was not possible the Applicant provided an explanation of the course of action.</p> <p>The comments received, alongside the Applicant's consideration, are presented in 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, of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>

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	<p>Suggestions for places/timings of community information events as part of the consultation;</p> <p>Local bodies and representative groups who should be consulted; and</p> <p>Timescales for consultation.</p> <p>(40) It is expected that in most cases applicants and local authorities will be able to work closely together and agree on the local consultation process.</p> <p>(41) Where a local authority raises an issue or concern on the Statement of Community Consultation which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to explain in their consultation report their course of action to the Secretary of State when they submit their application.</p>	
43	<p>Local authorities are also themselves statutory consultees for any proposed major infrastructure project which is in or adjacent to their area. Applicants should engage with [local authorities as statutory bodies] as early as possible to ensure that the impacts of the development on the local area are understood and considered prior to the application being submitted to the Secretary of State.</p>	<p>The Applicant commenced engagement with local authorities from March 2024, prior to undertaking any formal consultation on the Scheme, as described in Chapter 4: Non-statutory consultation and engagement (March – October 2024), of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant consulted with 'B' authorities (in which the Scheme is located) and neighbouring 'A' authorities, in the pre-application stage. The identification of these local authorities is described in Section 8.5 of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
49	<p>Applicants will also need to identify and consult people who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question, or who could be affected by a project in such a way that they may be able to make a claim for compensation. This will give such parties early notice of projects, and an opportunity to express their views regarding them.</p>	<p>The Applicant has sought to identify and consult with those with an interest in the land.</p> <p>The Applicant sought to identify the Section 42(1)(d) consultees by undertaking diligent inquiry before the statutory consultation commenced. This included reviewing publicly available data (for example at the Land Registry), sending out Land Interest Questionnaires, undertaking site visits and erecting site notices.</p>

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		<p>The 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.</p> <p>The identification of Section 44 consultees is described in Section 8.6: Identifying s44 Consultees, of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>The list of all land interests consulted is presented in <b>Appendix G-4: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>
52	Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.	<p>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.</p> <p>Where owners, lessees, tenants, or occupiers were unknown, the Applicant placed notices detailing the consultation at the relevant locations around the Scheme Site.</p> <p>The list of all land interests consulted is presented in <b>(Appendix G-4: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2])</b>. This appendix details the date on which they were notified of consultation and the deadline provided to them for responding.</p> <p>All persons listed in the Book of Reference <b>[EN010168/APP/4.3]</b>, which is up to date at the time of submitting the application for a DCO, were consulted under s42(1)(d). It is noted that the list of persons with an interest in land is subject to change over time, as a result of changes to land ownership.</p> <p>This is described in Section 8.6: Identifying Section 44 Consultees,</p>

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		of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b> .
53	Local people have a vital role to play at the pre-application stage. People should have as much influence as is realistic and possible over decisions which shape their lives and communities. It is therefore critical that they are engaged with project proposals at an early stage...	<p>The Applicant has undertaken a series of defined stages of consultation during the preapplication period, to allow for iterative involvement, engagement and feedback throughout the development of proposals.</p> <p>This included a non-statutory Stage One consultation on early-stage proposals, held for six weeks between 14 March to 26 April 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant's strategy of undertaking an iterative consultation process has allowed for feedback to inform the development of the Scheme in a timely manner, including reporting back to consultees at an interim stage.</p> <p>The Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation and has made changes where possible as documented in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the iterative design of the Scheme, with stakeholders playing a key role in the design of the proposals.</p>
54	In consulting on project proposals, an inclusive approach is needed to ensure that different groups have the opportunity to participate and are not disadvantaged in the process. Applicants should use a range of methods and techniques to ensure that they access all sections of the community in question.	<p>The Applicant's SoCC set out a range of methods to support an accessible and inclusive preapplication consultation.</p> <p>In seeking input from local authorities on the approach set out in the SoCC, the Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC on 22 October 2024 by email. A copy of the early working draft SoCC is provided as <b>Appendix E: Publication and compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>

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		<p>The early working draft included a list of organisations representing potentially seldom heard groups and other community and interest groups, and Wiltshire Council was given the opportunity to comment on this list and suggest additional organisations for inclusion.</p> <p>Through consultation, the Applicant has prepared and published a range of consultation materials available in various formats to cater for differing preferences and levels of interest and expertise. For example, this included: a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR); a Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR; Consultation Leaflet; and a Feedback Form.</p> <p>The Applicant also maintained a range of free-to-use communication channels (Freephone, Freepost and email) throughout the pre-application period.</p> <p>The Applicant also held a total of eight in person and two online community information events across the consultation period. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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55	<p>Applicants must set out clearly what is being consulted on. They must be careful to make it clear to local communities what is settled and why, and what remains to be decided, so that expectations of local communities are properly managed. Applicants could prepare a short document specifically for local communities, summarising the project proposals and outlining</p> <p>the matters on which the view of the local community is sought. [...] Such documents should be written in clear, accessible, and non-technical language. Applicants should consider making it available in formats appropriate to the needs of people with disabilities if requested. There may be cases where documents may need to be bilingual...but it is not the policy of the Government to encourage documents to be translated into non-native languages.</p>	<p>Section 5 (Our public consultation process) of the Applicant's SoCC set out the intended scope of each stage of consultation.</p> <p>In support of this, a Consultation Leaflet was published for each defined stage of consultation, to clearly set out the proposals and information being consulted on.</p> <p>The back page of the of the Applicant's SoCC explained that materials could be provided in alternative formats upon request.</p> <p>The Applicant's published SoCC can be viewed in <b>Appendix E: Publication and compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>
56	<p>Applicants are required to set out in their Statement of Community Consultation how they propose to consult those living in the vicinity of the land. They are encouraged to consider consulting beyond this where they think doing so may provide more information on the impacts of their proposals..."</p>	<p>Section 6 (Who Will We Consult?) of the Applicant's SoCC (as provided in <b>Appendix E: Publication and compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>) sets out who the Applicant intended to consult. This includes describing the methodology behind a defined Core Consultation Zone of over 14,100 residential properties, as well as the Applicant's methods for publicising consultation opportunities beyond the Core Consultation Zone through advertising in local media, maintaining a register of interested individuals, publishing informative consultation materials online making them available to collect from defined CAPs.</p> <p>The SoCC included defining a Core Consultation Zone within which all residential properties were issued with consultation notifications. The methodology for defining this zone involved extending an initial distance of two kilometres from the boundaries of the five Solar PV Sites, and 500 metres from the edge of the Cable Route Search Corridor, was considered.</p> <p>Where proportionate, the Core Consultation Zone was extended</p>

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		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.
57	<p>The Statement of Community Consultation should act as a framework for the community consultation generally, for example setting out where details and dates of any community information events will be published. The Statement of Community Consultation should be made available online, at any exhibitions or other community information events held by applicants. It should be laced at appropriate local deposit points (e.g. libraries, council offices) and send to local community groups as appropriate.</p>	<p>The SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47(6) of the 2008 Act on 14 January 2024.</p> <p>The SoCC was uploaded to the document library on the Applicant's Scheme website and made available to view and collect from the public venues (CAPs) listed in the document and accompanying notice.</p> <p>Evidence of the SoCC being hosted on the Scheme website is provided in <b>Appendix E: Publication and compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p> <p>Notices were published in the Wiltshire Times on 17 January 2024 and Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 16 January 2024 to publicise the SoCC and its availability. Copies of these notices are provided in <b>Appendix E: Publication and compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p> <p>The publication of the SoCC was also communicated through emailing identified key stakeholders and any party that had registered to be kept informed of updates to the Scheme.</p> <p>The SoCC was available at statutory consultation community information events and available in hard copy format free of charge upon request.</p> <p>The SoCC outlined the consultation process for the Scheme and the details of the Stage Two, including community information event dates, times and venues.</p>

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58	Applicants are required to publicise their proposed application under section 48 of the Planning Act and the Regulations and set out the detail of what this publicity must entail. [...] Where possible, the first two required local newspaper advertisements should coincide approximately with the beginning of the consultation with communities. However, given the detailed information required for the publicity in the Regulations, aligning publicity with consultation may not always be possible, especially where a multi-stage consultation is intended.	<p>The S48 notice was published as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 16 and 23 January 2025;</li> <li>• Wiltshire Times on 17 and 24 January 2025;</li> <li>• The Guardian on 22 January 2025; and</li> <li>• The London Gazette on 24 January 2025.</li> </ul>
68, 69 and 70	<p>(68) To realise the benefits of consultation on a project, it must take place at a sufficiently early stage to allow consultees a real opportunity to influence the proposals. At the same time, consultees will need sufficient information on a project to be able to recognise and understand the impacts.</p> <p>(69) Applicants will often require detailed technical advice from consultees, and it is likely that their input will be of the greatest value if they are consulted when the project proposals are fluid, followed up by confirmation of the approach as proposals become firmer. In principle, therefore applicants should undertake initial consultation as soon as there is sufficient detail to allow consultees to understand the nature of the project properly.</p> <p>(70) To manage the tension between consultation early, but also having project proposals that are firm enough to enable consultees to comment, applicants are encouraged to consider an iterative, staged consultation consisting of two (or more) stages, especially for larger projects with long development periods. For example, the applicant might wish to consider undertaking non-statutory early consultation at a stage where options still being considered. This will be helpful in informing the proposals and assisting the applicant in establishing a preferred option on which to undertake statutory consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken a series of defined stages of consultation during the pre-application period, to allow for iterative involvement, engagement and feedback through the development of the proposals.</p> <p>This included a non-statutory Stage One consultation on early stage proposals, held for six weeks between 14 March and 26 April 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant's strategy of undertaking an iterative consultation process has allowed for feedback to inform the development of the Scheme in a timely manner, including reporting back to consultees at an interim stage.</p> <p>The Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation and has made changes where possible as documented in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the iterative design of the Scheme, with stakeholders playing a key role in the design of the proposals.</p> <p>Table 2-2: Pre-application stages of consultation activities undertaken of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b> sets</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		out the pre-application stages and consultation undertaken.
72	<p>The Planning Act requires a consultation period of a minimum of 28 days from the day after receipt on the consultation documents. It is expected that this may be sufficient for projects which are straightforward and uncontroversial in nature. But many projects, particularly larger or more controversial ones, may require longer consultation periods than this.</p> <p>Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the proposed project. It is also important that consultees do not withhold information that might affect a project, and that they respond in good time to applicants. Where responses are not received by the deadline, the applicant is not obliged to take those responses into account.</p>	The Applicant held a series of defined stages of consultation, each exceeding 28 days.
73, 74, 75 and 76	<p>(73) Applicants are not expected to repeat consultation rounds set out in their Statement of Community Consultation unless the project proposals have changed very substantially. [...] When considering the need for additional consultation, applicants should use the degree of change, the effect on the local community and the level of public interest as guiding factors.</p> <p>(74) Where a proposed application changes to such a large degree that the proposal could be considered a new application, the legitimacy of the consultation already carried out could be questioned. In such cases, applicants should undertake further re-consultation on the new proposals, and should supply consultees with sufficient information to enable them.</p> <p>(75) If the application only changes to a small degree [...] the applicant should ensure that all affected statutory consultees and local communities are informed of the changes.</p> <p>(76) In circumstances where a particular issue has arisen during the pre-application consultation, or where it is localised in</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Following the close of Stage Two (statutory) Consultation, the Applicant continued to refine the proposals for the Scheme in preparation for submitting a DCO application.</p> <p>This refinement was informed by further design work and due diligence, consideration of consultee feedback, and responding to the results and data from environmental assessments.</p> <p>This results in a series of specific amendments to the proposed Scheme site boundary (Scoping Order Limits) compared to the Order Limits presented in the PEIR and for Stage Two consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook further statutory consultation targeted on these specific changes to ensure communities and consultees had an opportunity to comment on the full PEIR Order Limits prior to a DCO application being submitted.</p>

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	nature, it may be appropriate to hold a non-statutory, targeted consultation. A developer's Statement of Community Consultation should be drafted so that it does not preclude this approach.	This consultation is described in Chapter 11: Targeted Consultation on a Series of Proposed Boundary Changes, of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b> .
77	Consultation should also be fair and reasonable for applicants as well as communities. To ensure that consultation is fair to all parties, applicants should be able to demonstrate that the consultation process is proportionate to the impacts of the project in the area that it affects, takes account of the anticipated level of local interest, and takes account of the views of the relevant local authorities.	<p>The pre-application consultation process that the Applicant held complied with its commitments as consulted on for the draft SoCC and set out in the final published SoCC captured in <b>Appendix E: Publication and compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p> <p>The consultation reached widely across the community, welcoming 1,061 attendees across a series of two online and eight in-person community information events and receiving 1,638 submissions of feedback.</p> <p>The Applicant was able to undertake all methods of consultation and engagement it committed to in the SoCC.</p>
78 and 79	<p>(78) Applicants are required under section 37 of the Planning Act to produce a consultation report alongside their application, which details how they have complied with the consultation requirements set out in the Act.</p> <p>(79) Therefore, the consultation report should:</p> <p>provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline;</p> <p>set out specifically what the applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance or advice published by Government or the Inspectorate;</p> <p>set out how the applicant has taken account of any responses to consultation with local authorities on what should be in the applicant's statement of community consultation;</p> <p>set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses);</p>	<p>The Applicant has prepared a <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b> consistent with this guidance.</p> <p>Relevant sections of the Consultation Report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 2: Introduction, sets out the Applicant's approach to consultation and includes Table 2-2: Pre-application stages of consultation activities undertaken, setting out the pre-application stages and consultation undertaken in chronological order.</li> <li>• <b>Appendix A: Statement of Compliance [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b> sets out how the Applicant has complied with relevant legislation and guidance.</li> <li>• Chapter 6: Preparation for Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Oct 2024 – Jan 2025), sets out how the Applicant consulted relevant local authorities to</li> </ul>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed;</p> <p>provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to the project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts;</p> <p>where the applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with this guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken; and</p> <p>be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects addressed. However, it need not include full technical explanations of these matters.</p>	<p>inform the SoCC, including comments received and consideration given to these.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 10: Account of Feedback and the Applicant's Response to the Statutory Consultation, provides a summary of responses received to Section 47 and Section 42 consultation and the Applicant's consideration of these responses. These sections are supported by <b>Appendix F-7: Statutory consultation under Section 47 of the PA 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b> and <b>Appendix G-5: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</li> </ul>
81	<p>It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results ...</p>	<p>The communications 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.</p> <p>The Scheme website continued to be available for any interested parties to access Scheme information, including updates on the proposals, Frequently Asked Questions, and a dedicated News webpage.</p> <p>Following the review and consideration of feedback received, the Applicant prepared a Stage One Consultation Summary Report to share details of the level engagement, themes of responses received, and updates regarding the Applicant's consideration of feedback and next steps for the Scheme.</p> <p>The Stage One Consultation Summary Report was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared by email and/or post with key stakeholders (including MPs, councillors, parish councils) and</li> </ul>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>individuals who had registered to be kept informed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uploaded to the Scheme website; and</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>A copy of the Stage One Consultation Summary Report is captured in <b>Appendix C-7: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>
93	<p>For the pre-application consultation process, applicants are advised to include sufficient preliminary environmental information to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the project. [...] The preliminary environmental information is not expected to replicate or be a draft of the environmental statement. [...] The key issue is that the information presented must provide clarity to all consultees. Applicants should be careful not to assume that non-specialist consultees would not be interested in any technical environmental information. It is therefore advisable to ensure access to such information is provided during all consultations. The applicant's Statement of Community Consultation must include a statement about how the applicant intends to consult on preliminary environmental information.</p>	<p>The Applicant set out in the SoCC how it would be publicising and consulting on the PEIR. This included making available a Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR.</p> <p>The PEIR and accompanying Non-Technical Summary was available to any interested party through the Scheme website, at Stage Two consultation information events, and at the identified CAPs.</p> <p>The availability of the PEIR was publicised through the Section 48 notice.</p>

## 1.6 Compliance with Planning Act 2008: Pre-Application Stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024)

**Table 1-5: Compliance Checklist for Planning Act 2008: Pre-Application Stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2025)**

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
<b>Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024)</b>		
Paragraph 009	<p><b>What is the purpose of the Programme Document?</b></p> <p>The pre-application process is applicant-led. To deliver a good pre-application process, including effective engagement and a well-prepared application, applicants should put together a Programme Document at the outset of the pre-application stage for submission to the Planning Inspectorate and agreement at the Inception Meeting. The Programme Document is an essential element of the quality standard for applications seeking a fast-track route to consent.</p> <p>The Programme Document will enable all those engaged in the pre-application process, particularly statutory consultees, to understand the timescales and ensure their contribution is programmed into the pre-application stage at the most effective point. It will also assist the applicant in managing the preparation and subsequent submission of the application documents for consideration by the Planning Inspectorate at the acceptance stage.</p> <p>Following the Inception Meeting, it is expected that the applicant will host and maintain the agreed Programme Document on its website, and update it as necessary during the pre-application period to publicise completion of significant stages and demonstrate progress in preparation of the application.</p>	<p>Following the introduction of this guidance, the Applicant prepared a Programme Document.</p> <p>This document has been maintained and hosted on the Applicant's Scheme website.</p> <p>The third revision of the Programme Document was published in June 2025.</p>
Paragraph 010	<p><b>What should the Programme Document contain?</b></p> <p>The Programme Document is not a statutory requirement and is not for consultation apart from agreement with the Planning Inspectorate. It should set out the timetable and activities necessary for an effective pre-application process including the level of pre-application services from the Planning Inspectorate, and consultation</p>	<p>The Programme Document has been drafted and maintain to provide this information as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 2 (Timetable) states that the Applicant intends to submit the DCO application in September 2025 (Paragraph 2.1.1);</li> </ul>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>with various parties required under the Planning Act.</p> <p>The Programme Document should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the date the applicant intends to submit their application;</li> <li>a comprehensive timetable of the applicant's pre-application process, the main events with dates and milestones demonstrating how the pre-application process will be completed (using the maximum target of 2 years as a benchmark);</li> <li>the applicant's view on the main issues for resolution and activities they will undertake to address those;</li> <li>the applicant's proposals for engaging with statutory consultees and local authorities during the pre-application period and any intended financial support agreements, such as Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs);</li> <li>the applicant's identification of risks to achievement of the pre-application stage and the process by which these risks are tracked and managed; and</li> <li>cross references to the SoCC required by section 47 of the Planning Act.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Table 2-1 details a timetable setting out the main pre-application stages, associated activities, and anticipated dates. This table has been updated to indicate activities that have been completed;</li> <li>Section 3 sets out the anticipated main issues for resolution, which in part have been informed by non-statutory consultation. Table 3-1 sets out the Applicant's proposed approach to the resolution of issues;</li> <li>Table 4-1 sets out engagement with key stakeholders, including cost recovery agreements in place. This includes confirming a PPA has been agreed with Wiltshire Council as the host local authority;</li> <li>Section 5 sets out the Applicant's approach to risk management; and</li> <li>Section 6 confirms the Applicant has developed a SoCC in accordance with the requirements of section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. Table 2-1 sets out the informal and formal consultation on the contents of the draft SoCC prior to it being finalised and published.</li> </ul>
Paragraph 012	<p><b>How should Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) be prepared?</b></p> <p>Where an NSIP is determined to be EIA development in line with Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017 the applicant is required by Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017 to publish sufficient Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed development. The information required will be different for different types and sizes of projects and it may also vary depending on the audience of a particular consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant published a PEIR at the start of coordinated statutory consultation under section 42, section 47 and section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook consultation on the PEIR from 29 January 2025 to 19 March 2025 which was a period of 49 days.</p> <p>The Applicant set out in the SoCC how it would be publicising and consulting on the PEIR. This included making available a Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>Applicants are advised to consult any relevant existing environmental assessments or survey information, in the first instance to get an idea of what environmental effects could arise. The key issue is that the information presented must be clear to all consultees, even if it is of specialised technical nature. As required by Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017 any difficulties or areas of uncertainty such as in data collection, forecasting methods or scientific knowledge must be identified and acknowledged.</p> <p>There is no prescribed format for PEI. However, depending on the availability of material, applicants are encouraged to prepare this as an early draft of the Environmental Statement and include it as such as part of the statutory consultation under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act. If applicants decide to take a different approach, they should be clear with consultees about the status of the PEI.</p> <p>In any event, applicants will need to maintain close dialogue with statutory consultees throughout the pre-application period. The provision of PEI can help statutory consultees to understand the environmental effects of the development and may assist in the identification and addressing of potential issues at an early stage in the pre-application process.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate will not review any of the draft PEI material unless specifically included as part of the agreed pre-application service, but applicants are encouraged to include their approach to preparing PEI in the Programme Document for discussion with the Planning Inspectorate. Further information can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's Pre-Application Prospectus.</p>	<p>The PEIR and accompanying Non-Technical Summary was available to any interested party through the Scheme website, at Stage Two consultation information events, and at the identified CAPs.</p> <p>The availability of the PEIR was publicised through the Section 48 notice.</p> <p>Table 2-1 of the Applicant's Programme Document set out the timescales for finalising and consulting on the PEIR ahead of finalising the submitting the ES.</p>
Paragraph 014	<p><b>What is needed for consideration of good design?</b></p> <p>Good design is not simply about the look of a project; it is about the whole process of putting a project together so that it achieves the elements of good design including choice of location, vision, narrative, design principles and consultation programme.</p> <p>Applicants should involve a diverse range of people including where appropriate, planners, environmental specialists,</p>	<p>The Applicant published a Design Vision and Principles document for consultation, as Appendix 4-1 to the PEIR. This included a description as to how the Scheme Design Principles had been informed by consideration of the Planning Inspectorate's 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure on Good Design' (published October 2024) and the National Infrastructure</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>landscape architects, architects, engineers and community groups in informing the project vision, narrative, design principles, and project design process to support delivery of the outcomes of the project.</p> <p>Applicants should explain how the design responds to the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) design principles for national infrastructure: climate, people, places and value.</p>	<p>Commission's 'Design Principles for National Infrastructure (published 2020).</p> <p>The Applicant's <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b> sets out how the Applicant sought to ensure its pre-application consultation activities were publicised to and accessible by a diverse range of consultees.</p> <p>The Applicant's consideration of good design is set out in more detail the <b>Design Approach Document [EN010168/APP/7.3]</b> and <b>Design Principles and Parameters [EN010168/APP/7.4]</b>, submitted as part of the Application.</p>
Paragraph 020	<p><b>How can applicants ensure consultation is proportionate?</b></p> <p>The pre-application consultation undertaken should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the project and its effects. A 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not appropriate. For a straightforward and uncontroversial application, an applicant may choose to discharge the obligations of sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act concurrently in a single round of consultation, or in separate stages. For more complex proposals, an applicant may choose to conduct a non-statutory round of consultation (for example considering options) before undertaking a statutory round of consultation, or they may choose to run a multi-stage consultation process.</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken a series of defined stages of consultation during the pre-application period, to allow for iterative involvement, engagement and feedback throughout the development of proposals.</p> <p>This included a non-statutory Stage One consultation on early-stage proposals, held for six weeks between 14 March and 26 April 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant's strategy of undertaking an iterative consultation process has allowed for feedback to inform the Scheme in a timely manner, including reporting back to consultees at an interim stage.</p> <p>The Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation and has made changes where possible as documented in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the iterative progress of the Scheme, with</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>stakeholders playing a key role in the design of the proposals.</p> <p>The Applicant's approach to consultation was set out in the SoCC, which in turn was informed through consultation with Wiltshire Council, as described in Chapter 6: Preparation for Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Oct 2024 – Jan 2025), of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 020	Larger, more complex applications are likely to warrant going beyond the statutory 28-day minimum timescales for consultation laid down in the Planning Act to ensure enough time for consultees to understand project proposals and formulate a response.	<p>All defined consultation periods (statutory and non-statutory) for the Scheme have exceeded 28 days.</p> <p>The key stages of pre-application consultation undertaken by the Applicant are set out in Table 2-2: Pre-application stages of consultation activities undertaken, of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 020	<p>Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in the SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in light of responses to the consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted within the application.</p> <p>Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.</p> <p>For any material change to be part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can</p>	<p>Following the close of Stage Two (statutory) consultation, the Applicant continued to refine the proposals for the Scheme in preparation for submitting a DCO application.</p> <p>This refinement was informed by further design work and due diligence, consideration of consultee feedback, and responding to the results and data from environmental assessments.</p> <p>This resulted in fifteen specific changes to the Scheme boundary to the PEIR Order Limits consulted on during Stage Two consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook further consultation targeted on these localised additions to ensure communities and consultees had an opportunity to comment on the full Order Limits prior to a DCO application being submitted.</p> <p>This targeted consultation, held between 03 June and 11 July</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.</p> <p>Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needed to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.</p>	<p>2025, is described in Chapter 11: Targeted Consultation on a Series of Proposed Boundary Changes, of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>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 <b>Appendix I: Targeted Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p> <p>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. This feedback was considered and responded to by the Applicant prior to commencing targeted consultation on 03 June 2025.</p> <p>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, of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 021	<p><b>Who should be consulted?</b></p> <p>Sections 42 to 44 of the Planning Act, Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations 2009 set out details of who must be consulted...</p> <p>While the list of prescribed bodies who must be consulted was updated in April 2024, from time to time a body may cease to exist but may still be listed as a statutory consultee in the Regulations pending their updating. In such situations applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have the original body. Where there is no obvious successor, applicants should seek the advice of the Planning Inspectorate, who may be able to identify an appropriate alternative consultee.</p>	<p>The Applicant reviewed the consultee list on a regular basis to ensure that the contact details were up to date and that any successor body was consulted with. <b>Appendix G-1: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b> includes a list of consultees for the Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant also had regard to any changes in contact details that it was made aware of via the information lines.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	Whether or not an alternative is identified, the consultation report should briefly note any cases where compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.	
Paragraph 022	<p><b>How can applicants consult communities effectively?</b></p> <p>It is good practice for applicants to work with local stakeholders in the formative stages of the project, through early engagement. This can help inform the Programme Document that they later take to the Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate. Early engagement with local authorities, parish and town councils can help applicants to ensure they find the best approach to engage the relevant communities in the most effective and proportionate way.</p>	<p>The Applicant engaged relevant local authorities prior to undertaking a non-statutory stage of consultation, as described in Chapter 4: Non-statutory consultation and engagement (March – October 2024), of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>Early pre-consultation engagement with political stakeholders and relevant local authorities was designed to help inform the consultation process.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook a non-statutory stage of consultation on early-stage proposals between 14 March and 26 April 2024. This consultation included inviting feedback on the methods of consultation. An overview of Stage One consultation is detailed in Chapter 4: Non-statutory consultation and engagement (March – October 2024), of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant reflected on this feedback, alongside the level of engagement with the consultation when preparing the SoCC.</p>
Paragraph 022	<p>Under section 47 of the Planning Act, applicants are required to produce a SoCC, setting out how they intend to consult the local community on the proposed application. Applicants should consider how they can engage communities in a way that supports them to understand the necessary issues at an appropriate stage to support preparation of their application, and how they will show how they have responded to their issues of concern.</p>	<p>The Applicant's preparation of the SoCC is described in Chapter 6: Preparation for Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Oct 2024 – Jan 2025), of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant sought feedback from Wiltshire Council on an early working draft of the SoCC between 22 October and 28 October, prior to commencing formal consultation on the SoCC later that month.</p> <p>The Applicant formally consulted on a draft of the SoCC between</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>30 October and 06 December 2024.</p> <p>The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act on 14 January 2025.</p>
Paragraph 022	<p>Local communities may need support to help them to input to the NSIP consenting process. Independent community liaison chairs or forums can be used to provide support to local communities and non-statutory consultees to enable them to provide an effective input to the pre-application process. Applicants will want to consider whether these should be used, not least to assist an applicant's own assessment of potential examination issues in preparing their Programme Document and SoCC.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this updated guidance. The Applicant has sought to ensure consultation activities are accessible and has been open to engagement requests.</p> <p>As detailed in the Applicant's SoCC, <i>"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 information becomes available."</i></p> <p>A copy of the Applicant's published SoCC is captured in <b>Appendix E: Publication and compliance with the SoCC [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 024	<p><b>What do applicants have to do to consult people with an interest in land?</b></p> <p>Where an applicant proposes to compulsorily acquire an interest or take temporary possession of land it does not own in order to implement a proposed NSIP, under section 42 of the Planning Act they must identify and consult people, including those who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question.</p> <p>It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the application to the Planning Inspectorate that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests. Applicants must ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categorises those land interests) is sufficiently up to date at the time of submission (acknowledging the timescales for preparing and updating it) and fully meets the requirements of Regulations 5 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009.</p>	<p>The Applicant has sought to identify and consult with those with an interest in the land.</p> <p>The Applicant sought to identify the section 42(1)(d) consultees by undertaking diligent inquiry before the statutory consultation commenced. This included reviewing publicly available data (for example at the Land Registry), sending out Land Interest Questionnaires, undertaking site visits and erecting site notices.</p> <p>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.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>[...]</p> <p>Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.</p>	<p>The Applicant notified 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.</p> <p>Where owners, lessees, tenants, or occupiers were unknown, the Applicant placed notices detailing the consultation at the relevant locations around the Scheme Site.</p> <p>The list of all land interests consulted is presented in <b>Appendix G-4: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b> This appendix details the date on which they were notified of consultation and the deadline provided to them for responding.</p> <p>All persons listed in the <b>Book of Reference [EN010168/APP/4.3]</b>, which is up to date at the time of submitting the application for a DCO, were consulted under s42(1)(d). It is noted that the list of persons with an interest in land is subject to change over time, as a result of changes to land ownership.</p> <p>This is described in Section 8.6: Identifying Section 44 Consultees, of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>.</p>
Paragraph 025	<p><b>What is the early adequacy of consultation milestone?</b></p> <p>The Programme Document will enable the Planning Inspectorate to determine at the Inception Meeting that the proposed consultation arrangements are adequate for the level of complexity of the proposed project. The Programme Document should also identify an appropriate milestone during the preapplication stage to enable the Planning Inspectorate to test the progress of the consultation.</p>	<p>A Programme Document was prepared and shared with the Planning Inspectorate in June 2025.</p> <p>The Programme Document was prepared in accordance with the guidance set out in the Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus.</p> <p>The Programme Document has also been prepared to identify the engagement and application preparation activities that have</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>been carried out by the Applicant during the pre-application process.</p> <p>The Applicant has since hosted the Programme Document on the Scheme website.</p>
Paragraph 025	<p>This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application.</p> <p>The adequacy of consultation milestone should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.</p> <p>The adequacy of consultation milestone is an informal but nonetheless important opportunity to check that the pre-application programme is on track, and if it is seriously adrift the Planning Inspectorate will advise the applicant about the steps necessary to enable the application to be submitted having fulfilled the statutory requirements. Inevitably this could mean a renegotiation of the expected date of submission, with the objective of avoiding the prospect of an application not being accepted for examination.</p>	<p>Prior to submitting an application for a DCO, the Applicant prepared a written statement in response to the government's guidance regarding an early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone. A copy of this written statement is provided in <b>Appendix A: Statement of Compliance [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant submitted their written statement on the adequacy of consultation undertaken to the Planning Inspectorate in June 2025. This was to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant, prior to the acceptance stage of a DCO application.</p> <p>Consistent with guidance, Wiltshire Council were provided with an opportunity to comment on the adequacy of consultation. The Applicant received a response from Wiltshire Council on the draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Document. 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.</p>
Paragraph 026	<p><b>What is the consultation report and how should applicants respond to consultees?</b></p> <p>[The Consultation Report] should not include an excessively detailed description of every element of the consultation programme. The main objective should be to provide clarity not just on what consultation has been done but, crucially,</p>	<p>The Applicant has prepared a <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b> consistent with this guidance.</p> <p>Relevant sections of the Consultation Report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 2: Introduction, sets out the Applicant's approach to consultation and includes Table</li> </ul>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>how the applicant has taken it into account. It should therefore:</p> <p>provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken including the timeline;</p> <p>set out specifically what the applicant has done to comply with the statutory requirements of the Planning Act, including advice issued under section 51 of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation and this guidance;</p> <p>set out how the applicant has complied with the requirements to consult local communities described in the SoCC;</p> <p>set out any relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses);</p> <p>provide a description of how the proposed application for submission has been informed and influenced by taking account of those responses, showing any significant changes made as a result;</p> <p>provide an explanation as to why any responses advising on changes to a proposed project, including advice from statutory consultees and local authorities on effects, were not followed; and</p> <p>be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Planning Inspectorate to understand fully how consultation has been undertaken, and how the issues raised through consultation have been addressed or responded to.</p>	<p>2-2: Pre-application stages of consultation activities undertaken, setting out the pre-application stages and consultation undertaken in chronological order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Appendix A: Statement of Compliance</b> [EN010168/APP/5.2] sets out how the Applicant has complied with relevant legislation and guidance.</li> <li>• Chapter 6: Preparation for Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Oct 2024 – Jan 2025), sets out how the Applicant consulted relevant local authorities to inform the SoCC, including comments received and consideration given to these.</li> <li>• Chapter 10: Account of Feedback and the Applicant's Response to the Statutory Consultation, provides a summary of responses received to Section 47 and Section 42 consultation and the Applicant's consideration of these responses. These sections are supported by <b>Appendix F-7: Statutory consultation under Section 47 of the PA 2008</b> [EN010168/APP/5.2] and <b>Appendix G-5: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008</b> [EN010168/APP/5.2].</li> </ul>
Paragraph 026	<p>It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results. The consultation report may not be the most appropriate format in which to respond to the points raised by various consultee groups and bodies. Applicants should therefore consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full consultation report for those interested.</p>	<p>The Scheme website continued to be available for any interested parties to access Scheme information, including updates on the proposals, Frequently Asked Questions, and a dedicated News webpage.</p> <p>Following the review and consideration of feedback received, the Applicant prepared a Stage One Consultation Summary Report to share details of the level of engagement,</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>themes of responses received, and updates regarding the Applicant's consideration of feedback and next steps for the Scheme.</p> <p>To publicise the availability of the Stage One Consultation Summary Report, the Applicant:</p> <p>The Stage One Consultation Summary Report was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared by email and/or post with key stakeholders (including MPs, councillors, parish councils) and individuals who had registered to be kept informed;</li> <li>• Uploaded to the Scheme website; and</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>A copy of the Stage One Consultation Summary Report is captured in <b>Appendix C-7: Non-Statutory Consultation [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant has summarised the responses to their Stage Two (statutory) consultation, including how the Applicant has responded, in Chapter 10 of the Consultation Report. The Applicant's full response to all feedback is presented in <b>Appendix F-7: Statutory consultation under Section 47 of the PA 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b> and <b>Appendix G-5: Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 [EN010168/APP/5.2]</b>.</p> <p>Furthermore, following DCO submission, the Applicant will continue to host up-to-date information on the dedicated Scheme website and will consider publishing a public</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		summary of the DCO application proposals and how these have been informed by pre-application consultation.
Paragraph 032	<p><b>How should applicants engage with local authorities?</b></p> <p>The Planning Act recognises the role that local authorities play as bodies with expert knowledge of the local community, business and other interests as well as their responsibility for development of the local area. They can support applicants in developing proposals, ensuring local issues are understood and taken into account.</p> <p>The particular functions that local authorities have in the pre-application process include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consultation about the SoCC under section 47 of the Planning Act which sets out how an applicant will consult with the people living in the vicinity of the land for their proposed development;</li> <li>• their role as a statutory consultee under section 42 of the Planning Act for any proposed application in or adjacent to their area (as defined by section 43 of the Planning Act) which they must be consulted on by the applicant;</li> <li>• their role as a relevant consultation body in relation to EIA scoping opinions;</li> <li>• although not a statutory requirement, a SoCG between the applicant and local authorities is now a well-established practical part of the process;</li> <li>• initial preparation stages of the Local Impact Report (LIR) setting out the local authority's views on the likely impact of the proposed development on their local area and communities; and</li> <li>• responses and engagement in relation to the adequacy of consultation milestone.</li> </ul> <p>Applicants are required to consult the local authority in whose area a proposed NSIP project lies (the 'host' local authority). They are also required to identify and consult the neighbouring local authorities under the requirements of section 43(2) and (2A) of the Planning Act. This explains how lower</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises the important role of local authorities.</p> <p>As described in Chapter 6: Preparation for Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Oct 2024 – Jan 2025), of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>, the Applicant formally consulted with Wiltshire Council on the draft SoCC between 30 October and 06 December 2024.</p> <p>Before this period, the Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC on 22 October, receiving comments back from Wiltshire Council on 28 October 2024.</p> <p>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, of the Consultation Report details how the Applicant had regard to Wiltshire Council's comments on the SoCC.</p> <p>Section 8.5: 'Identifying Section 43 Consultees' of the Consultation Report confirms the relevant authorities identified as being statutory consultees by the Applicant. Table 8-1 sets out how the Applicant has defined these authorities according to section 43 of the Planning Act 2008, and the dates within which they were consulted.</p> <p>The Applicant submitted 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.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>tier or unitary authorities adjacent to the host authority, and upper tier authorities adjacent to the upper tier authority within which the proposal is located, should be consulted. Determining which neighbouring authorities should be involved can only be done on a case-by-case basis. If the boundaries of the proposed applications change, applicants will need to consider whether there are any changes to the local authorities they need to consult.</p> <p>Applicants need to appreciate the range of local government structures in England particularly, and the meaning of 'local authority' in section 43(3) of the Planning Act for the purposes of consultation under the section 42 of the Planning Act. Where a combined authority or combined county authority is in place, applicants are recommended to review whether the relevant legislation which established those authorities brings them within scope of the consultation requirements under the Planning Act. Unless functions of county, district or unitary authorities have been specifically transferred by legislation, then these type of government bodies would not be a 'local authority' under these sections of the Planning Act. However, it is good practice for applicants to work with the constituent local authorities to consider how a combined authority could best support development of the application.</p> <p>Depending on the nature and scale of the NSIP, and the extent to which a particular authority is affected, Planning Performance Agreements or mechanisms that provide cost recovery may be appropriate. This should be set out in the applicant's Programme Document for discussion and agreement with the Planning Inspectorate at the Inception Meeting.</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>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, the newly identified local authorities were provided with at least 28 days to provide comments on Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant has agreed a PPA with Wiltshire Council as the host local authority.</p>
Paragraph 034	<p><b>Where projects affect multiple local authority areas what considerations arise?</b></p> <p>In preparing a SoCC under section 47 of the Planning Act, applicants may need to consult with a number of different local authorities. This may particularly be the case for long, linear projects. In this situation, the local authorities in question should, as far as practicable, co-ordinate their responses to the applicant. This will ensure that the consultation proposals set</p>	<p>At the time of preparing the SoCC, Wiltshire Council were identified as the sole host local authority for the Scheme. As described in Chapter 6: Preparation for Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (Oct 2024 – Jan 2025), of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>, the Applicant formally consulted with Wiltshire Council on the draft</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	out in the SoCC are coherent, effective, and work across local authority boundaries.	<p>SoCC between 30 October and 06 December 2024.</p> <p>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, of the Consultation Report details how the Applicant had regard to Wiltshire Council's comments on the SoCC.</p> <p>As described in Section 11.2: 'Preparing for Further Targeted Consultation, the Applicant' of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>, 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This feedback was considered and responded to by the Applicant prior to commencing targeted consultation on 03 June 2025.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		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 of the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b> .
Paragraph 035	<p><b>What is the role of local authorities in adequacy of consultation?</b></p> <p>When an application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, local authorities affected by a proposed NSIP are invited by the Planning Inspectorate under section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act to confirm whether the consultation has been adequate in meeting the expectations set out in the SoCC.</p> <p>It is therefore vital that local authorities have been fully engaged during the consultation process undertaken by the applicant during the pre-application stage so that they are fully informed and able to respond authoritatively within tight deadlines in order that a decision on whether the application to proceed to examination can be made within 28 days. Accordingly, local authorities are advised to prepare their adequacy of consultation responses in advance of the acceptance stage, and to raise any concerns with applicants ahead of submission, and as part of the early adequacy of consultation milestone.</p>	<p>As described in the <b>Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wiltshire Council were consulted on a draft of the SoCC prior to the document being finalised and statutory s47 consultation commencing, as described in Chapter 6: Preparation for Statutory Consultation under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008;</li> <li>Relevant local authorities were identified according to s43 of the Planning Act 2008 and were consulted, as described in Chapter 8: Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008;</li> <li>Both Wiltshire Council and South Gloucestershire Council were invited to comment on the Applicant's proposed approach to targeted consultation, as described in Chapter 11: Targeted Consultation on a Series of Proposed Boundary Changes; and</li> <li>The Applicant submitted 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.</li> </ul>

## **2 Adequacy of Consultation Milestone**



# **Lime Down**

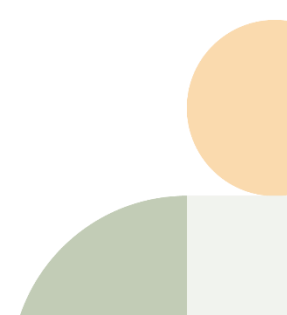
## Solar Park



# **Adequacy of Consultation Milestone**

**June 2025**

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



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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) document has been prepared by Lime Down Solar Park Limited ('the Applicant') in preparation for its application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for Lime Down Solar Park ('the Project').
- 1.1.2 In the first half of 2024, the Government introduced new guidance relevant to the application for a DCO:
- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects<sup>1</sup> ('the Guidance') (published 30 April 2024); and
  - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus<sup>2</sup> ('the Prospectus') (published 16 May 2024).
- 1.1.3 In setting out the requirements and expectations for the preparation of an application for a DCO, both the Guidance and the Prospectus introduced an early adequacy of consultation milestone (AoCM).
- 1.1.4 The purpose of the AoCM is to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant, prior to the acceptance stage of a DCO application.
- 1.1.5 The Applicant is providing this document to the Planning Inspectorate to demonstrate how it has complied with the consultation and publicity requirements prescribed by Sections 42, 46, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), associated provisions of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA Regulations') and The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('the APFP Regulations') (as amended) and how the Applicant has had regard to government guidance.
- 1.1.6 The Prospectus states: *"This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application."*

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

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

*“The adequacy of consultation milestone should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.”<sup>2</sup>*

- 1.1.7 The Applicant notes that this AoCM document is being prepared and submitted no later than three months of the intended DCO application submission date. This approach is referenced in the Applicant’s Programme Document<sup>3</sup> (published Friday 21 February 2025, updated version published Tuesday 03 June 2025).
- 1.1.8 The Applicant has engaged with Wiltshire Council, the sole host local authority for the Project at the time of statutory consultation, on the AoCM. This involved discussing the purpose of the AoCM as set out in the Guidance and the Prospectus, the Applicant’s intention is to submit this document prior to the DCO application, and the opportunity for views and supporting material from the host authority to be included in the document. As part of this engagement, a draft of the AoCM was provided to Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council’s response to the AoCM draft received via email on Friday 06 June 2025 is set out in **Appendix 6.2**. The Applicant’s response to Wiltshire Council issued by email on Wednesday 18 June 2025 is set out in **Appendix 6.3**. In providing feedback on the AoCM, Wiltshire Council has confirmed that, without prejudice as to its views on the Project as a whole, the AoCM accurately and correctly describes consultation undertaken for the Project.
- 1.1.9 The Applicant understands Wiltshire Council also intends to submit a statement on the Applicant’s adequacy of consultation at the acceptance stage under section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act, at which point it will have further opportunity to review the Consultation Report and provide its views on how consultation feedback has been considered when preparing the DCO application.
- 1.1.10 The Applicant has carried out pre-application consultation for the Project in accordance with relevant legislation, as set out in **Table 3.1**. This will be further evidenced in the full Consultation Report to be submitted as part of the DCO application.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.limedownsolar.co.uk/s/Lime-Down-Solar-Park\\_Programme-Document\\_Feb-2025.pdf](https://www.limedownsolar.co.uk/s/Lime-Down-Solar-Park_Programme-Document_Feb-2025.pdf)

## 2. Pre-application consultation

### 2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements set by the PA2008.
- 2.1.2 In accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA2008, the Applicant has undertaken pre-application consultation on the Project ahead of submission of the Application to the Secretary of State with the following consultees:
- Prescribed bodies (in accordance with Section 42(1)(a));
  - Local authorities (in accordance with Section 42(1)(b) and as set out in Section 43(1));
  - Those with an interest in the land (in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) and as set out in Section 44);
  - Community and other organisations in the “vicinity” of the Project who may be affected both directly and indirectly by the Project (in accordance with Section 47); and
  - Wider communities and organisations (local, national and regional) in order to seek their comments on the Project proposals (in accordance with Section 48).

### 2.2 Stages of consultation undertaken

- 2.2.1 The key stages of pre-application consultation undertaken by the Applicant are set out in **Table 2.1** overleaf.

**Table 2.1: Pre-application stages of consultation activities undertaken**

	Date	Consultation undertaken
1	05 March 2024	<p><b>Project introduction and ongoing engagement and consultation with local authorities and political stakeholders.</b></p> <p>Prior to the start of non-statutory consultation in March 2024, the Applicant commenced early engagement with consultees including Wiltshire Council, MPs and Parish clerks. This engagement was organised to introduce the Project, and engagement with these bodies has been ongoing throughout the pre-application period.</p> <p>The Applicant also commenced engagement with locally elected members and representatives including ward and parish councillors and Members of Parliament (MPs) through briefing meetings. For example, the Applicant introduced the proposals to parish councils and elected ward members by issuing digital communications to them on 05 March 2025 describing the Project and providing advance notice of the upcoming consultation. This also included holding the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Council Communications Officer – Virtual – 05/04/24</li> <li>• Cllr Martin Smith (Sherston) – Virtual – 12/03/24</li> <li>• Cllr Phil Alford (Melksham Without North &amp; Shurngold) – Virtual – 14/03/24</li> <li>• Cllr John Buckley (Luckington &amp; Alderton PC) – Virtual – 14/03/24</li> <li>• Melksham Without PC - In person – 18/03/24</li> <li>• Hullavington PC – In-person – 10/04/24</li> <li>• Corsham TC – In-person – 24/05/24</li> <li>• Cllr Phil Alford (Melksham Without North &amp; Shurngold) - Virtual – 31/05/24</li> <li>• Melksham Without PC – In-person – 12/06/24</li> <li>• Chair [REDACTED] &amp; Cllr Alice Beer (Little Somerford PC) - Virtual – 01/07/24</li> <li>• [REDACTED] (Sopworth Parish Meeting) - Virtual – 17/07/24</li> <li>• Luckington &amp; Alderton PC – In-person – 17/07/24</li> <li>• Cllr John Buckley (Luckington &amp; Alderton PC) - In-person – 06/11/24</li> <li>• Wiltshire Council Planning Officer – In-person – 06/11/24</li> <li>• Wiltshire Council Officers Project and Statutory Consultation Briefing – In-person – 13/01/25</li> <li>• Wiltshire Council Cllrs Project and Statutory Consultation Briefing – Virtual – 20/01/25</li> <li>• Sherston Parish Council – Virtual – 03/02/25</li> <li>• Malmesbury Town Council – Virtual – 28/02/25</li> </ul>

	Date	Consultation undertaken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr John Buckley (Luckington &amp; Alderton PC) - Virtual – 12/03/25</li> <li>• Corsham Town Council – Virtual – 12/03/2025</li> </ul> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MP Michelle Donelan – In person – 13/04/24</li> <li>• MP Roz Savage – In person – 13/06/24</li> <li>• MP Brian Mathew – In person – 26/09/24</li> <li>• MP Roz Savage – Phone call – 06/02/25</li> <li>• MP Sarah Gibson – In person – 27/02/25</li> <li>• MP Sarah Gibson – Virtual – 29/04/25</li> <li>• MP Roz Savage – In person – 09/05/25</li> </ul>
2	14 March – 26 April 2024	<p><b>Stage one community consultation (non-statutory)</b></p> <p>The Applicant held its stage one non-statutory consultation for just over six weeks (43 days) from 14 March to 26 April 2024.</p> <p>The aim of this initial consultation was to introduce the Project, present early stage proposals for the Project and give individuals and interested parties the opportunity to share their views.</p> <p>During this non-statutory consultation period, the Applicant held six in-person information events and two online webinars, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday 22 March 2024 – 15:30 to 19:30 – Sherston Village Hall, High Street, Sherston, Malmesbury, SN16 0LQ</li> <li>• Saturday 23 March 2024 – 11:00 to 15:00 – Hullavington Village Hall, Hill Hayes Lane, Hullavington, Chippenham, SN14 6EB</li> <li>• Monday 25 March 2024 – Grittleton Village Hall, The Street, Grittleton, Chippenham, SN14 6AW</li> <li>• Wednesday 27 March 2024 – Virtual webinar (Zoom)</li> <li>• Thursday 09 April 2024 – 15:30 to 19:30 – Goss Croft Hall, Startley Road, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 5HD</li> <li>• Wednesday 10 April 2024 – 15:30 to 19:30 – Corsham Town Council Hall, Town Hall, 65 High St, Corsham, SN13 0EZ</li> <li>• Thursday 11 April 2024 – 14:00 to 18:00 – Corsham Town Council Hall, Town Hall, 65 High St, Corsham, SN13 0EZ</li> <li>• Wednesday 17 April 2024 – 17:30 to 19:00 – Virtual webinar (Zoom)</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant publicised the events and consultation information by:</p>

	Date	Consultation undertaken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributing a consultation postcard to over 11,400 local homes and businesses;</li> <li>• Advertising the events across local media;</li> <li>• Distributing posters to identified local information points for them to display;</li> <li>• Providing details of the events on the Project website;</li> <li>• Wider publicity via a press release, which was sent to more than fifteen local publications; and</li> <li>• Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed.</li> </ul> <p>Full details of these activities will be set out in the Consultation Report.</p>
3	16 July 2024	<p><b>Scoping Report submitted</b></p> <p>The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State on 16 July 2024. Through this report, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate that it intended to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Project pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations.</p>
4	22 August 2024	<p><b>Scoping Opinion</b></p> <p>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.</p>
5	22 October – 28 October	<p><b>Feedback sought on early working draft of Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)</b></p> <p>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.</p>
6	24 October 2024	<p><b>Stage One Consultation Summary Report</b></p> <p>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 Project.</p> <p>The Stage One Consultation Summary Report was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared by email and/or post with key stakeholders (including MPs, councillors, parish councils) and individuals who had registered to be kept informed;</li> <li>• Uploaded to the Project website; and</li> </ul>

	Date	Consultation undertaken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
7	30 October – 06 December 2024	<b>Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with local authorities under Section 47 of the PA2008</b>
8	14 January 2025	<b>Publication of SoCC in accordance with Section 47 of the PA2008</b>
9	27 January 2025	<b>Notification to the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, under Section 46 of the PA2008</b>
10	29 January 2025 to 19 March 2025	<p><b>Stage Two Consultation – Section 42 and Section 48 of the PA2008 and Publication of PEIR and Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR</b></p> <p>The Applicant published a PEIR on 29 January 2025 to be consulted upon as part of a statutory consultation under Section 42, 47 and 48 of the PA2008 with prescribed consultees and the community (Stage Two consultation).</p> <p>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). Section 42 consultees were formally notified of the commencement of statutory consultation on or before 29 January 2025 by written letter and/or email.</p> <p>The consultation documents provided to Section 42 consultees comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials; and</li> <li>A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the PA2008 (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).</li> </ul> <p>Notices were published in accordance with Section 48 of the PA2008 and further details are set out in <b>Table 3.1</b>.</p> <p>The PEIR and PEIR Non-technical Summary (NTS) were made available to Section 42 consultees and the community as part of the Stage Two Consultation via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project website;</li> <li>In hard copy form at the community information events; and</li> <li>In hard copy form at the Community Access Point (CAP) sites, which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corsham Library, Springfield Community Campus, Beechfield Road, Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 9DN;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	Date	Consultation undertaken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melksham Library, Melksham Community, Campus Market Place Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 6ES;</li> <li>• Malmesbury Library, 24 Cross Hayes Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9BG; and</li> <li>• Chippenham Library, Timber Street, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 3EJ.</li> </ul> <p>Details of how to access the PEIR and PEIR NTS were provided via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project website;</li> <li>• The community consultation leaflet;</li> <li>• The Section 42 letter; and</li> <li>• The Section 48 notice.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p>
11	29 January to 19 March 2025	<p><b>Stage Two community consultation (statutory under Section 47 of the PA2008)</b></p> <p>During Stage Two consultation the Applicant held eight in-person information events and two online webinars as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 05 February 2025 – 18:30 to 20:00 – Online webinar (via Zoom)</li> <li>• Friday 07 February 2025 – 14:30 to 19:30 – Sherston Village Hall, High Street, Sherston, Malmesbury, SN16 0LQ</li> <li>• Saturday 08 February 2025 – 11:00 to 15:00 – Hullavington Village Hall, Hill Hayes Lane, Hullavington, Chippenham, SN14 6EB</li> <li>• Wednesday 12 February 2025 – 14:30 to 19:30 – Grittleton Village Hall, The Street, Grittleton, Chippenham, SN14 6AW</li> <li>• Thursday 13 February 2025 – 14:30 to 19:30 – Corsham Town Council Hall, Town Hall, 65 High Street, Corsham, SN13 0EZ</li> <li>• Friday 14 February 2025 – 14:30 to 19:30 – Malmesbury Town Hall, Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, SN16 9BZ</li> <li>• Saturday 15 February 2025 – 11:00 to 15:00 – Luckington Village Hall, Bristol Road, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6NP</li> <li>• Tuesday 25 February 2025 – 14:30 to 19:30 – Goss Croft Hall, Startley Road, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, SN15 5HD</li> <li>• Wednesday 26 February 2025 – 17:30 to 20:30 – Shaw CofE Primary School, Corsham Road, Shaw, Melksham, SN12 8EQ</li> </ul>

	Date	Consultation undertaken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday 27 February 2025 – 18:30 to 20:30 – Online webinar (via Zoom)</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant publicised the events and consultation information by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distributing a community consultation leaflet to over 14,180 local homes and business;</li> <li>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);</li> <li>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);</li> <li>Distributing hard copies of consultation documents to the four CAP sites (i.e. the libraries listed above);</li> <li>Providing details of the public information events on the Project website; and</li> <li>Contacting identified key stakeholders (including MPs, councillors and parish councils) and individuals who had registered to be kept informed.</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant invited feedback from the community via a paper feedback form, an online feedback form, and feedback to the Project communication channels over a stated 49-day response period.</p> <p>Further details on how the Applicant complied with the SoCC are set out in <b>Table 4.1</b>.</p>

### 3. Compliance with the PA2008

#### 3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 The Applicant undertook consultation consistent with the commitments set out in the published SoCC, in accordance with Section 47(7) of the PA2008.
- 3.1.2 **Table 3.1** describes how the Applicant's pre-application consultation activities have complied with these requirements in the PA2008.

**Table 3.1: Consultation compliance checklist with PA2008**

Section	Requirement	Compliance
<b>Section 42 (The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application)</b>	(a) such persons as may be prescribed,	<p>The Applicant consulted all relevant prescribed consultees as defined in Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations and the APFP Regulations.</p> <p>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. The Applicant consulted with all of these bodies.</p> <p>In addition to this, the Applicant consulted with further ‘non-prescribed’ consultees including Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and wider parish councils (who were listed in the Scoping Opinion but no longer within the boundary of the Project).</p>
	(aa) the Marine Management Organisation, in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2)	The Applicant consulted the Marine Management Organisation.
	(b) each local authority that is within section 43	<p>The Applicant consulted each relevant local authority as defined within Section 43 of the PA2008. These are listed below:</p> <p><i>‘A’ Authorities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Forest District Council</li> <li>• Vale of White Horse District Council</li> <li>• Cotswold District Council</li> <li>• Test Valley Borough Council</li> <li>• New Forest National Park Authority</li> <li>• Dorset Council</li> <li>• West Berkshire Council</li> <li>• Bath and North East Somerset Council</li> <li>• Somerset Council</li> <li>• South Gloucestershire Council</li> </ul>

Section	Requirement	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swindon Borough Council</li> <li>• Oxfordshire County Council</li> <li>• Gloucestershire County Council</li> <li>• Hampshire County Council</li> </ul> <p><i>'B' Authorities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Council</li> </ul>
	(c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and	Not applicable.
	(d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44	The Applicant consulted each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.
<b>Section 45 (Timetable for consultation under section 42)</b>	(1) The applicant must, when consulting a person under section 42, notify the person of the deadline for the receipt by the applicant of the person's response to the consultation.	The Applicant notified all those consulted under Section 42 of the deadline in writing by email and/or post.
	(2) A deadline notified under subsection (1) must not be earlier than the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents.	The Applicant undertook consultation on the PEIR from 29 January 2025 to 19 March 2025 which was a period of 49 days. All consultees had received the consultation documents on or prior to 29 January 2025.
	(3) In subsection (2) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the person by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the person.	<p>The consultation documents provided to Section 42 consultees comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials; and</li> <li>• A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the PA2008 (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).</li> </ul>
<b>Section 46 (Duty to notify Commission)</b>	(1) The applicant must supply the Secretary of State with such information in relation to the proposed application as the applicant would supply to the Secretary of State for the purpose of	The Applicant notified the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, in writing under Section 46 of the PA2008 on 27 January 2025 that it was intending to commence consultation under Section 42 of the PA2008 on the PEIR commencing on 29 January 2025 and closing on 19 March 2025.

Section	Requirement	Compliance
<b>of proposed application)</b>	complying with section 42 if the applicant were required by that section to consult the Secretary of State about the proposed application.	<p>The Applicant included the following consultation documents with this notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a covering letter;</li> <li>• example copies of the Section 42 covering letters (including examples for prescribed consultees, the MMO, local authorities and landowners);</li> <li>• A copy of section 47 and section 48 notices (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge);</li> <li>• A copy of the final SoCC; and</li> <li>• Copies of Stage Two consultation materials, including consultation newsletter, feedback form and project information booklet.</li> </ul>
	(2) The applicant must comply with subsection (1) on or before commencing consultation under section 42.	The Applicant complied with subsection (1) on 27 January 2025, prior to commencing consultation on 29 January 2025.
<b>Section 47 (Duty to consult the local community)</b>	(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.	The Applicant prepared and published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) that set out how the Applicant proposed 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.	To inform the preparation of the statement, the Applicant consulted Wiltshire Council (the sole local authority that is within Section 43(1)) on the content of the SoCC.
	(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.	<p>The Applicant then formally consulted with Wiltshire Council on the draft SoCC between 30 October and 06 December 2024.</p> <p>Before this period, the Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC on 22 October, receiving comments back from Wiltshire Council on 28 October 2024.</p>
	(4) In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents	The consultation documents supplied by the Applicant included a covering letter and email, a summary of how feedback received to the early working draft

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).	SoCC had been considered by the Applicant (see <b>Appendix 6.1</b> of this document)., and the draft SoCC.
	(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).	The Applicant had regard to all relevant responses to the draft SoCC. The Applicant shared a response table with Wiltshire Council to explain how their comments had been considered, as shown in <b>Appendix 6.1</b> of this document.
	6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must — 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,	The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the PA2008 on 14 January 2025.  The SoCC was uploaded to a dedicated page on the Applicant's website and made available to view and collect from the four CAP sites listed in the document and accompanying notice.
	(a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and	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.
	(b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.	The publication of the SoCC was also communicated through emailing identified key stakeholders and any party that had registered to be kept informed of project updates.
<b>Section 48 (Duty to publicise)</b>	(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.	The Applicant undertook consultation under Section 47 of the PA2008 in accordance with the SoCC.  This is evidenced in the accompanying table and will be further detailed in the Consultation Report.
	(1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.	The Applicant prepared and publicised the application in the prescribed manner set out in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 by publishing a Section 48 notice.  The Section 48 Notice was published in the following publications:

Section	Requirement	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 16 and 23 January 2025;</li> <li>• Wiltshire Times on 17 and 24 January 2025;</li> <li>• The Guardian on 22 January 2025; and</li> <li>• The London Gazette on 24 January 2025.</li> </ul>
	(2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.	The Section 48 notice included a deadline of 19 March 2025 for receipt of responses to the publicity. The final notice was published on 24 January 2025, which clearly stated the consultation start and end dates, therefore exceeding the 28 days statutory minimum response time.
<b>Section 49 (Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity)</b>	<p>(1) Subsection (2) applies where the applicant — (a) has complied with sections 42, 47 and 48, and (b) proposes to go ahead with making an application for an order granting development consent (whether or not in the same terms as the proposed application).</p> <p>(2) The applicant must, when deciding whether the application that the applicant is actually to make should be in the same terms as the proposed application, have regard to any relevant responses.</p> <p>(3) In subsection (2) “relevant response” means— (a) a response from a person consulted under section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by section 45 in that person’s case,</p> <p>(b) a response to consultation under section 47(7) that is received by the applicant before any applicable deadline</p>	<p>The Applicant is reviewing all relevant responses made pursuant to Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 in accordance with Section 49.</p> <p>In reviewing the responses, the Applicant is cognisant of its duty to have regard to any relevant responses.</p> <p>A summary of relevant responses received and how the Applicant has considered these will be provided in the Consultation Report submitted with the DCO application.</p>

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under section 47, or</p> <p>(c) a response to publicity under section 48 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed in accordance with section 48(2) in relation to that publicity.</p>	
<b>Section 50 (Guidance about pre-application procedure)</b>	<p>(1) Guidance may be issued about how to comply with the requirements of this Section.</p> <p>(2) Guidance under this section may be issued by the Planning Inspectorate or the Secretary of State.</p> <p>(3) The applicant must have regard to any guidance under this section.</p>	<p>In carrying out the Stage One Non-Statutory Consultation, the Applicant had regard to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG, 2015), Planning Act 2008: guidance on the pre-application process.</p> <p>In carrying out the Stage Two (Statutory) Consultation, the Applicant had regard to updated guidance published by the Planning Inspectorate in April 2024 and the updated Advice Note on the Consultation Report, published in August 2024.</p> <p>Full details will be set out in the Consultation Report.</p>

## 4. Statement of Community Consultation

### 4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 In accordance with Section 47 of the PA2008, a draft SoCC was prepared, consulted on with the host authority, finalised and published ahead of commencing statutory consultation on the Project. Details are set out in **Table 3.1** above.

### 4.2 Compliance with the SoCC

- 4.2.1 The Applicant undertook consultation consistent with the commitments set out in the published SoCC, in accordance with Section 47(7) of the PA2008.
- 4.2.2 **Table 4.1** describes how the Applicant has complied with commitments set out within the published SoCC.

**Table 4.1: SoCC commitments and Applicant compliance**

Section	Commitment	Compliance
<b>1. Introduction</b>	1.6. The SoCC will be published on Tuesday 14 January 2025 ahead of statutory consultation launching.	The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47(6) of the PA2008 on 14 January 2025.
	1.7. As required by Section 47 (6) of the PA2008 we will publish a Section 47 Notice in local newspapers for one week to advertise that the SoCC has been published as follows:	The SoCC was uploaded to the document library on the Applicant's website and made available to view and collect from the four CAP sites listed in the document and accompanying Section 47 Notice.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wiltshire Gazette and Herald – Thursday 16 January 2025</li> <li>Wiltshire Times – Friday 17 January 2025</li> </ul>	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.
	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). Printed reference copies will also be available to view at in-person consultation events being held during statutory consultation (see Table 6).	
<b>4. The DCO consenting process</b>	<p>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 PA2008. Wiltshire Council has also had the opportunity to provide comments on an early draft of this SoCC.</p> <p>We have had regard to the feedback Wiltshire</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The Applicant formally provided a draft SoCC to Wiltshire Council for consultation on 30 October 2024. This was</p>

	<p>Council provided, with it having been considered and used to inform this final version.</p>	<p>provided alongside the contents from <b>Appendix 6.1</b> of this 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.</p>
<p><b>5. Our public consultation process</b></p>	<p><b>Consultation objectives</b></p> <p>Our overall objectives for the Stage Two consultation are to:</p> <p>5.2.1. Raise awareness about the Project proposals and the consultation so local communities have the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the Project, its potential impacts and the measures proposed to reduce those impacts.</li> <li>• Engage in discussion relating to ways of maximising local benefits to meet their long-term needs so they can provide their views and feedback.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>5.2.3. Provide a range of ways for people to engage with the Project at a time that is</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook consultation with local communities, local authorities, statutory bodies and persons with an interest in land potentially affected by the Project under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA2008.</p> <p>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 also available in printed format (to inspect and/or take away) at the four CAP sites, as stated in the SoCC.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Materials included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A PEIR and accompanying Non-Technical Summary, including technical maps and plans;</li> <li>• A Community Consultation Leaflet (distributed to local homes and businesses);</li> <li>• A Project Information Booklet, including illustrative plans showing the nature of the Project;</li> <li>• Event Displays; and</li> </ul>

	<p>convenient to them. For example, online (website, webinars), in person (events, briefings), in writing (feedback form, letters).</p> <p>5.2.4. Clearly signpost the different ways people can comment on the Project.</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A paper and online Feedback Form to encourage responses.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Stage One ‘non-statutory’ consultation</b></p> <p>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 Down Solar Park is set out in our Stage One Consultation Summary Report. This is available to view and download from the Project website.</p>	<p>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 Project.</p> <p>The Stage One Consultation Summary Report was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared by email and post with key stakeholders (including MPs, councillors and parish councils) and individuals who had registered to be kept informed;</li> <li>• Uploaded to the Project website; and</li> <li>• Wider publicity via a press release, which was sent to over nineteen local publications.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Stage Two ‘statutory’ consultation</b></p> <p>5.11. Stage Two Statutory consultation will take place over a period of seven weeks (49 days) from Wednesday 29 January until</p>	<p>The Applicant held the Stage Two consultation over a period of seven weeks (49 days) from 29 January 2025 to 19 March 2025.</p>

	Wednesday 19 March 2025. This consultation period exceeds the minimum period of 28 days as required by the PA2008.	
	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 listed in <b>Table 2.1</b> .
	5.13. At the same time as carrying out this consultation in accordance with Section 47 'Duty to consult local community' of the PA2008, we are proposing to carry out statutory consultation in accordance with Sections 42 and 48 of the PA2008 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 Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA2008. Consultation was held for 49 days from 29 January 2025 to 19 March 2025.
	5.14. This statutory consultation will be publicised to local communities within a defined core consultation zone (see Figure 3) as well as other stakeholders using a variety of communication methods (see Section 7).	<p>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.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised more widely to stakeholders using a variety of other communication methods, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publishing a Section 48 notice in local and national press and London Gazette (see <b>Table 3.1</b> above);</li> <li>• Advertising in local and regional media outlets;</li> <li>• Issuing media releases to 32+ local and regional media outlets;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sending posters to community venues, local information posts and parish councils;</li> <li>• Issuing communications to key stakeholders, including local political representatives (Wiltshire Councillor and MPs) and parish councils;</li> <li>• Issuing communications to gateway organisations, local groups and individuals registered to receive information about the Project; and</li> <li>• Publishing consultation materials so they are available to view online.</li> </ul>
	<p>5.15. Consultation documents and materials will be made available to view at Community Access Points (CAPs) (see Table 5) and in-person information events (see Table 6). They will also be available to view and download from the Project website: <a href="http://www.limedownsolar.co.uk">www.limedownsolar.co.uk</a>.</p> <p>Members of the Project team will be available at events to answer questions about the Project and provide information about the consultation.</p>	<p>Consultation materials listed in the final SoCC (noted in Table 4) were made available for the full consultation period (29 January to 19 March 2025) at the four CAPs (listed in Table 5 in the SoCC).</p> <p>Documents were uploaded to the Project website on 29 January 2025 and were also made available for the full consultation period.</p> <p>Members of the Project team were in attendance at the events (eight in person and two online) to answer questions about the Project.</p>
	<p>5.16. Unless agreed with us directly, the deadline for submitting responses to this statutory consultation is 23.59 on Wednesday 19 March 2025.</p>	<p>The consultation closed at 23:59 on 19 March 2025.</p> <p>The dates were clearly communicated in community consultation literature, including a Community Consultation Leaflet, the SoCC, Project Information Booklet, Section 47 and Section 48 Notices, newspaper advertising, on the Project website and communications issued to community stakeholders and representatives.</p>

	<p><b>What we will consult on</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The Stage Two consultation was delivered to ensure all stakeholders had the chance to understand the latest proposals and have their say.</p> <p>The Consultation Report, submitted as part of the final DCO application, will document responses received and the Applicant's regard had to comments in the final Project design.</p>
	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The design for the five Solar PV Sites in which the electricity generating station and BESS would be contained;</li> <li>• 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 national grid at Melksham Substation;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• The timescales and next steps for the Project; and</li> </ul>	<p>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.</p> <p>Information on topics the Applicant was seeking comments on was provided in the Project Information Booklet which included an indicative site map of the Project.</p> <p>This document was available to view and download from the Project website; printed copies were available at four CAPs and in-person consultation events, with printed and digital copies also being made available on request.</p> <p>The feedback form was structured to encourage participants to provide feedback on these topics.</p> <p>Availability of the PEIR was publicised in the SoCC, the Project Website, the Project Information Booklet and on the</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anything else you think we need to consider.</li> </ul>	Feedback Form. It was also referenced in the Section 47 and Section 48 Notices.
	<p><b>Table 3: Statutory consultation – key dates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>14 Jan 2025</b> – SoCC available to view at CAPs and on the Project website.</li> <li><b>From 14 Jan 2025:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 48 Notices published in regional papers, one national paper, and the London Gazette.</li> <li>Section 42 consultation information sent to statutory and prescribed persons.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>From 27 Jan 2025</b> – Consultation leaflet announcing consultation launch distributed to addresses within the core consultation zone.</li> <li><b>29 Jan 2025:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory consultation launches</li> <li>Consultation materials available to view at CAPs and on the Project website</li> <li>Public information events held at local venues and online</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The series of activities took place as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The final SoCC was available to view in person at the four CAPs and was hosted on the Project website from 14 January 2025.</li> <li>Section 48 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).</li> <li>Section 42 consultation information was sent to statutory and prescribed person on/before 27 January 2025.</li> <li>The Community Consultation Leaflet was distributed to properties within the core consultation zone from 27 January 2025.</li> <li>The Stage Two consultation launched on 29 January 2025 – consultation materials were available on the Project website and in hard copy at CAPs (where stated) from this date.</li> <li>Eight in person events and two online webinars were held across the consultation period.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Consultation reporting</b></p> <p>5.19. When statutory consultation has closed we will review and finalise the proposed application for the Project, having regard to the feedback received.</p>	<p>In line with commitments made in the SoCC, the DCO Consultation Report will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the consultation that has been carried out (in accordance with the SoCC);</li> <li>Evidence how we have satisfied and adhered to legal requirements;</li> </ul>

	We will then produce a Consultation Report which will be included with our DCO application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detail how we have worked with Wiltshire Council to ensure our consultation is suitable for the area through the proposals set out in the SoCC;</li> <li>Set out the key themes raised in the feedback and consultation responses received; and</li> <li>Respond to the feedback, setting out how we have had regard to feedback relevant to the Project and how it has influenced our proposals.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Who we will consult</b>	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.
	<b>Core consultation zone</b>  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).	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.
	<b>Errata Statement – 27 January 2025</b>  Please note: the boundary for the Core Consultation Zone shown on this map has been corrected. Please refer to the Errata Statement for the updated map and further details.	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

		<p>total number of addresses within the core consultation zone increased from approximately 10,523 to around 14,187.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Errata Statement was uploaded to the Project 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).</p>
	<p><b>Consulting people beyond the core consultation zone</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>6.10.1. Directly notify any individual who has registered to receive information about the</p>	<p>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.</p>

	Project, including those who have expressed concern or opposition to the proposals;	
	6.10.2. Publish a Section 48 notice in the local and national press and London Gazette (see Table 7).	<p>The Section 48 Notice was published as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 16 and 23 January 2025;</li> <li>• Wiltshire Times on 17 and 24 January 2025;</li> <li>• The Guardian on 22 January 2025; and</li> <li>• The London Gazette on 24 January 2025.</li> </ul>
	6.10.3. Advertise the consultation in local media outlets reaching audiences beyond the core consultation zone (see Table 8).	<p>The consultation was advertised in local media outlets as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hullavington News on 01 February 2025;</li> <li>• Melksham Independent News on 30 January and 13 February 2025;</li> <li>• Swindon Advertiser on 22 and 29 January, and 5 February 2025;</li> <li>• The Signpost on 01 February 2025;</li> <li>• Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 23 and 30 January, and 6 February 2025; and</li> <li>• Wiltshire Times on 24 and 31 January, and 7 February 2025.</li> <li>• Advertisements also ran from 22 January to 20 February 2025 in the following online local media outlets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is Wiltshire;</li> <li>• Swindon Advertiser;</li> <li>• Wiltshire Gazette and Herald; and</li> <li>• Wiltshire Times.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	6.10.4. Publish consultation materials so they are available to view online (see Table 4).	All consultation materials were published on the Project 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.
	<p>6.11. We will also engage those parties representing the interests of those communities which lie beyond the core consultation zone including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.11.1. Members of Parliament representing the host constituencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roz Savage MP (South Cotswolds)</li> <li>Sarah Gibson MP (Chippenham)</li> <li>Brian Mathew MP (Melksham and Devizes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>6.11.2. Wiltshire Council electoral division members (councillors)</li> </ul>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>6.11.3. Wiltshire Area Boards within whose boundaries the Project site boundary lies including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chippenham and Villages Area Board;</li> <li>Corsham Area Board;</li> <li>Malmesbury Area Board; and</li> <li>Melksham Area Board.</li> </ul>	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.
	6.11.4. Community interest groups and voluntary organisations (see Appendix 1);	<p>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.</p> <p>The Applicant issued postal and email communications to community groups on 14 January 2025 to provide advance</p>

		<p>notice of the statutory consultation period, an overview of the proposals and overall approach to consultation (inc. Information event details). The Applicant also contacted such groups on 29 January 2025 (to confirm the consultation launch) and on 26 March 2025 (to confirm its close).</p>
	<p><b>Consulting with under-represented or seldom heard groups</b></p> <p>6.12. We are committed to ensuring the consultation process and associated communications reach as many parts of the community as possible.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>6.14. Our consultation methodology (see Section 7) 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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

	<p>approach considers the needs of their members.</p> <p>See Appendix 1 for a list of the gateway organisations and local groups we will contact.</p> <p>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 information becomes available.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p><b>Wider consultation in accordance with Section 42 of the PA2008</b></p>	<p>The Applicant undertook consultation with community and technical consultees in parallel under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA2008 between 29 January and 19 March 2025.</p>

	<p>6.18. At the same time as carrying out Stage Two 'statutory' consultation in accordance with Section 47 'Duty to Consult local community' of the PA2008, we will be carrying out statutory consultation in accordance with Section 42 and Section 48 of the PA2008.</p>	<p>Consultees included Wiltshire Council (as a Host 'B' authority) and Neighbouring 'A' authorities – as listed in <b>Table 3.1</b> of this document. A full list of Section 42 consultees will be provided in the Consultation Report.</p> <p>This list included the relevant parish councils (located within the Project boundary) and additional neighbouring parish councils, statutory environmental bodies (as listed in the SoCC) and persons having an interest in land affected by the Project, including property and landowners and occupiers.</p>
<p><b>7. How we will consult</b></p>	<p>7.2. We have identified a number of ways in which, throughout the consultation period, people can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access clear and concise information about the project and the potential effects (this will include making available all relevant technical documents relating to the project);</li> <li>• Review and comment on consultation documents at a time which is convenient to them; and</li> <li>• Express their views regarding the Project by submitting feedback to the statutory consultation via easy to use and accessible methods.</li> </ul>	<p>Throughout the consultation period, the Applicant ensured all consultation information/materials were readily accessible, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosting materials on the Project website and in printed format at four CAPs and at in-person events.</li> <li>• Giving people seven weeks to review consultation documents at a time convenient to them, including accessing documents online and/or in person (as above).</li> <li>• Providing a variety of channels to provide feedback, include via a printed and/or online feedback form or to the Applicant's communication channels (email or Freepost).</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Project website</b></p>	<p>The Project website was updated on 27 January 2025 to provide full information about the Stage Two consultation. All</p>

	<p>7.4. The Project website <a href="http://www.limedownsolar.co.uk">www.limedownsolar.co.uk</a> 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.</p>	<p>materials were also hosted on the website from this date: <a href="https://www.limedownsolar.co.uk/documents">https://www.limedownsolar.co.uk/documents</a></p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant hosted an online feedback form on the Project website, which replicated the contents of the paper feedback form. The online form was accessible until 23:59 on 19 March 2025.</p>
	<p>7.6. The website will continue to provide the facility for people to register their contact details with the Project so they can receive future updates and information directly.</p>	<p>The Project website continues to remain active and host the latest Project information. This includes a 'Register for updates' page: <a href="https://www.limedownsolar.co.uk/register-here">https://www.limedownsolar.co.uk/register-here</a></p>
	<p><b>Community consultation literature</b></p> <p>7.7. A <b>Consultation Leaflet</b> 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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>As noted in the SoCC Errata Statement, the original core consultation zone was revised from 10,523 addresses to 14,187 addresses.</p> <p>The Consultation Leaflet provided full information about the Project and Stage Two consultation.</p>

	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.	
	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 Project website and in printed format at the four CAPs on 27 January 2025.
	7.10. A <b>Feedback Form</b> 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 <b>FREEPOST Lime Down Solar</b> . An online version of 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: <a href="mailto:info@limedownsolar.co.uk">info@limedownsolar.co.uk</a>	A Feedback Form was produced and made available for the Stage Two consultation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In printed format at the four CAPs, at in-person events and on request from the Project team from 27 January 2025;</li> <li>• Online via the Project website (as a downloadable PDF) from 27 January 2025; and</li> <li>• As an online form on the Project website, which could be accessed from 27 January until at least 23:59 on 19 March 2025.</li> </ul> Completed forms and freeform feedback could be returned by post (FREEPOST Lime Down Solar), in person at events, or by email to the Project 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	The Applicant accepted feedback until 23:59 on 19 March 2025 and allowed additional days after this date to receive representations via Freepost, acknowledging delay in postal times.

	than the prescribed deadline of 19 March 2025.	
	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 Project freephone. No representations were received via this method.
	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 Table 5) from the same date, and to collect from in-person information events taking place (see Table 6). Digital and printed copies can be made available on request by contacting the Project community relations team (see 10.5).	All materials were available to view and download from the Project 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.  Upon request, the Applicant provided consultation materials by post and/or email.
	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.

	<p><b>Technical documents</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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: Volume 1 – Main Report, £896.00; Volume Two – Figures, £700.00 and Volume Three – Appendices, £3,278.00).</p> <p>7.18. A <b>Document Navigation Booklet</b> 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.</p> <p>7.19. Details of where documents will be available during the statutory consultation period are set out in <b>Table 4</b>.</p>	<p>All technical documents – including the PEIR and accompanying NTS and maps and plans – were made available on the Project website from 29 January 2025. Printed copies of these documents were also available to inspect (but not take away) from this date at CAPs.</p> <p>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 Project team and via the Project website.</p> <p>All consultation documents were made available as stated in Table 4 of the SoCC. Stock levels (at CAPs and in person</p>
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	<p>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.</p>	<p>events) were monitored on a regular basis and replenished as necessary.</p>
	<p><b>Public information events</b></p> <p>7.23. During the statutory consultation, we will hold public 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 discuss the proposals and answer any questions.</p> <p>7.24. The programme of public information events comprises eight in-person events and two online events.</p> <p>7.25. <b>In-person information events</b> will be held at publicly accessible venues which accommodate the needs of individuals with limited mobility.</p>	<p>The Applicant held a total of eight in person and two online events across the consultation period (as listed in <b>Table 2.1</b>). 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.</p> <p>All venues were located within the Project's core consultation and were selected based on their accessibility (to affected communities) and health and safety/capacity requirements. All venues had disabled access.</p> <p>Several members of the Project team were in attendance at the events, including representatives from IGP and a wide range of planning, land, technical and environmental impact assessment disciplines.</p>

	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.	
	7.25. They 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 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 Project team were on hand to discuss the proposals in more detail.
	7.27. <b>Online information events</b> will take the form of webinars conducted on 'Zoom', the date and time for which will be publicised along with details of in-person events.	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 on the Project website or by getting in touch with the Project team.
	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	Webinars included a live presentation, which covered information consistent with materials presented at the in-person events, and a Q&A with the Project team. Questions could be submitted and answered live via a 'Q&A' box.  Webinar recordings were uploaded to the Project website after each event and both webinar and Project registrants

	<p>question and answer session. Participants will be invited to submit questions during the webinar.</p> <p>7.29. Webinar sessions will be recorded and made available.</p>	<p>were issued digital notifications on the day of publication. Responses to questions that remained outstanding following each session were published in writing via the Project website and the Applicant issued notifications to both webinar and project registrants following publication.</p>
	<p>7.30. The full programme of events anticipated as being held are set out in Table 6.</p> <p>7.33. Where any information event 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.</p>	<p>All in-person and online events were held as advertised in the final SoCC, Section 47 and Section 48 Notices and wider publicity information.</p>
	<p><b>Open communication</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>All communication channels remained open throughout the pre-application period, including Freephone, email and Freepost.</p>
	<p>7.35. During the consultation period consultees can provide feedback by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.35.1. Submitting an online feedback form through the Project website</li> <li>7.35.2. Completing a printed copy of the feedback form and submitting it an in-person information event or returning it to</li> </ul>	<p>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).</p> <p>No representations were received verbally via the Project freephone.</p>

	<p>FREEPOST Lime Down Solar (no stamp required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.35.3. Sending an email to: <a href="mailto:info@limedownsolar.co.uk">info@limedownsolar.co.uk</a></li> <li>7.35.4. Providing comments in writing and posting them to FREEPOST Lime Down Solar</li> </ul> <p>7.36. By appointment with the Project team, it will be possible to make a verbal representation over the Project freephone 0808 175 6656.</p>	
	<p>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).</p>	<p>The Project team were available via the stated communication channels and received answerphone messages outside of these hours.</p>
	<p><b>Section 48 notice</b></p> <p>7.39. A list of the newspaper outlets and dates when the Section 48 Notice will appear are set out in Table 7.</p>	<p>The Section 48 Notice was published in the following publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 16 and 23 January 2025;</li> <li>Wiltshire Times on 17 and 24 January 2025;</li> <li>The Guardian on 22 January 2025; and</li> <li>The London Gazette on 24 January 2025.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Media and advertising</b></p> <p>7.40. To raise awareness about the Project and consultation within and beyond the core</p>	<p>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:</p>

	<p>consultation zone we will issue media releases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 7.40.3. After the consultation has closed to provide a summary of participation and details of what happens next.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
	<p>7.41. In addition to publishing a formal Section 48 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).</p> <p>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 <b>Table 8</b>.</p>	<p>The Applicant placed a series of additional advertisements in local media outlets as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hullavington News on 01 February 2025;</li> <li>• Melksham Independent News on 30 January and 13 February 2025;</li> <li>• Swindon Advertiser on 22 and 29 January, and 5 February 2025;</li> <li>• The Signpost on 01 February 2025;</li> <li>• Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 23 and 30 January, and 6 February 2025; and</li> <li>• Wiltshire Times on 24 and 31 January, and 7 February 2025.</li> </ul>

		<p>The Applicant also ran a digital campaign for the duration of the statutory consultation period on four local media websites as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wiltshire Gazette &amp; Herald;</li> <li>• Swindon Advertiser;</li> <li>• Wiltshire Times; and</li> <li>• This is Wiltshire.</li> </ul> <p>Media releases were also issued to 31 local and regional media outlets as set out on Table 8 of the SoCC.</p>
	<p><b>Posters</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant issued 107 posters to 100 community venues, local information points, as noted in Appendix 3 of the SoCC, and the parish councils listed in Section 6 (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.</p>
	<p><b>Stakeholder communications and briefings</b></p> <p>7.44. We will issue communications to key stakeholders including local political representatives (Wiltshire Councillors and</p>	<p>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</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>those representing the relevant electoral districts (33 members total) by email on 17 December 2024 and 29 January 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant also contacted parish council clerks within the core consultation zone via email and post on 17 December 2024 and 29 January 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant did not receive any requests for printed materials from these stakeholders.</p>
	<p>7.46. In addition to public 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.</p>	<p>The Applicant considered invitations to in-person and virtual meetings throughout the consultation period. This included holding meetings with Community Action: Whitley &amp; Shaw (CAWS) on 22 January and Stop Lime Down on 26 February.</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant briefed Wiltshire Council Councillors on 20 January 2025 via Microsoft Teams.</p> <p>The briefing was attended by Wiltshire Council Officers and over 20 Councillors.</p> <p>The briefing included an explanation of the statutory consultation, covering the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timeline of pre-application engagement and consultation</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key dates</li> <li>• Consultation objective</li> <li>• Who we're consulting</li> <li>• How we're consulting</li> <li>• Materials available</li> <li>• Consultation feedback</li> <li>• Contacts for the Project community relations team</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Changes to consultation activities</b></p> <p>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.</p>	No changes to consultation activities were required.
<b>8. Environmental Information</b>	<p>8.7. A Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and PEIR Non-Technical Summary ('NTS') will be made available to inform statutory consultation.</p> <p>8.8. It is intended to facilitate consultation on the Project. The NTS will accompanying the PEIR, will help to maximise accessibility during the consultation.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The PEIR and accompanying NTS were made available on the Project website and in hard copy (for inspection only) at CAPs from 29 January 2025.</p> <p>Hard copies were also available at the in-person events. The feedback form was designed to include questions targeted at specific areas of the Project, including requesting comments on the contents of the PEIR and NTS.</p>

	<p><b>Environmental Statement (ES)</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 beneficial effects. The ES will form part of the DCO application we submit to the Inspectorate.</p>	<p>The ES will be submitted as part of the Project's DCO application. The DCO application will explain changes to the Project as a result of statutory consultation feedback and ongoing design work.</p>
<p><b>10. Next steps and contact details</b></p>	<p><b>Consultation responses</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The Applicant did also accept 22 feedback submissions received or submitted after the close of the consultation.</p>
	<p>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.</p> <p>10.3. Any person submitting feedback online who is concerned that they have not received</p>	<p>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 Project team.</p>

	acknowledgment of receipt is advised to contact the Project community relations team using the communication channels (see 10.5).	
	<p><b>Information services</b></p> <p>10.4. The Project community relations team is available to provide people with assistance in finding out about the Project and our consultation.</p> <p>10.6. These communications channels will remain open throughout the pre-application stage.</p>	The communications channels were accessible for stakeholders throughout the consultation period and remained open throughout the pre-application stage.
	<p><b>Ongoing engagement and potential further consultation</b></p> <p>10.7. 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.</p>	Any targeted consultation will take place, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC

## 5. Consideration of feedback

### 5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 The Applicant recognises their duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity, in accordance with Section 49 of the PA2008.
- 5.1.2 The Applicant is preparing a full Consultation Report to be submitted as part of the DCO application. The Consultation Report will be in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the PA2008.
- 5.1.3 In doing so, the Applicant's Consultation Report will demonstrate how consultation responses have been taken into account during the preparation of the application.
- 5.1.4 The Applicant has considered feedback received to consultation, alongside the results of environmental assessments and the Project Design Principles, to inform design evolution of the Project. Changes arising in response to this consideration include, but are not limited to:
- Removal of solar panels in a number of locations in response to feedback in relation to impact on views, heritage, ecology and residential amenity;
  - Incorporation of permissive pathways into the solar array layout as a result of feedback in relation to impact on public rights of way;
  - Development of cable route avoidance areas to minimise the impact of the 400 kV cable on watercourses, riparian vegetation, trees, hedgerows and heritage features;
  - Refinement of the 400 kV Cable Route Corridor to reduce overall land take whilst maximising opportunities for alignment in proximity to field boundaries to reduce impact on farming operations; and
  - Micro-siting of 132kV sub-station locations and construction compound locations to reduce visibility and maximise distance from residential receptors.
- 5.1.5 The Applicant notes that many consultation responses include broader concerns regarding the efficiency of solar technology, the need for solar generally and in this location, the scale of the project and agreed grid connection. Interested parties will have the opportunity to engage on these topics throughout the Examination process.
- 5.1.6 The Applicant is continuing its engagement with stakeholders and will consider how the Project design may further evolve in consideration of responses received.

## **6. Appendices**

**Appendix 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
<b>00. General comments</b>	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.	<p>Island Green Power welcomes your comments and is fully appreciative of the informal guidance and input you provided to help shape and influence earlier drafts of the SoCC shared in advance of Consultation under s47(2) of the PA2008, and the subsequent feedback you provided in response to the formal consultation we held.</p> <p>We appreciate the time and effort you have taken to share your views, which have been taken into consideration in updating the SoCC ahead of publication. We appreciate your acknowledgment of the statutory 28-day deadline and were pleased we could accommodate the extension to Friday, 6 December 2024, to support your response. Your input</p>	<b>Noted</b>

			is valued and will be considered as part of the consultation process.	
	N/A	<p>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 any allegations, which may be received, stating that the affected communities / people were not made aware of consultation.</p>	<p>We note your concerns that while having agreed to certain of the changes you proposed informally, those changes were not reflected in the final draft of the SoCC we issued for formal consultation on 30 October 2024. However, we can confirm that the final published SoCC has been updated to incorporate specific recommendations made both informally and through the formal consultation under Section 47(2) of the PA2008.</p> <p>Where feedback you provided has not resulted in a change to the final published SoCC we have provided a response in this document explaining why it has not been adopted.</p> <p>We believe our SoCC is compliant with statutory requirements and provides a robust approach to ensure inclusive and meaningful consultation with the community.</p> <p>We are publishing this version of the SoCC to provide certainty on</p>	<b>Noted</b>

			<p>our approach to delivering statutory consultation for the Project. 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.</p> <p>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 Section 47(2) on 30 October 2024, in updating 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</p>	
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			response setting out the regard had to that comment.	
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<p><b>INFORMAL COMMENT:</b> <b>Section 1.1 reference to “land in north Wiltshire”:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT:</b> <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</i></p>	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.	Island Green Power welcomes this recommendation and has updated the SoCC ahead of publication. We can also confirm that this advice has informed a general review of how the location of the Project is described across the wider community consultation literature identified as being produced in the final published SoCC to support delivery of statutory consultation.	<b>Change</b>

	<p><i>proposals (as shown in Figure 1, Figure 3 and Appendix 3) no longer considers 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></p> <p><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></p> <p><i>We note that these maps are confidential working drafts as the project area (inc.</i></p>			
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	<p><i>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></p> <p><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. We have provided these plans to you as 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></p>			
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	<p><b>INFORMAL COMMENT:</b> <b>Section 1.8 reference to “just over six week” consultation period and Section 4.2 “lasting just over six weeks”:</b> Six weeks seems like a short consultation window. It is suggested that eight weeks would be preferable.</p> <p><b>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT:</b> <i>In response to feedback provided by 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></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Island Green Power 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 on 1 May 2025.</p> <p>Following our communication on 16 December 2024, which was welcomed by officers, we can confirm that the SoCC has been updated ahead of publication to confirm that statutory consultation will take place over a period of seven weeks (49 days), starting on 29 January and running until 19 March 2025.</p> <p>This would see the statutory consultation period exceed the minimum period of 28 days, as stipulated by the PA2008.</p>	<p><b>Change</b></p>
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	<p><b>INFORMAL COMMENT:</b> <b>Section 1.8 reference to time of closure of consultation:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT:</b> <i>In response to feedback provided by Wiltshire Council on the working draft 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></p>	<p>The Council welcomes the clarification now contained within the draft SoCC.</p>	<p>Island Green Power 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 Section 47(2) on 30 October 2024.</p> <p>We can also confirm that this advice has informed a general review of how the location of the Project is described across the wider community consultation literature identified as being produced in the final published SoCC to support delivery of statutory consultation.</p>	<p><b>Change</b></p>
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<p><b>3. The Project</b></p>	<p><b>INFORMAL COMMENT:</b>  <b>Section 3.1 reference to “located to the north of the M4, southwest of Malmesbury”:</b>  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.</p> <p><b>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT:</b>  <i>It is assumed that the LDSP Developer response against Section 1.1 reference to “land in north Wiltshire” would equally apply here.</i></p>	<p>Please see our response to Section 1.1 reference to “land in north Wiltshire” above</p>	<p>Island Green Power welcomes this recommendation and has updated the SoCC ahead of publication to ensure that the description of the Project location does not suggest it is only located in North Wiltshire. The recommendation has also informed a review of how the location of the Project is described in wider community consultation literature set out in the final published SoCC to support statutory consultation.</p> <p>It should be noted that ahead of publication the SoCC was updated to provide a more detailed description of the Project 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 into the national grid at Melksham Substation.</p>	<p><b>Change</b></p>
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	N/A	<p><b>[THREE SIMILAR RELATED COMMENTS SUPPLIED]</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Please consider improving the quality of the mapping to improve comprehension and understanding of where the component parts of the proposed development are located.</p> <p>2. Please ensure that the maps and plans included within the</p>	<p>Island Green Power welcomes this feedback and can confirm that it has updated the SoCC in advance of publication to include a schematic map with a supporting key to visually articulate the location of the Project development area ('the Site') and component parts of the proposed development relative to existing communities and infrastructure.</p>	Change
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		<p>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.</p> <p>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!)</p>		
	N/A	<p><b>[PROPOSED EDIT]</b> Suggested amending as follows: "...Our consultation process [insert <b>consists</b>] of at least two stages of consultation..."</p>	<p>Island Green Power welcomes this proposed amendment and can confirm that the paragraph of the SoCC highlighted has been further edited in advance of publication as follows:</p> <p>- "The pre-application process for the Project <b>comprises</b> at least two stages of consultation as follows:</p>	<b>Change</b>

	<p><b>INFORMAL COMMENT:</b> 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?</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Island Green Power welcomes this request and can confirm that in finalising the information event programme for statutory consultation we have sought to ensure in-person information events take place on days and times that enable the maximum number of people to attend. We have updated the SoCC ahead of publication to include a final programme of public information events proposed as taking place during statutory consultation including eight in-person events of which six will take place on a weekday and two will take place on a Saturday.</p> <p>The location and timing of events is informed by venue availability, however in-person events taking place in the working week are open to the public from 14.30-19.30, with the exception of one venue where a prior booking means our event will start at the later time of 17.30 with it then running to the later time of 20.30 to maximise accessibility.</p> <p>Island Green Power has actively</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p>
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			<p>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, we have updated the SoCC in advance of publication to confirm that in-person information events will take place at the following venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherston Village Hall</li> <li>• Hullavington Village Hall</li> <li>• Grittleton Village Hall</li> <li>• Corsham Town Council Hall</li> <li>• Malmesbury Town Hall</li> <li>• Luckington Village Hall</li> <li>• Goss Croft Hall</li> <li>• Shaw Church of England Primary School</li> </ul> <p>Venues have been selected based on their location in relation to the Project), their suitability (including a number being used from the Stage One consultation), and accessibility (for local communities in the vicinity of the</p>	
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			<p>project). To note, we have not selected a venue in Chippenham, given it is located to the east of the A350 which we have used as a natural boundary.</p> <p><b>Editor's Note:</b> <i>The information this feedback referred to is now included in Section 5 'Our public consultation process', Table 2: Stage One Consultation information event programme.</i></p>	
	<p><b>INFORMAL COMMENT:</b> <b>Section 4.8 queries regarding Community Access Points and hard copy requests of full PEIR:</b> What are the CAP sites – are they listed? It would help if they were. How are the hard copies requested?</p> <p><b>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT:</b> <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</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Island Green Power recognises the importance of having clarity on the issue raised and has updated the SoCC in advance of publication to include this information.</p>	<p><b>Change</b></p>

	<i>proposed Community Access Point (CAP) sites, and provided clarification on the process should individuals request hard copies.</i>			
	<p><b>INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 4.12 queries regarding the Consultation Report:</b> As well as the summary, will it also publish all comments verbatim? It is assumed that “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.</p> <p><b>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT:</b> <i>In response to feedback provided by Wiltshire Council on the working draft SoCC, we have amended the copy here to clarify that in the</i></p>	<p><b>[TWO SIMILAR RELATED COMMENTS SUPPLIED]</b></p> <p>1. It is considered that the process should be explained 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 on 6th November so it is thought that this should be explained here.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Island Green Power recognises the importance of having clarity on the issue raised and has updated the SoCC to include this information in advance of publication. It should be noted that a Consultation Report will be produced and included in the final application for development consent will provide more detail on the process for how individual submissions are accounted for.</p> <p><b>Editor's Note:</b> <i>The information this feedback referred to is now included in Section 5 'Our public consultation process' of the published SoCC.</i></p>	<b>Change</b>

	<i>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 line with the standard approach for solar DCOs.</i>	individual comments... etc” - you will have better wording but this was explained in the meeting so should be explained here.		
	<b>N/A</b>	<p><b>[TWO SIMILAR RELATED COMMENTS SUPPLIED]</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>2. I think you should provide a link to the report somewhere in this document (this section is probably most appropriate rather than above)</p>	<p><i>Island Green Power welcomes this recommendation and can confirm the final published version of the SoCC has been updated to include a website reference to where the Stage One Consultation Summary Report can be found on the Project website, with hyperlink to this document being included in the digital version of the published SoCC.</i></p> <p><b>Editor's Note:</b> <i>The information this feedback referred to is now included in Section 5 'Our public consultation process' of the published SoCC.</i></p>	<b>Change</b>

6. Who we will consult	<p><b>INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 6.4 query regarding list of parish councils within boundary of the sites where solar park is proposed:</b> Should this not also include Shaw and Whitley parishes? And potentially others?</p>	<p><b>[TWO SIMILAR RELATED COMMENTS SUPPLIED]</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>2. <i>"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.</i></p>	<p>Island Green Power acknowledges this suggestion and can confirm that it has 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 Section 42 and Section 48 of the PA2008 (see 6.18.2).</p>	Noted
	<p><b>INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 6.6 list of Parish councils:</b> 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</p>	<p>The Council welcomes this clarification and requests that this is included within the text of the final SoCC.</p>	<p>Island Green Power can confirm the final published SoCC has been updated to include the parish councils identified.</p>	Change

	<p>also be included?</p> <p><b>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT:</b> <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</i></p>			
	<p><b>INFORMAL COMMENT:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT:</b> <i>In response to feedback provided by Wiltshire Council on the working draft SoCC, we confirm</i></p>	<p>The Council welcomes this clarification and requests that this is included within the text of the final SoCC.</p>	<p>Island Green Power can confirm that it has 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 will be carried out in accordance with Section 42 and Section 48 of the PA2008.</p> <p>Details of the statutory consultation carried out in accordance with Section 42 and Section 48 of the PA2008 will be</p>	<p><b>Change</b></p>

	<p><i>that we will be consulting with the relevant AONB Boards during the statutory consultation, as per the requirements of PA2008 (i.e. in their capacities as statutory stakeholders to the project).</i></p> <p><i>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 comments to PINS as part of EIA Scoping process.</i></p> <p><i>To confirm, we will also amend Appendix 1 of the final SoCC accordingly.</i></p>		<p>set out in the Consultation Report which will be included in the final application for development consent submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.</p>	
	N/A	<p><b>[TWO SIMILAR RELATED COMMENTS SUPPLIED]</b></p> <p>1. Section 6.5 issuance of direct communications to addresses within the core consultation zone - <i>"We will issue direct communications via post"</i>: Would it be possible to give an indication</p>	<p>Island Green Power welcomes this recommendation and can confirm that it has updated the SoCC in advance of publication to confirm the date from which a direct communication to addresses within the core consultation will be issued. This</p>	<b>Change</b>

		<p>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.</p> <p>2. Could you say when? Will it be before the start of the consultation?</p>	<p>information is set out in Section 7 (see para 7.7) confirming that a Consultation Leaflet will be direct mailed to addresses within the core consultation zone from 27 January 2025.</p>	
	N/A	<p><b>[TWO SIMILAR RELATED COMMENTS SUPPLIED]</b></p> <p>1. Section 6.6 list of non-statutory consultees - <i>“Non-statutory consultees, such as”</i>: 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 underway enabling people to engage / respond should they wish to.</p> <p>2. DP: You may wish to include Wiltshire Area Boards in this list - particularly those in areas affected.</p> <p>AJ: Maybe check with [NAME REDACTED] about ability of area boards to comment on different</p>	<p>Island Green Power welcomes this suggestion and has 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 will be issued.</p>	<b>Change</b>

		plans and types of planning DP: Area boards can't respond or comment to the plans, it's more about having a chair's announcement that is spreading the word and says "This consultation is on" - people can then choose to engage and respond if they wish to; but not in an official area board capacity.		
	N/A	Please see comment on Figure 1 relating to detail contained in mapping	Island Green Power welcomes this feedback and can confirm that it has 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 Project development area ('the Site') and component parts of the proposed development relative to existing communities and infrastructure.	<b>Noted</b>
<b>7. How we will consult</b>	<b>INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 7.20 query regarding knowledge of suitable venues in Norton and Foxley area:</b> We are not aware of any suitable venue inside of area, unfortunately.	The Council welcomes this response.	Island Green Power welcomes your comments and is fully appreciative of the informal guidance and input you provided to help shape and influence earlier drafts of the SoCC shared in advance of Consultation under s47(2) of the PA2008.  It should be noted that further to	<b>Noted</b>

	<p><b>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT:</b> 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.</p>		<p>engagement with Foxley Church and Norton Church it was established the venues were unsuitable for public information events. Further consultation with the acting chair of Foxley and Norton Parish Meeting it was established that in-person events taking place venues at Sherston and Malmesbury provided local residents with adequate opportunity to attend an in-person event.</p>	
	<p><b>INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 7.25 regarding Local press adverts:</b> 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.</p>	N/A	<p>Island Green Power welcomes your comments and is fully appreciative of the informal guidance and input you provided to help shape and influence earlier drafts of the SoCC shared in advance of Consultation under s47(2) of the PA2008.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
	<p><b>INFORMAL COMMENT: Section 7.25 regarding Community Groups:</b> Suggestion to also include Pickwick Association (Corsham)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Island Green Power welcomes your comments and is fully appreciative of the informal guidance and input you provided to help shape and influence earlier drafts of the SoCC shared</p>	<b>Change</b>

	<p>and Community Action Whitley and Shaw</p> <p><b>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT:</b> <i>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></p>		<p>in advance of Consultation under s47(2) of the PA2008.</p>	
	<p><b>INFORMAL COMMENT:</b> <b>Section 7.26 list of local media outlets:</b> This should be broadened to include the 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.</p> <p><b>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT:</b></p>	<p>The Council welcomes this clarification.</p>	<p>Island Green Power welcomes your comments and is fully appreciative of the informal guidance and input you provided to help shape and influence earlier drafts of the SoCC shared in advance of Consultation under s47(2) of the PA2008.</p> <p>It should be noted that Table 8 in the final published SoCC has been updated to specifically identify those local and regional media outlets to whom press releases will be issued.</p> <p>A statutory notice will be</p>	<p><b>Change</b></p>

	<p><i>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></p> <p><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></p>		<p>published in a national newspaper in accordance with s48 of the PA2008.</p>	
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	N/A	<p><b>[Two similar related comments supplied]</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Island Green Power welcomes this suggestion and can confirm that it has updated the SoCC prior to publication to include information on the different ways people can respond to the consultation.</p>	Change
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		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	<p><b>[Two similar related comments supplied]</b></p> <p>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. landmarks, roads and paths etc., to aid comprehension and understanding of where the component parts of the proposed development are located.</p> <p>2. Please ensure that the maps and plans included within the consultation material contain sufficient background information</p>	Island Green Power acknowledges this request and can confirm that technical maps and plans included in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) that will be published when statutory consultation launches will include detail to aid comprehension and understanding of where component parts of the proposed development are located.	<b>Noted</b>

		i.e. landmarks, roads and paths etc., to aid comprehension and understanding of where the component parts of the proposed development are located.		
	N/A	<p><b>[Two similar related comments supplied]</b></p> <p>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&amp;A, formal presentation etc.? It would be good to tell people what to expect when they go.</p> <p>2. What format will these events be - drop-in, Q&amp;A, formal presentation? Will be good to tell people what to expect when they go.</p>	Island Green Power welcomes this suggestion and can confirm that it has updated the SoCC prior to publication to include information which provides an overview of the format for in-person and online public information events.	<b>Change</b>

	N/A	<p><b>[Two similar related comments supplied]</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>2. We usually also publish a document of all Qs and As asked and answered in the webinars</p>	<p>Island Green Power acknowledges this request but believes that making available on the Project 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 will issue a notice to Project 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.</p>	No change
	N/A	<p><b>[Two similar related comments supplied]</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>2. We feel 5.30pm start is a little early. We’d suggest 6.30pm is probably better.</p>	<p>Island Green Power welcomes this recommendation and can confirm that online information events (webinars) coordinated to take place during statutory consultation will start at 18.30 and close at 20.00.</p>	Change

	N/A	<p><b>[Two similar related comments supplied]</b></p> <p>1. Table 3 Dates, times and locations of consultation events - <i>"[TBC – subject to availability]" for venue dates and times"</i></p> <p>It is noted that there is limited information in the draft SoCC regarding dates / times for consultation events.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2. It is noted that there is limited</p>	<p>Island Green Power welcomes this request and on 16 December 2025 shared information setting out the programme of public 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.</p> <p>The SoCC has been updated in advance of publication to set out the details of all the public information events proposed as taking place over the course of consultation.</p> <p>It has also been confirmed that the final event programme will be publicised from 14 January 2025 when the SoCC is published in advance of statutory consultation launching on 29 January 2025 by way of direct communication with</p>	Noted
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		<p>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 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</p>	<p>stakeholders including elected members, parish councils, Project registrants and the media, as well as publication of Section 47 in regional media outlets.</p>	
	N/A	<p><b>[Two similar related comments supplied]</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>2. Will these smaller village hall venues be big enough if 100+ people attend at the same time?</p>	<p>Island Green Power recognises and acknowledges this concern and can confirm that attendance at in-person information events will be monitored and managed to ensure attendance for not exceed venue capacity limits. It should also be noted that the SoCC has been updated in advance of publication to confirm this protocol (se paragraph 7.32), with it also being flagged on the Consultation Leaflet being direct mailed to addresses in the core consultation zone that entrance to events will</p>	Noted

			be managed to attendance exceeds the stated maximum capacity of those venues.	
	N/A	<p><b>[Two related comments supplied]</b></p> <p>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?</p> <p>2. Will it be just one advert in each?</p>	Island Green Power acknowledges this request and has 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 public information events taking place (see paragraph 7.42).	<b>Change</b>
	N/A	<p><b>[Two related comments supplied]</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>2. Maybe health facilities too? E.g. Drs</p>	Island Green Power welcomes this suggestion and can confirm that we have updated the SoCC in advance of publication to include reference to health facilities in the list of local information points to whom posters will be issued.	<b>Change</b>

	N/A	<p><b>[Two related comments supplied]</b></p> <p>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?</p> <p>2. What will be the frequency of these? One at the start, one in the middle of the consultation and one at the end?</p>	<p>Island Green Power welcomes this suggestion and can confirm that we have updated the SoCC in advance of publication to confirm that press release will be issued to local and regional media outlets as follows:</p> <p>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</p>	<b>Change</b>
<b>10. Next steps and contact details</b>	N/A	<p><b>[Two related comments supplied]</b></p> <p>1. It is queried whether a data protection statement should be included within the SoCC or whether this will be publicised during the consultation.</p> <p>2. Will you also include the data protection statement? Or will that be publicised during the consultation?</p>	<p>Island Green Power acknowledges this question and can confirm that the final published SoCC includes reference in Section 5 (paragraph 5.22) to our privacy policy which is available on the Project 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.</p>	<b>Noted</b>

<b>Appendix 1 - Gateway organisations and local groups</b>	N/A	<b>[Two related comments supplied]</b> 1. It is queried why the secondary schools in Corsham, Chippenham and Melksham are not included within this 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	Island Green Power acknowledges this question and can confirm that it has updated the SoCC in advance of publication to include the secondary and primary schools noted.	<b>Noted</b>
	N/A	<b>Two related comments supplied:</b> 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??	Island Green Power welcomes this suggestion and can confirm that it has updated the SoCC in advance of publication to include organisations suggested.	<b>Change</b>
	N/A	<b>[Two related comments supplied]</b> 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	Island Green Power acknowledges this question and can confirm that any care homes with addresses that lie within the core consultation zone will be notified of the consultation by direct mail of the Consultation	<b>Noted</b>

		Malmesbury. Are there any other care homes within the area?	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.	
<b>Appendix 3 - Local information points</b>	<p><b>INFORMAL COMMENT:</b> <b>Appendix 3 Map of in-person information events and document inspection locations:</b> It was noted that there did not appear to be an in-person information event in Melksham</p> <p><b>REGARD HAD TO COMMENT:</b> <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</i></p>	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.	<p>Island Green Power 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, we have updated the SoCC in advance of publication to confirm that in-person information events will take place at the following venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherston Village Hall</li> <li>• Hullavington Village Hall</li> <li>• Grittleton Village Hall</li> <li>• Corsham Town Council Hall</li> <li>• Malmesbury Town Hall</li> <li>• Luckington Village Hall</li> <li>• Goss Croft Hall</li> </ul>	<b>No change</b>

	<p><i>have identified as potentially suitable to hold the information events for statutory consultation (as set out in Table 3).</i></p> <p><i>We also show the locations for the four proposed Community Access Point (CAP) sites 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></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shaw Church of England Primary School</li> </ul> <p>Venues have been selected based on their location in relation to the Project, their suitability (including a number being used from the Stage One consultation), and accessibility (for local communities in the vicinity of the project). Subsequent to receipt of feedback on the SoCC from Wilts 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.</p>	
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## Appendix 6.2: Wiltshire Council Response to AoCM Draft (6 June 2025)

### Wiltshire Council

6<sup>th</sup> June 2025

██████████  
Senior Project Development Manager  
Lime Down Solar Park Limited  
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London  
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Development Management  
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Bythesea Road  
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Your ref: LDSP Early Adequacy of  
Consultation Milestone Document  
Our ref: Wiltshire Council Response  
to AoCM Draft Report

Dear ██████████

#### RE: Lime Down Solar Park – Early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Document

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone document as received on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

Wiltshire Council notes that the Early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) was introduced in 2024 and aims to provide the Applicant with an opportunity to submit to the Planning Inspectorate a document setting out the consultation undertaken during the pre-application phase, how this aligned with the approaches set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), and how responses to consultation are being considered in preparation for the DCO application. It is further acknowledged that views from local authorities should be included, where available.

The council will provide its full Adequacy of Consultation Representation (AoCR) in due course, once the DCO application has been submitted and the council has had a chance to review the Consultation Summary Report that will form part of the application. However, in the meantime and specifically for this AoCM, the council wishes to provide comment on two overarching themes being: the consultation approach and compliance with the SoCC, and the adequacy of the statutory consultation materials. The council's views are outlined in the following sections.

#### Consultation Approach and Compliance with the SoCC:

Wiltshire Council has reviewed the information contained within the draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone document produced by the Applicant and submitted to the council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025. It is the council's view that the information contained therein accurately sets out the Applicant's approach to the consultation.

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Wiltshire Council had the opportunity to provide informal and formal feedback on the SoCC. Whilst not all of the council's feedback was adopted by the Applicant, the council considered that the consultation approach set out in the final SoCC was sufficient.

The council can also confirm that various officer and member briefings were held in advance of the statutory consultation, and that the council received official notification of the consultation.

When the Applicant identified an issue with the core consultation zone and associated mapping within the published SoCC, it contacted the council to seek its views on the proposed approach to correct this error. Wiltshire Council confirmed that it was satisfied with the actions proposed and the Applicant published an Errata Statement on its website and amended the material to be available at the consultation events and Community Access Points. Furthermore, the Applicant committed to distributing the community consultation leaflet to the correct number of addresses within the core consultation zone. The council notes that the Applicant has stated that this was undertaken.

The council can also confirm that it was able to download all of the consultation material from the Applicant's website on the first day of the statutory consultation (29<sup>th</sup> January 2025). The Applicant subsequently published the recordings of the on-line consultation events and documents containing responses to the unanswered questions from the on-line events on their website during the consultation period. Email notifications that these additional documents were now available were received by those who had signed up for updates from the Applicant.

The Applicant undertook the in-person consultation events as detailed within the SoCC and made information available at the Community Access Points for review by members of the public.

Whilst the council will await the opportunity to review the full documentary evidence, which will be submitted as part of the Consultation Summary Report, based on the information available for it to review at the present time, the council is satisfied that the statutory consultation was undertaken in accordance with the approach set out in the published SoCC.

### Adequacy of the Statutory Consultation Materials:

Wiltshire Council officers and its elected members, both on behalf of themselves and their constituents, have raised concerns regarding the adequacy of the consultation materials at the statutory consultation stage. Of particular concern was the lack of detailed assessment information relating to the cable connection route, meaning that the consultees had insufficient information to understand the full likely local impacts of the development. In its statutory consultation response, Wiltshire Council strongly recommended that the Applicant undertake a supplementary public consultation in advance of DCO submission, so that

## Wiltshire Council

consultees could consider the outstanding survey and further environmental assessment information to ascertain whether the Applicant's assessment of the full environmental effects of the scheme is robust. The council considers that this would also enable sufficient scrutiny of the cable connection route and its associated impacts. It is understood that other consultees have made similar requests within their consultation response. However, the council notes that whilst the Applicant has acknowledged this request, it is still considering whether to undertake this.

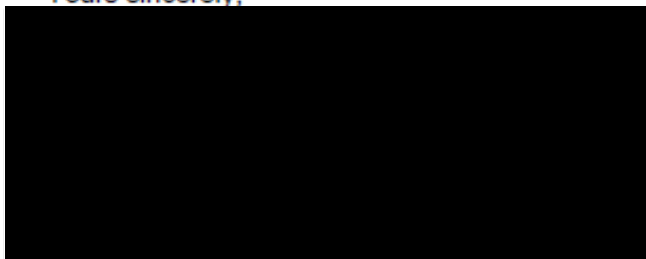
The council also notes that it is aware of a representation that has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, and copied to the Applicant and Wiltshire Council, challenging the adequacy of the statutory consultation. This representation raises a number of additional issues, including the accuracy of visuals and mapping in the consultation materials and discrepancies in responses to queries raised by members of the public by staff at the consultation events.

As a result, it is unclear from the information available at present whether the consultation undertaken on this scheme in advance of DCO submission, will be sufficient from the council's perspective to fully endorse the consultation undertaken as adequate. However, the council will await its opportunity to review the Consultation Summary Report before coming to a definitive position on this.

In line with the Planning Inspectorate guidance, Wiltshire Council requests that this letter is included within the submission of the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone report to the Planning Inspectorate as it sets out the local authority's views on the consultation undertaken to date. The council would be grateful if you could provide us with a copy of the submitted report for our records.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, or the appropriate member of my team, if you would like clarification or further information on any of the points provided above.

Yours sincerely,



Director of Planning, Economy and Regeneration

Direct line

Email

## Appendix 6.2: Applicant Response to Wiltshire Council on the AoCM draft (19 June 2025)

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19 June 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Re: Lime Down Solar Park - Wiltshire Council Response to the Early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report**

We refer to Wiltshire Council's letter dated 6 June 2025 in response to the draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) Report, shared with the Council on 21 May 2025.

Thank you for confirming that Wiltshire Council considers that the Statutory Consultation for the Project was undertaken in accordance with the approach set out in the published Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

Recognising that a number of other comments were made in Wiltshire Council's response, this letter provides a response to those points below.

#### **Adequacy of Statutory Consultation Materials**

We note that Wiltshire Council's officers and elected members, both on behalf of themselves and their constituents, have raised concerns regarding the extent of information available in the consultation materials for the Statutory Consultation. In particular, the level of detail included in the preliminary environmental information report (PEIR) regarding the likely significant effects relating to the Cable Route Search Corridor (referred to as the "cable connection route" in the Council's letter).

We prepared the PEIR for Statutory Consultation in accordance with applicable legislation and guidance. Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) sets out the requirements for the PEIR:

[...]

*(2) In this regulation, "preliminary environmental information" means information referred to in regulation 14(2) which—*

*(a) has been compiled by the applicant; and*

*(b) is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development).*

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In the Government Guidance "Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects" (April 2024), it is recognised that the information required for the PEIR *"will be different for different types and sizes of projects"*. As confirmed in the Planning Inspectorate's guidance titled, "Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements" (March 2025), there is no prescribed format for the PEIR and it is *"not expected to replicate or be a draft of the ES"*. The level of detail may vary *"depending on at what stage in the design process the consultation is carried out"*.

At over 4,000 pages, the Lime Down Solar Park PEIR provided a large amount of information to consultees and more than recent PEIRs undertaken for consented solar DCO projects of a similar size such as Longfield Solar (1,700 pages) and the Gate Burton Energy Park (1,924 pages).

In accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, the PEIR for the Project presented a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the development, including the Cable Route Search Corridor. However, the PEIR also noted that the Cable Route Search Corridor will be refined as the design for the Project progresses to a Cable Route Corridor for the DCO Application. As such, the PEIR outlined that further assessment work such as surveys would be conducted for the purposes of the Environmental Statement to be submitted with the DCO Application.

The Cable Route Search Corridor was assessed in the relevant chapters of the PEIR to present the preliminary assessment and conclusions on its likely significant environmental effects. **Appendix 1** provided with this letter provides a summary of the preliminary assessment undertaken in the PEIR regarding the Cable Route Search Corridor.

The process of environmental assessment is iterative, and full details are not typically available at the time of production of the PEIR, given that surveys are ongoing. However, we consider that sufficient information was provided to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the proposed works within the Cable Route Search Corridor.

The conclusions of the environmental assessment will be set out, in full, in the Environmental Statement for the Project submitted as part of the DCO Application. Should the Planning Inspectorate accept the DCO Application for

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Examination, the Environmental Statement will then be available for Wiltshire Council to review and respond to.

### **Request for a Second Statutory Consultation**

We consider that the Statutory Consultation has been 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. On this basis, a second Statutory Consultation will not be undertaken.

While no second formal Statutory Consultation will take place, there will be further opportunity for stakeholders and the community to provide representations on the Project as the DCO application process continues. The Environmental Statement (and accompanying non-technical summary) that will be submitted as part of the DCO Application for the Project will enable consultees to consider the results of further surveys and environmental assessment in order to understand the likely significant effects of the Project on the environment. Outline management plans will also be available for review.

In recognition of engagement with Wiltshire Council and ongoing community and consultee interest in the Cable Route Search Corridor, we are committed to providing updates on our proposals for Lime Down Solar Park including the Cable Route Search Corridor. On 3 June 2025 we published a Summer Newsletter on the Project website<sup>1</sup> and issued this to the 14,000+ addresses located in the Core Consultation Zone (as set out in the SoCC). The Newsletter provided an update on the ongoing work being undertaken to refine the Cable Route Search Corridor presented at PEIR and introduced the Targeted Consultation on minor amendments to the development boundary area for the Project.

In addition to responding to the proposed changes in the Targeted Consultation, this presented an opportunity for recipients to provide comments on the updates regarding the Cable Route Search Corridor should they have further feedback.

We also intend to publish another Newsletter and send it to the addresses located in the Core Consultation Zone in the 28-day period between submission of the DCO Application and Acceptance, when the Planning Inspectorate will determine whether to accept the Application for Examination. This 'Autumn Newsletter' will

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.limedownsolar.co.uk/s/Lime-Down-Solar-Park-Summer-Newsletter-June-2025.pdf>

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aim to inform the local community and key consultees on the Project at that stage (including changes to the Project since the Statutory Consultation) and provide clear guidance on means of further participation in the Examination process should the application be accepted.

Should the Planning Inspectorate decide to accept the Application, the DCO Application (including the Environmental Statement and Consultation Report) will be made available. The 'Autumn Newsletter' would clarify this point and state the expected date at which the DCO documents would be made publicly available should the DCO Application be accepted. Further, in this case, we will also issue communications to the local community (in addition to the formal procedure under section 56 of the Planning Act 2008) to provide an update on the status of the Project, provide links to the DCO documents and reiterate how consultees and members of the public can participate in the Examination process. Should the DCO application be accepted by the Planning Inspectorate, there will then be opportunities for the community to provide relevant representations, written representations, and be involved throughout the Examination.

#### **Consultation Summary Report**

The DCO Application will not include a Consultation Summary Report but it will include a Consultation Report, which includes documentary evidence that the Statutory Consultation was undertaken in accordance with applicable legislation and guidance, including the approach set out in the SoCC. The Consultation Report will also set out how the Applicant has had regard to consultation responses.

#### **Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report**

To confirm, we will provide Wiltshire Council with a copy of the submitted AoCM Report. The AoCM Report will include a copy of the Council's letter sent to Lime Down Solar Park Limited on 6 June 2025 in response to the draft AoCM Report provided to the Council on 21 May 2025 and a copy of this letter.

#### **Representation from Stop Lime Down**

Wiltshire Council's letter dated 6 June 2025 notes that the Council is aware of a representation submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, and copied to Lime Down Solar Park Limited and Wiltshire Council, challenging the adequacy of the Statutory Consultation. We understand this to be in reference to the

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representation submitted by Stop Lime Down (SLD) received by email on 19 April 2025. To confirm, we responded to SLD by email on 25 April 2025 in response to this letter saying:

*"Thank you for sharing your comments on this matter and we will be considering the points raised.*

*I would like to confirm that (in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 and as is standard for NSIPs), we are in the process of preparing an Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) document, which will give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Project, to be submitted prior to DCO submission.*

*In line with guidance, we'll be working closely with Wiltshire Council on the AoCM and look forward to engaging with them in regard to this milestone.*

*We will provide further information to the relevant parties in due course."*

In preparing the AoCM and DCO Application for submission to the Planning Inspectorate, we are mindful of our duty to consult about the proposed application for Lime Down Solar Park and have ensured that relevant statutory requirements and guidance have been followed. The AoCM Report is intended to allow early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by Lime Down Solar Park Limited.

### **Visuals and mapping**

Wiltshire Council's letter dated 6 June 2025 refers to concerns raised in the above mentioned representation with regards to the accuracy of visuals and mapping in the Statutory Consultation materials. All maps in the consultation materials (such as the maps in the Project Information Booklet) were based on Figures included in the PEIR. The Indicative Layout maps for the Project noted in call-out boxes:

*"This is an indicative layout for the purposes of statutory consultation. The areas and features shown are subject to change based on environmental assessment, design development and feedback."*

The call-out boxes also directed readers to the relevant PEIR Volume and Figure to view the detailed indicative masterplan of the area for further information.

Copies of maps and plans at appropriate scales, as well as other consultation materials that provided further context to the maps and plans such as the PEIR,

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were available at in-person events, Community Access Points (CAPs), on the Project website and upon request (in accordance with the section 47 and section 48 notices published under the Planning Act 2008).

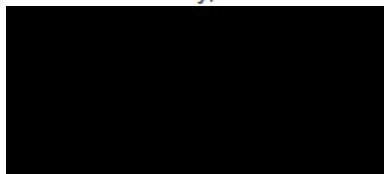
#### **Consultation events**

Wiltshire Council's letter dated 6 June 2025 also refers to concerns raised in the above-mentioned representation by SLD over discrepancies in responses to queries raised by members of the public by representatives for Lime Down Solar Park Limited at the consultation events. Lime Down Solar Park Limited has appointed professionals with relevant expertise to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Project Team members in attendance at consultation events had specific areas of expertise and when attendees arrived at in-person consultation events, we endeavoured to direct them towards the Project Team members best suited to the subject of their queries. Consultation materials and documents, including the Project Information Booklet, PEIR and Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR, were available to view in printed and electronic format at all in-person events held for the Statutory Consultation, at CAP sites, on the Project website and upon request (in accordance with the section 47 and section 48 notices published under the Planning Act 2008).

We trust that the above addresses the comments raised in your letter dated 6 June 2025 but we would be happy to discuss any of the points raised in more detail if needed.

Yours sincerely,



Senior Project Development Manager  
On behalf of Lime Down Solar Park Limited



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**Appendix 1** – Summary of the preliminary assessment undertaken in the PEIR regarding the Cable Route Search Corridor.

Chapter	Relevant Section
3. The Scheme	Section 3.2; Table 3-1; Section 3.3; Section 3.4 describe the Grid Connection Corridor components and describe the construction and installation activities.
Appendix 3-2 Cable Route Construction Method Statement	Provides a Method Statement describing how the 400 kV cable would be installed including construction description, installation methods, sequence of activities, key dimensions such as depths and construction spreads widths, access locations, access arrangements and plant and equipment lists. Illustrative layouts and cross sections are provided.
7. Climate Change	Section 7.9.6 – Climate Change Resilience - bullet points 2 and 11.  Section 7.10 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects – paragraphs 7.10.8 and 7.10.9.
8. Landscape and Visual	Section 8.5 – Study Area – paragraphs 8.5.7 to 8.5.11.  Section 8.6 – Assessment Methodology – paragraph 8.6.11  Section 8.7 – Baseline Conditions – paragraphs 8.7.176 to 8.7.185 and paragraphs 8.7.248 to 8.7.255  Section 8.9 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects – paragraphs 8.9.14 to 8.9.16  Section 8.12 – Cumulative Effects – paragraph 8.12.3 and Table 8-11 - Developments

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Chapter	Relevant Section
	relevant to the cumulative Landscape and Visual assessment
9. Ecology and Biodiversity	<p>Section 9.5 – Study Area – paragraph 9.5.4</p> <p>Section 9.6 – Assessment Methodology – paragraphs 9.6.13 and 9.6.16 to 9.6.19</p> <p>Section 9.7 – Baseline Conditions – paragraphs 9.7.12 to 9.7.13, paragraph 9.7.17 to 9.7.20 and paragraph 9.7.24</p> <p>Section 9.9 – Embedded Mitigation – paragraph 9.9.12 to 9.9.14</p> <p>Section 9.10 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects – the cable route is discussed throughout this section.</p>
10. Arboriculture	<p>Section 10.5 – Study Area – paragraphs 10.5.2 to 10.5.3</p> <p>Section 10.6 – Assessment Methodology – paragraph 10.6.4 to 10.6.7, and paragraph 10.6.12.</p> <p>Section 10.7 – Baseline Conditions – paragraph 10.7.22 to 10.7.29</p> <p>Section 10.9 – Embedded Mitigation – the cable route is discussed throughout this section</p> <p>Section 10.10 – Assessment of Likely Effects – paragraph 10.10.3 to 10.10.4. Paragraph 10.10.7 and 10.10.9.</p> <p>Table 10-6 – Plans and projects relevant to Arboriculture cumulative assessment.</p>

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Chapter	Relevant Section
11. Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	<p>Section 11.4 - Assessment Assumptions and Limitations - Paragraph 11.4.2</p> <p>Section 11.5 - Study Area - paragraph 11.5.1-11.5.5</p> <p>Section 11.7 - Baseline Conditions - paragraph 11.7.8 to 11.7.10</p> <p>Table 11-8 - Plans and projects relevant to Hydrology, Flood Risk, and Drainage Cumulative Assessment</p>
12. Cultural Heritage	<p>Section 12.5 - Study Area - paragraph 12.5.5</p> <p>Section 12.6 - Assessment Methodology - paragraph 12.6.2 bullets 1 to 4.</p> <p>Section 12.7 - Baseline Conditions - paragraph 12.7.2 to 12.7.4. Paragraphs 12.7.6, 12.7.12 and 12.7.18.</p> <p>Section 12.8 - Potential Impacts - paragraph 12.8.1 and 12.8.6.</p> <p>Section 12.9 - Embedded Mitigation - paragraph 12.9.7.</p> <p>Section 12.10 - Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects - the cable route is discussed throughout this section</p>
13. Transport and Access	<p>Section 13.4 - Assessment Assumptions and Limitations - paragraph 13.4.5.</p> <p>Section 13.5 - Study Area - paragraph 13.5.4 to 13.5.5.</p> <p>Section 13.7 - Baseline Conditions - the cable route is discussed throughout this section</p>

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Chapter	Relevant Section
	<p>Section 13.10 - Assessment of Likely Effects - the cable route is discussed throughout this section.</p> <p>Table 13-31 Plans and projects relevant to Transport and Access Cumulative Assessment.</p>
14. Noise and Vibration	<p>Section 14.4 - Assessment Assumptions and Limitations - paragraph 14.4.4.</p> <p>Section 14.5 - Study Area - paragraph 14.5.1.</p> <p>Section 14.7 - Baseline Conditions - paragraph 14.7.5.</p> <p>Section 14.10 - Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects - paragraph 14.10.2 and 14.10.16.</p> <p>Table 14-15 - Plans and projects relevant to Noise and Vibration Cumulative Assessment.</p>
15. Air Quality	<p>Section 15.4 - Assessment Assumptions and Limitations - paragraph 15.4.4.</p> <p>Table 15-6 Plans and projects relevant to Air Quality Cumulative Assessment.</p>
16. Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	<p>Section 16.4 - Assessment Assumptions and Limitations - 16.4.3 (bullet 3).</p> <p>Section 16.5 - Study Area - paragraph 16.5.1 to 16.5.5.</p> <p>Section 16.7 - Baseline Conditions - the cable route is discussed throughout this section.</p>

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Chapter	Relevant Section
	<p>Section 16.9 - Embedded Mitigation – paragraph 16.9.2 (bullet one and six), and 16.9.4 (bullet two).</p> <p>Section 16.10 - Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects – the cable route is discussed throughout this section.</p> <p>Table 16-9 – Plans and projects relevant to socio-economic, tourism and recreational cumulative assessment,</p>
17. Soils and Agriculture	<p>Section 17.4 - Assessment Assumptions and Limitations – paragraph 17.4.1.</p> <p>Section 17.5 - Study Area – paragraph 17.5.1.</p> <p>Section 17.7 - Baseline Conditions – paragraph 17.7.2, 17.7.5 to 17.7.6, 17.7.10, and 17.7.12.</p> <p>Section 17.8 - Potential Impacts – paragraph 17.8.1 (bullet four).</p> <p>Section 17.10 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects – paragraph 17.10.2, 17.10.3, 17.10.7, and 17.10.12</p>
18. Human Health	<p>Section 18.5 - Study Area – paragraph 18.5.1 to 18.5.6.</p> <p>Section 18.7 - Baseline Conditions – the cable route is discussed throughout this section.</p> <p>Section 18.10 - Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects – paragraph 18.10.3, 18.10.28, 18.10.32, 18.10.36, and 18.10.81.</p> <p>Table 18-8 – Plans and projects relevant to Human Health Cumulative Assessment.</p>

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Chapter	Relevant Section
19. Ground Conditions and Contamination	<p>Section 19.5 - Study Area - paragraph 19.5.1</p> <p>Section 19.6 - Assessment Methodology - paragraph 19.6.6.</p> <p>Section 19.8 - Baseline Conditions - Cable Corridors - cable routes are mentioned throughout this section.</p> <p>Section 19.9 - Potential Impacts - paragraph 19.9.1 (bullet 11 and 12)</p> <p>Section 19.12 - Additional Mitigation - paragraph 19.12.2 to 19.12.8</p>
20. Other Environmental Matters	<p>Section 20.2 - Minerals - the cable route is discussed throughout this section.</p> <p>Table 20-1 - Plans and projects relevant to Minerals Cumulative Assessment.</p> <p>Section 20.3 - Materials and Waste - paragraph 20.3.50</p> <p>Section 20.4 - Telecommunications, Utilities and Television - paragraph 20.4.1, 20.4.9, 20.4.11 and 20.4.20.</p> <p>Section 20.5 - Glint and Glare - paragraph 20.5.24.</p> <p>Section 20.6 - Electromagnetic Fields - The cable route is referred to throughout this section.</p>
21. Cumulative and In-Combination Effects	<p>Table 21-1 - Zol Extents for Potential Cumulative Effects,</p> <p>Table 21-2 - Initial Short List of Developments.</p>

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Chapter	Relevant Section
	Table 12-3 - Summary of Cumulative Effects
22. Summary of Significant Residual Effects	Identified Significant Residual Effects within all parts of the proposed Scheme including the Grid Corridor are reported in this Chapter.