

Green Hill Solar Farm

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

February 2025



Contents

1. Introduction	3
1.1 Purpose of this document	3
2. Scheme Overview	5
2.1 The Scheme	5
2.2 The need for Green Hill Solar Farm	6
3. Consultation and engagement overview	7
3.1 Consultation approach	7
3.2 Initial engagement	7
3.3 Non-statutory Consultation (March–May 2024)	9
3.4 Landowner Engagement	11
3.5 Statutory Consultation (7 November–19 December 2024)	11
4. Developing the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	18
4.1 Informal consultation on the SoCC	18
4.2 SoCC consultation	18
4.3 Publicity under Section 47 of the Act	22
4.4 Compliance with the SoCC	22
5. Responses to statutory consultation	42
5.1 Feedback analysis	42
5.2 Response from host and neighbouring local councils	42
6. Next Steps	48
7. Appendices	49



1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1** This Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report ('the Report') has been prepared on behalf of Green Hill Solar Limited (the 'Applicant') under the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' (now Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects¹ guidance dated 30th April 2024 (the 'Guidance').
- 1.1.2** The Applicant proposes to apply to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'SoS'), under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008² ('the Act') for a Development Consent Order (a 'DCO') for the Green Hill Solar Farm ('the Scheme'). The Application is expected to be submitted in Q2 2025.
- 1.1.3** The Scheme consists of an electricity generating station with a capacity of over 50 megawatts ('MW') consisting of ground-mounted solar arrays and associated development, the latter comprising: energy storage, grid connection infrastructure and any other infrastructure as well as works integral to the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Scheme. The grid connection Point of Connection ('PoC') will be at the Grendon 400 kV National Grid Substation ('Grendon Substation').
- 1.1.4** The Scheme comprises two main elements:
- The 'Sites' where the Solar Arrays and Associated Development (other than those parts of the grid connection cable to be located in the Cable Route Search Area) would be located; and
 - The 'Cable Route Search Area' within which the underground cables connecting the Sites and PoC will be located.
- The Site will cover a combined area of approximately 1,200 hectares and will consist of eight solar array sites and a dedicated battery energy storage system (BESS) site, located between Northampton, Wellingborough and Milton Keynes. The nine sites (in total) are referred to as Green Hill A, A.2, B, C, D, E, F, G, and Green Hill BESS.
- 1.1.5** The Sites are largely characterised by agricultural fields, hedgerows and scattered trees and occasional area of woodland.
- 1.1.6** The Sites are located across several parishes:
- Green Hill A and A.2 are situated in the parishes of Old and Walgrave in West Northamptonshire. Green Hill A is located approximately 300 m east of Old and 600 m north of Walgrave, while Green Hill A.2 is located approximately 900 m east of Walgrave.
 - Green Hill B is located within the parish of Holcot in West Northamptonshire, approximately 850 m south of Holcot and 1.2 km north-east of Moulton.
 - Green Hill C is located within parishes of Sywell and Mears Ashby in North Northamptonshire, approximately 1.5 km northeast of Sywell.

¹ Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects – GOV.UK – www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects

² Planning Act 2008 – www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents



- Green Hill D is located within the parish of Mears Ashby in North Northamptonshire, immediately to the north of the village of Mears Ashby.
- Green Hill E is located within the parish of Mears Ashby and Wilby in North Northamptonshire, approximately 500 m north of Earls Barton.
- Green Hill F is located within the parishes of Easton Maudit and Bozeat in North Northamptonshire, close to the village of Easton Maudit and approximately 300 m west of the village of Bozeat.
- Green Hill G is located within the parishes of Warrington and Lavendon in Milton Keynes, approximately 600 m northwest of Lavendon.
- Green Hill BESS is located within the parish of Grendon, North Northamptonshire, approximately 600 m northwest of Grendon. Green Hill BESS is adjacent to the existing National Grid Substation at Grendon.

1.1.7 In addition to the Guidance introduced in April 2024, the Planning Inspectorate issued the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus³ ('the Prospectus') in May 2024. Both the Guidance and the Prospectus set out updated requirements for those wishing to apply for development consent.

1.1.8 The Report provides the Applicant with an opportunity to outline the stages of consultation that have taken place to date and demonstrate compliance with the Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') and the Programme Document.

1.1.9 In paragraph 025 of the Guidance, the Report is described as "a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC". The report is intended to be submitted no later than around 3 months before submission of the Application. The Report provides an important opportunity to check that the pre-application programme is on track, and if it is seriously adrift the Planning Inspectorate will advise the applicant about the steps necessary to enable the application to be submitted having fulfilled the statutory requirements.

1.1.10 The Applicant is committed to carrying out meaningful, statutory pre-application consultation and engagement with the local community in the vicinity of the Application, as well as landowners, businesses, parish councils, elected representatives, and wider stakeholders, where appropriate.

This Report provides an overview of the engagement and consultation activity to date and how this complied with the requirements of the Act, the SoCC and the Programme Document.

³ Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus–GOV.UK–
www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus



2. Scheme Overview

2.1 The Scheme

2.1.1 The Scheme would cover approximately 1,200 hectares (excluding the Cable Route Search Area) of nine sites (Green Hill A to G and Green Hill BESS) across the administrative areas of West Northamptonshire Council, North Northamptonshire Council, and Milton Keynes City Council.

2.1.2 The Scheme comprises:

- Green Hill A, A.2, B, C, D, E, F, G, and Green Hill BESS: eight solar array sites and a dedicated battery energy storage system site. The solar array sites will include solar panels, conversion units, inverters and 132 kV substations in Green Hill A, B, E, F and G.
- Two 400 kV substations will be required for the Scheme, located in Green Hill C and Green Hill BESS (see 4.1.4 of Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), Chapter 4)
- The indicative masterplan (PEIR Volume 3, Appendix 4.1) allows for the provision of BESS at both the Green Hill BESS and Green Hill C.
- A Cable Corridor identified for the underground electricity cables connecting the Green Hill sites, substations and the energy storage system to the National Grid substation at Grendon.
- Any associated infrastructure, mitigation and enhancement measures, and other ancillary works, for example, fencing, security, local grid connections, temporary access roads, permanent means of access, highway works, temporary works compounds and work sites.

2.1.3 The proposed DCO will, among other things, authorise:

- the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the solar PV electricity generating station and associated development, including grid connection and energy storage facility
- the compulsory acquisition of land, including interests in land; rights over land and imposition of restrictions; powers to override, suspend or extinguish rights over land; and powers for the temporary use of land
- the application, modification and/or disapplication of legislation including legislation relating to compulsory purchase and landlord and tenant
- ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licences, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

2.1.4 Green Hill Solar Farm is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the proposed works involved constitute development for which an EIA is required and the proposed Application for a DCO will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

2.1.5 The Environmental Statement will provide a detailed description of the Green Hill Solar Farm and its likely significant environmental effects. Preliminary information compiled about the proposed Scheme's likely significant environmental effects was set out for statutory consultation in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (the PEIR) and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary.



2.2 The need for Green Hill Solar Farm

- 2.2.1 The UK has set ambitious climate change targets to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and to ensure that the energy supply remains secure, reliable, and affordable. Currently, around 17 GW of solar energy has been installed across the UK, according to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).⁴ Solar energy will play a major role in the achievement of the net zero 2050 target.
- 2.2.2 The National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), which sets out the government's policy for delivery of major energy infrastructure, specifies renewable energy infrastructure development as a critical national priority.⁵
- 2.2.3 The National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-3) states "there is an urgent need for new electricity generating capacity to meet our energy objectives" and Section 2.10 of the Statement sets out the need for solar-photovoltaic generation to meet net zero emissions by 2050⁶.
- 2.2.4 The Scheme is designed to supply a power output of 500 MW to the National Grid, which would provide a substantial source of electricity to the country, equivalent to powering approximately 115,000 households annually.

⁴ UK solar capacity grows 1GW year on year–Solar Power Portal–
[REDACTED]

⁵ Department for Energy Security & Net Zero Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) – GOV.UK – assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65bbfbd709fe1000f637052/overarching-nps-for-energy-en1.pdf

⁶ Department for Energy Security & Net Zero National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) – GOV.UK – assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a7889996a5ec000d731aba/nps-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en3.pdf



3. Consultation and engagement overview

3.1 Consultation approach

3.1.1 The Applicant has engaged with stakeholders and the community in line with the requirements set out in the Act, along with the Guidance on pre-application consultation published by the Government, as well as the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Two (August 2024)⁷ on the role of local authorities in the development consent process and Advice Note Three (September 2024)⁸ on EIA notification and consultation.

3.1.2 The approach to consultation consists of two broad phases:

- Initial engagement and consultation workshops (non-statutory) held between January and September 2024.
- Public (statutory) consultation period lasting six weeks from 7 November to 19 December 2024.

3.1.3 A summary of the initial engagement and consultation workshops, also referred to as non-statutory consultation, and the public (statutory) consultation is provided in Section 3.2 and Section 3.5

3.2 Initial engagement

3.2.1 The primary aim of the Applicant's initial engagement was to introduce our early-stage proposals for the Scheme, including the early environmental assessments and site selection work carried out to date. During this initial stage of engagement, we worked collaboratively with stakeholders to help understand key issues and potential constraints in the local area. As part of the initial engagement, we issued letters introducing the Scheme to the following:

- Member of Parliament (MP) for Wellingborough
- MP for Daventry
- West Northamptonshire Council
- North Northamptonshire Council
- Milton Keynes City Council (in April 2024, following the inclusion of Site G)
- MP for Milton Keynes Central in July 2024 (following General Election boundary changes)
- MP for Milton Keynes North – in July 2024 (following General Election boundary changes)
- residential and commercial properties we consider as 'neighbours' to the site (within 50 m from the edge of the site boundary) and likely to be interested in the proposals.

3.2.2 The letter invited stakeholders to an introductory briefing on the Scheme. The Applicant met with planning officers and local councillors from North Northamptonshire Council, planning officers from West Northamptonshire Council and appropriate parish council representatives. The table below details the meetings with planning officers.

⁷ Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice for Local Authorities – GOV.UK – www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-for-local-authorities

⁸ Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation – GOV.UK – www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-eia-notification-and-consultation



Date of meeting	Stakeholder (name/organisation)
13 December 2023	North Northamptonshire: Troy Healy – Principal Planning Manager – Growth & Regeneration
20 December 2023	West Northamptonshire: Shaun Robson– Head of Service – Development Management
29 August 2024	Milton Keynes City Council: Planning Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• [REDACTED] – Development Planning – Lead Case Officer• [REDACTED] – Ecology• [REDACTED] – ProW• [REDACTED], Senior Landscape Officer• [REDACTED] – ProW• [REDACTED] – Flood Risk (LLFA)• [REDACTED] – Archaeology• [REDACTED] – Built Heritage• [REDACTED] Highway• [REDACTED] – Development Planning• [REDACTED] – Landscape• [REDACTED] – Minerals

3.2.3 In January 2024, the Applicant met with local councillors and conducted three joint briefings to local parish/town councils. The Applicant presented to:

Date of meeting	Stakeholder (name/organisation)
17 January 2024	North Northamptonshire Councillors: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Matthew Binley;• Cllr David Brackenbury• North Northamptonshire Planning Officers
23 January 2024	North Northamptonshire Parish Councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wellingborough Town Council• Grendon Parish Council• Sywell Parish Council• Hardwick Parish Council• Easton Maudit Parish Council• Bozeat Parish Council
24 January 2024	North Northamptonshire Ward Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Bert Jackson (Higham Ferrers Ward)• Cllr Tim Allebone (Croyland and Swanspool)
24 January 2024	West Northamptonshire Parish Councils <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walgrave Parish Council• Holcot Parish Council• Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council



3.3 Non-statutory Consultation (March–May 2024)

- 3.3.1** In early 2024, the Applicant met with stakeholders from West Northamptonshire Council, North Northamptonshire Council and Milton Keynes City Council, community groups and technical stakeholders to present initial ideas for the Scheme.
- 3.3.2** A full list of stakeholders invited to the early engagement workshops can be found in Appendix 1.
- 3.3.3** This was conducted through consultation workshops, as part of the non-statutory consultation. We held a series of consultation workshops (formerly known as ‘co:design’ workshops) with local stakeholders, by invitation, between March and May 2024. These workshops took the format of a collaborative master-planning exercise between stakeholders and the developer, to capture local knowledge and incorporate this into the ongoing environmental assessments and design development.
- 3.3.4** Five consultation workshops were held in March and May 2024. These consisted of the following stakeholder groups:
- political stakeholders: two workshops were held for local host and neighbouring parish councillors and unitary authority councillors. They were held on 4 and 5 March 2024 at Mears Ashby Village Hall.
 - community stakeholders: community groups and representatives from relevant local organisations were invited to a workshop on Tuesday 5 March 2024 at Mears Ashby Village Hall.
 - technical stakeholders: local authority Planning Officers and other statutory and environmental consultees were invited to a workshop on Friday 15 March 2024 at Mears Ashby Village Hall.
 - Milton Keynes stakeholders: local political and community groups in Milton Keynes were invited to a workshop on Thursday 30 May 2024, at Turvey Village Hall.
- 3.3.5** The fifth workshop was held in May 2024 following the inclusion of additional land in Milton Keynes, namely Green Hill G. The session was conducted in the same format as the workshops in March.
- 3.3.6** A summary of the collaboration workshops can be found in the Green Hill Solar Farm Early Engagement Workshop Summary Report, available on the Scheme website.⁹
- 3.3.7** This report was shared with stakeholders (Appendix 1) via email and sent to members of the Scheme mailing list via e-newsletter on 30 September 2024.
- 3.3.8** Following the final workshop, the Applicant presented to members of North Northamptonshire Council, at the request of the Executive Director for Place and Economy.
- 3.3.9** The outcomes of the workshops were used to shape the proposals for the Scheme for the public consultation.

⁹ Green Hill Solar Early Engagement Workshop Summary Report–September 2024–Green Hill Solar Farm–



- 3.3.10** In June 2024, to raise awareness of the Scheme, we notified the wider public of the intention to develop Green Hill Solar Farm by publicising the Scheme to residential and business properties within a defined Non-statutory Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) (Appendix 2) through a newsletter (Appendix 3).
- 3.3.11** This newsletter contained information on the Scheme and details on how to contact the project team, such as the website, email address, and freephone information telephone line for those wishing to find out more. The PCZ extended up to 1 km from the project site land parcel boundaries and 0.5 km from the Stage 1 Cable Route Search area. The newsletter contained:
- information about the Scheme
 - a map of the sites – overview
 - a summary of initial engagement and early engagement workshops
 - contact details – project email and freephone telephone.
- 3.3.12** The newsletter ensured residents were clear about the communication channels so that they could contact the project with any questions at all times throughout the project duration.
- 3.3.13** The PCZ for the non-statutory consultation contained 8,652 residential and business addresses.
- 3.3.14** A press release was issued to local news outlets to maximise reach to the local communities on 30 May 2024. The press release was issued to the following local publications:
- Northamptonshire Telegraph
 - Northampton Chronicle and Echo
 - Milton Keynes Citizen
 - The Bucks Herald.
- 3.3.15** The design of the Scheme taken forward for statutory consultation included the location of solar panels and associated development, provision of setbacks from public rights of way and other receptors, consideration of important views, and potential routes to access the Scheme.
- 3.3.16** Examples of the changes to the design following the feedback from the early engagement workshops include:
- Solar panels have been sited further eastwards at Green Hill A to reduce the impact on views from the residential properties on Newland Road.
 - A number of fields have had solar panels removed from the design of Green Hill C owing to potential landscape, ecology, and glint and glare impacts.
 - A number of fields have had solar panels removed from the design of Green Hill E owing to impacts on residential views from Earls Barton.
 - A number of fields have had solar panels removed from the design of Green Hill F owing to visual impacts on heritage assets at Easton Maudit and Grendon, ecology constraints and archaeological interests.
 - A series of permissive paths have been proposed as part of the Scheme, following ongoing consultations. These paths, planned around Green Hill E and F, aim to connect and enhance existing routes while also improving safety.



3.4 Landowner Engagement

- 3.4.1** As part of the initial project development phase, the Applicant identified and engaged with landowners close to the proposed Scheme boundaries.
- 3.4.2** Landowners of properties neighbouring the Scheme and within the Cable Route Search Area were identified and sent a letter at the start of the non-statutory consultation informing them of the proposals for the proposed Scheme and inviting them to comment on the proposals. The letters were delivered on 22 January 2024.
- 3.4.3** Ahead of the statutory consultation, the Applicant carried out a diligent inquiry to identify all persons with an interest in land within the categories set out in s44 of the Act. Such persons will be listed in the Book of Reference, which will be submitted as part of the DCO application. All persons identified as having an interest in land within the Scheme boundary, or affected by the Scheme, were identified and notified of the statutory consultation, in accordance with s42 of the Act. .

3.5 Statutory Consultation (7 November–19 December 2024)

- 3.5.1** Held in accordance with the Act, the pre-application statutory consultation aimed to ensure that the community, landowners, stakeholders and technical consultees had the opportunity to understand and influence the Applicant's proposals.
- 3.5.2** The statutory consultation was held for six weeks from Thursday 7 November to Thursday 19 December 2024.
- 3.5.3** The consultation sought feedback on all aspects of the Applicant's plans for the Scheme including:
- indicative masterplans identifying potential areas for the solar arrays, associated development and potential mitigation and enhancement opportunities
 - the inclusion of Green Hill A.2 as land under consideration for the solar farm in June 2024. As the site was included in the Scheme after the non-statutory consultation, we provided the opportunity for residents to share their feedback on its inclusion. The inclusion of Site A.2 was announced on the Scheme website via 'News' update,¹⁰ in a meeting with planning officers from host local councils and included in the EIA Scoping Opinion Report.¹¹
 - the Cable Route Search Area.
 - the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) – containing preliminary assessments of the Scheme's likely environmental effects associated with its construction, operation and decommissioning.
 - visualisations of the Scheme from selected viewpoints.
 - issues associated with the construction and operation of the solar farm and proposed mitigation measures.
 - possible community benefits, including funding for local initiatives.

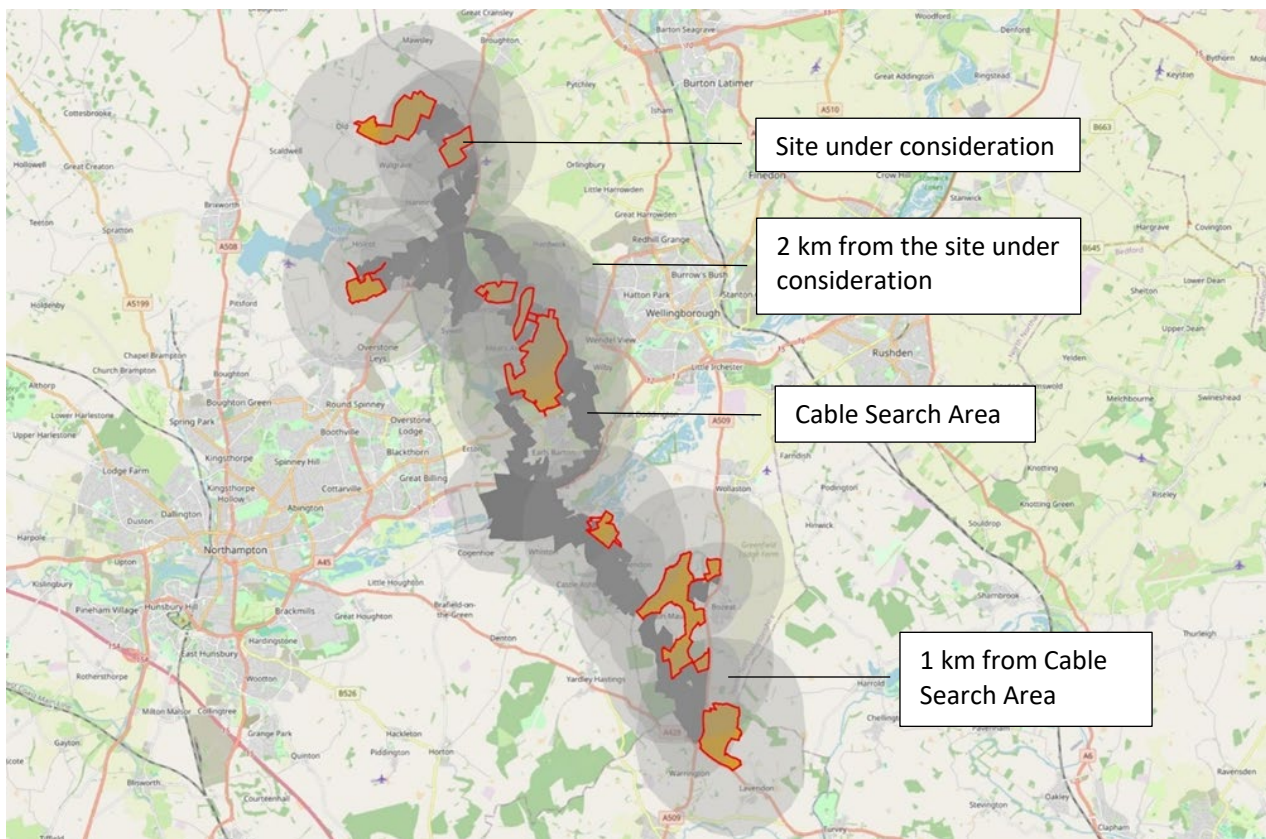
¹⁰ IGP has taken the decision to include additional land near Site A–Green Hill Solar Farm website – www.greenhillsolar.co.uk/news-posts/igp-has-taken-the-decision-to-include-additional-land-near-site-a/

¹¹ Scoping Opinion- Proposed Green Hill Solar Farm–Planning Inspectorate– www.infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010170/EN010170-000002-GHSF%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf



The consultation also sought general feedback and other local issues or sensitivities that the Applicant should be aware of.

- 3.5.4** The Scheme devised a new PCZ for the statutory consultation within the area of the host local planning authorities of North Northamptonshire, West Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes, and the neighbouring authority of Bedford Borough Council.
- 3.5.5** The PCZ extended up to 2 km from the Scheme's site boundaries (within which the solar arrays and associated development would be located) and 1 km from the Cable Route Search Area (within which the electrical cables connecting the sites and Grendon Substation would be located). The changes to the PCZ were made following the comments on the draft SoCC made by North Northamptonshire Council (NNC), West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), and Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC). The changes resulted in the extension of the PCZ into Bedford Borough Council (BBC).
- 3.5.6** The changes to the PCZ were considered sufficient to engage with members of the local community who would be most impacted by the Scheme and who are most likely to operate within the vicinity of it.
- 3.5.7** The figure below shows the new PCZ for the statutory consultation. The PCZ contains approximately 13,400 residential and business addresses.





3.5.8 In addition to local residents and businesses in the vicinity of the Scheme (as defined by the PCZ), the Applicant consulted with the following groups (see Appendix 1 for the non-statutory consultee list):

- landowners with interest in the Scheme
- statutory consultees, such as:
 - host parish councils
 - host and neighbouring planning authorities
 - BBC was added to the list of consultees for statutory consultation in September 2024.
 - technical stakeholders, such as the Environment Agency and Historic England.
- Non-statutory consultees, such as:
 - members of parliament
 - community groups, voluntary organisations, faith communities
 - environmental groups in the PCZ
 - schools and colleges in the PCZ
 - seldom-heard groups (see Section 4).

3.5.9 Consultation was undertaken in line with the requirements of the Act and The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. According to the requirements in section 42, section 47 and section 48 of the Act, notices about the consultation were published in local and national newspapers, and s42 consultees were notified via a s42 notice letter and a s48 notice.

3.5.10 s48 of the Act requires the consultation to be publicised once in a national newspaper and twice in a locally circulated newspaper (Appendix 4).

3.5.11 The s48 notices were advertised in the publications listed in the table below.

National Newspapers:

Publication	Publisher	Format	Date of notice
The Guardian	Guardian News & Media (GNM)	Print	Thursday 31 October 2024
London Gazette	The Stationary Office	Print	Thursday 31 October 2024

Local Newspapers:

Publication	Format	Date of notice one	Date of notice two
Northamptonshire Telegraph	Print	Thursday 31 October 2024	Thursday 7 November 2024
Milton Keynes Citizen	Print	Thursday 31 October 2024	Thursday 7 November 2024
Times and Citizen (Bedfordshire)	Print	Thursday 31 October 2024	Thursday 7 November 2024



- 3.5.12** The Applicant also requested parish councils and parish meetings to publicise the consultation on their notice boards (Appendix 5).
- 3.5.13** Formal notifications were issued to stakeholders on 30 October 2024, as required by s42 of the Act.
- 3.5.14** During the statutory consultation, the Applicant used a range of methods to ensure an inclusive, meaningful and open consultation. The consultation utilised digital and non-digital methods of communication to ensure it could be accessed by all stakeholders.
- 3.5.15** As part of the statutory consultation, the Applicant hosted four in-person events and three online webinars for members of the public to engage with. The list of the consultation events can be found in the table below.

Date of the consultation event	Time	Location
Monday 18 November 2024	14:00–19:00	Grendon Village Hall, Main Road, Grendon, Northampton NN7 1JW
Saturday 23 November 2024	12:00–17:00	Lavendon Village Hall, 22 High Street, Lavendon, Buckinghamshire MK46 4HA
Wednesday 27 November 2024	14:00–19:00	Swanspool Pavilion, Swanspool Parade, Wellingborough NN8 9SR
Saturday 7 December 2024	12:00–17:00	Walgrave Village Hall, 1 Newland Road, Walgrave, Northampton NN6 9PZ
Wednesday 20 November 2024	18:00–19:00	Webinar – Livestorm
Tuesday 26 November 2024	18:00–19:00	Webinar – Livestorm
Wednesday 4 December 2024	12.30–13.30	Webinar – Livestorm

- 3.5.16** In addition to the consultation events, the Applicant met with local stakeholders to present the proposals for the Scheme. The table below provides a list of the stakeholder briefings during the statutory consultation.

Date of meeting	Stakeholder (Name/organisation)
29 November 2024 (virtual)	Joint briefing with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lavendon Parish Council members• North Northamptonshire Councillor – Cllr Matthew Binley
11 December 2024 (virtual)	Moulton College
16 December 2024 (virtual)	Sarah Bool MP

- 3.5.17** The consultation materials used during the statutory consultation can be found in the table below.



Consultation materials	
Material	Detail
Consultation newsletter	<p>A consultation newsletter posted to all addresses in the PCZ provided an overview of the Scheme, the consultation, and how people can get involved. The newsletter indicated where the other consultation documents can be accessed and publicised the consultation events, including locations, dates, and timings.</p> <p>The newsletter contained a QR code directing residents to the website.</p> <p>Copies of the newsletter were also issued via email to stakeholders (Appendix 1) and interested parties who had signed up for the Scheme's mailing list.</p>
Consultation information booklet	<p>An information booklet containing a summary of the proposals for Green Hill Solar Farm and how the design of the solar farm has developed following the non-statutory consultation, including maps illustrating the Scheme.</p> <p>The information booklet also contained information on the public consultation events, such as the date, time and location of the exhibitions and webinars. It also listed the information deposit points for the consultation materials.</p>
Consultation feedback form	<p>A feedback form to allow people to provide feedback on the proposals. This was available in hard copy at local information points and consultation events. A digital copy was also accessible via the website.</p>
Preliminary Environmental Informational Report (PEIR) and Non-Technical Summary (NTS)	<p>The PEIR contained a summary of the Scheme and a preliminary assessment of the potential significant environmental effects and the initial strategies to mitigate adverse effects. The PEIR was based on information available at that time, however, the assessments are being developed and updated as the design of the Scheme is updated and further detail becomes available. This will be reported in an Environmental Statement (ES) submitted with the DCO application.</p> <p>A Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR was available to download free of charge from the website and electronically at Local Information Points. Hard copies of the PEIR and the NTS were made available at Local Information Points where access to the internet was not available.</p> <p>Further information on the Local Information Points is available in Section 4.</p>
Exhibition materials	<p>The consultation events contained exhibition boards to provide details of the Scheme, as well as to present maps of the proposed development.</p> <p>The exhibition boards were available at consultation events and on the website following the first consultation event.</p>
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	<p>The SoCC was made available online throughout the consultation and free of charge in hard copy on request. A hard copy of the SoCC was also available to inspect at the Local Information Points.</p>
Materials in alternative formats	<p>Upon request, all documents were available in alternative accessible formats, such as braille and large print. Requests for translated summary documents were considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>



3.5.18 The enquiry channels listed in the table below were available throughout the consultation for members of the community and other stakeholders to contact the development team, ask questions, request further information, or request printed copies of consultation materials and documents. These communication channels will continue to be active throughout the pre-application period.

Method	Contact details	Hours of operation
Telephone	0800 012 9882	9am–5:30pm weekdays (with an answerphone facility to take messages outside these hours).
Email	Info@greenhillsolar.co.uk	Members of the public were able to email 24 hours a day, with emails being monitored between 9am and 5:30pm weekdays. The development team aimed to acknowledge all emails received as soon as practicable and endeavoured to provide a substantive response within 10 working days of receipt.
Post	FREEPOST GREEN HILL SOLAR FARM	Respondents were able to provide their responses in written format. Urgent enquiries were directed to the Scheme's email address or freephone line.

3.5.19 The Applicant used a variety of methods to make people in the PCZ aware of the Scheme and advertise the consultation in addition to the activities already outlined. These methods included those in the table below.

Method	Detail
Press release	A local media press release, separate from the section notices, provided wider notification to local stakeholders of the consultation events, reaching stakeholders outside the PCZ. The press release was circulated with local media outlets.
Emails and Section 42 letters	<p>Emails were sent to stakeholders (Appendix 1) informing them of the statutory consultation, upcoming events, how to request further information, and how to feed back.</p> <p>Section 42 consultees (Appendix 6) were identified and were sent an s42 letter and a copy of the s48 notice on 30 October 2024. The s42 letter informed the consultee of the statutory consultation and invited them to provide their feedback on the proposed Scheme.</p>



Scheme consultation website	The consultation website was updated on the launch of the statutory consultation. This update included details of consultation events, consultation materials, information on how to feed back on the project proposals and a digital feedback form embedded in the website.
Statutory notices and adverts	Statutory notices to publicise the consultation and the SoCC were published in local and national news publications in advance of the consultation launching.
Information points	Hard copies of the consultation information booklet and the feedback form were available to take home from a number of Local Information Points within the PCZ. A copy of the SoCC, the PEIR and the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR were also available to inspect at local locations without access to the computer and internet.
Site notices	Notices were placed in publicly accessible locations within the indicative Order Limits to notify of the consultation. A map (Appendix 7) shows the locations of the 40 site notices that were placed in locations across the districts of West Northamptonshire, North Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes. The site notices were checked regularly throughout the statutory consultation period and any damaged or removed notices were replaced.

3.5.20 Respondents were able to provide their response in the following ways:

- completing the feedback form online, which could be accessed via the Scheme website: www.greenhillsolar.co.uk
- completing a printed feedback form, which could be collected from a consultation event or local information point, or on request by contacting the development team. Completed forms could be handed to the development team at events, scanned and emailed back to info@greenhillsolar.co.uk, or sent to FREEPOST GREEN HILL SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required).
- emailing comments to info@greenhillsolar.co.uk
- writing to us at FREEPOST GREEN HILL SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required).

3.5.21 A total of **529 responses** were received during this round of engagement through the online feedback form, hard copy letters, emails and hard copy feedback forms.



4. Developing the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

4.1 Informal consultation on the SoCC

- 4.1.1 Ahead of conducting statutory consultation, a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was prepared, consulted on and published following the process as prescribed in s47 of the Act, prior to starting statutory consultation.
- 4.1.2 The Applicant initially issued a notice to NNC and WNC outlining the planned engagement activities for the statutory consultation. This marked the beginning of the informal consultation on the SoCC.
- 4.1.3 As Green Hill G was not included in the Scheme until May 2024, Milton Keynes City Council was not included in the initial informal consultation. However, Planning Officers were briefed on the approach to the statutory consultation during the brief meeting on 29 August 2024.
- 4.1.4 The notice to NNC and WNC included details of the proposed timeline for consultation, as well as key information about the development and the consultation strategy. The Applicant received acknowledgement of receipt, and no further comments or recommendations were provided regarding the proposed approach to consultation or the development of the SoCC.
- 4.1.5 Following the close of the non-statutory consultation in September 2024, the Applicant began preparing the SoCC, building upon the principles and approach previously shared with the local authorities.
- 4.1.6 The SoCC set out how the Applicant planned to consult and engage with the local community on the Proposed Development.

4.2 SoCC consultation

- 4.2.1 The Applicant identified North Northamptonshire Council, West Northamptonshire Council and Milton Keynes Council as the relevant host local authorities under s43(1) of the Act. These host authorities were formally consulted on the draft SoCC. Parish councils within these areas were also notified and consulted via their respective local planning authorities (LPAs).
- 4.2.2 In February 2024, the Applicant issued an informal notice to North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council. This notice outlined the Applicant's intended approach to consultation and provided initial details regarding the draft SoCC. As no concerns were raised during this stage, the Applicant proceeded with drafting the SoCC in line with the outlined approach.
- 4.2.3 In accordance with Section 47 of the Act, the Applicant then formally consulted the host authorities on the draft SoCC.
- 4.2.4 The draft SoCC was sent to North Northamptonshire Council, West Northamptonshire Council and Milton Keynes City Council on 9 August 2024, with a deadline for responses set for 20 September 2024.
- 4.2.5 Milton Keynes City Council responded on 17 September 2024 confirming they had no objections and were satisfied with the proposed consultation approach.



- 4.2.6** North Northamptonshire Council provided substantive comments, which included the comments from Grendon Parish Council and Irchester Parish Council, on 17 September 2024.
- 4.2.7** West Northamptonshire Councils confirmed receipt of the draft SoCC and provided their comments on 20 September 2024.
- 4.2.8** Following consultation, the Applicant reviewed and incorporated the feedback received where possible. A formal response was issued to host authorities on 5 November 2024, and the SoCC was published on 7 November 2024.
- 4.2.9** The responses from LPAs on the draft SoCC can be found In Appendix 8.
- 4.2.10** The table below outlines the key feedback received from North Northamptonshire Council, including the responses of the parishes within its jurisdiction and of West Northamptonshire Council regarding the Applicant's approach to consultation, and the actions taken as a result. The Consultation Report and its supporting appendices will provide comprehensive evidence of compliance with the SoCC consultation process, including details of how all feedback was taken into account.

Comment	Regard Had
[The SoCC] states that the consultation will take place 'for six weeks between November 2024 and January 2025'. It is suggested that this consultation period is either extended or moved to an alternative 6-week period, rather than taking place for 6 weeks during the proposed busy time over the Christmas and New Year holidays.	<p>The Applicant reviewed the consultation dates, resulting in a decision to bring the consultation forward so that it was completed before the Christmas period.</p> <p>The public (statutory) consultation was subsequently scheduled to run for six weeks, from Thursday 7 November to Thursday 19 December 2024.</p>
[The SoCC] states that the Public Consultation Zone (PCZ) will be restricted up to 1 kilometre from the project site and 0.5 km from the Cable Search Area. Given the size, scale and extent of the scheme, this was deemed unduly restrictive. It is considered that residents within the wider area will experience a substantial change in the character of the landscape in which they live, work and enjoy and so should also be included in the consultation.	<p>The Applicant reviewed the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) and made the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the PCZ was extended to up to 2 kilometres (km) from the Scheme site boundaries, within which the solar arrays and associated development would be located.the Applicant also extended the PCZ to 1 km from the Cable Route Search Area, within which the electrical cables connecting the sites and Grendon Substation would be located.
Within the list of what non-statutory groups would be consulted, Parish Meetings need to be included.	The Applicant added Parish Meetings to the list of non-statutory consultees.
Walgrave Parish Council would like Walgrave to be considered as a host for one of the in-person consultation events.	The Applicant included Walgrave Village Hall as a venue for the consultation event held on Saturday 7 December 2024, from 12:00 to 17:00.



<p>This paragraph [in the SoCC] is regarding 'Hard to Reach Groups' and there is very general information about these groups and how they will be identified. It may be part of the next steps but please ensure that identifying hard-to-reach groups will be in liaison with the local authorities.</p>	<p>Section 7.7 of the SoCC was updated to detail the steps that would be taken to ensure the consultation was inclusive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All references to 'hard-to-reach groups' were updated to 'seldom-heard' in the SoCC.• A list of seldom-heard community groups was included in Appendix 1 of the SoCC.• Table 3 of the SoCC outlined the consultation methods used to engage with seldom-heard groups.• Automated subtitles were made available for webinars to ensure accessibility for individuals with hearing impairments.
<p>[The SoCC] clearly sets out the intended consultation plan including when consultation will take place, what will be consulted on, who will be consulted and how this will be undertaken. It is recommended that a hard copy of the information is placed at The Forum in Towcester hub this is the planning office for WNC as well as one of the main WNC libraries and in The Guildhall, One Stop shop.</p>	<p>The Applicant considered the suggestion. However, The Forum Towcester hub was not ultimately included as an Information point as it was not deemed accessible enough to residents within the PCZ due to its distance from the Scheme.</p> <p>Although this request could not be actioned, the Applicant added Wellingborough Library as an additional information point within the vicinity of the PCZ and closer to the Scheme.</p> <p>As Wellingborough Library provided access to the internet, the Applicant deposited hard copies of the consultation information booklet and the feedback form and requested respondents use the computers provided to access the SoCC, PEIR and NTS via the electric copies on the Scheme website.</p>
<p>[The SoCC] sets out how you are proposing to consult. Given the scale of the development and the number of communities impacted, 4 consultation events and 3 webinars are considered low. It is suggested that the number of consultation events and webinars are increased. Webinars should also include weekends and evenings to accommodate working families.</p>	<p>The Applicant determined the number of consultation events by reviewing the suitability and availability of venues within or in the immediate vicinity of the PCZ. Four consultation events and three webinars were scheduled. This was determined to be proportionate to the size of the Scheme and sufficient opportunities to engage with the consultation.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Applicant provided copies of the consultation materials, including the consultation exhibition boards, on the Scheme website and provided a recording of a webinar, following requests from attendees.</p>



	<p>The events and webinars were organised over a range of days and times throughout the week, including evenings and weekends, to accommodate working families.</p>
<p>Irchester Parish Council offer Wollaston Library as a host venue as a local information point.</p>	<p>The Applicant considered the suggestion made by Irchester Parish Council to add Wollaston Library as a local information point. However, the Local Information Points were carefully selected to be located in areas that were accessible to as many stakeholders as possible in the PCZ, and Wollaston Library did not sufficiently meet these accessibility requirements.</p> <p>The nearest in-person consultation event to Wollaston Library was held at Grendon Village Hall, which had greater accessibility. Wollaston Library was open during at least one webinar, providing an option for individuals without personal computer access to participate. The Applicant also added Wellingborough Library as an additional information point within the vicinity of the PCZ.</p>
<p>As the proposal is within the locality of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (UNVGP SPA), the statement should include any reference to any consultation requirements methods set out in the Habitats Regulation.</p>	<p>The Applicant noted that the Habitats Regulations require consultation with the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Body, Natural England, but do not outline any specific distinct requirements or methods for consultation beyond this.</p> <p>The Applicant consulted with Natural England and is carrying out ongoing engagement. Following discussions with Natural England, the Applicant undertook work to address environmental protection measures within the Scheme design to avoid harm to wildlife, disruption to habitats, and impacts on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area during construction.</p> <p>Consultation with Natural England is ongoing to inform the development of the Scheme's design ahead of the application submission. Discussions focus on identifying and mitigating potential environmental impacts and integrating appropriate measures into the final design. Additional information relating to this was made available during the public consultation and included in the PEIR.</p>



4.3 Publicity under Section 47 of the Act

4.3.1 In compliance with the publicity requirements of s47(6) of the Act, the SoCC was published in local news publications in advance of the consultation launch and issuing of the s48 notice. This notice provided information on how the Applicant intended to engage with stakeholders and local communities during the upcoming statutory consultation.

4.3.2 Section 47 notices were published as shown in the table below.

Publication	Format	Proposed date of notice
Daventry Express	Print	Thursday 31 October 2024
Northampton Chronicle & Echo	Print	Thursday 31 October 2024
Northamptonshire Telegraph	Print	Thursday 31 October 2024
Milton Keynes Citizen	Print	Thursday 31 October 2024
The Bucks Herald (Milton Keynes)	Print	Wednesday 30 October 2024
Times and Citizen (Bedfordshire)	Print	Thursday 31 October 2024

4.3.3 Hard copies of the SoCC were placed at the following information points:

- Brixworth Library
- Wellingborough Library
- Duston Library
- Moulton Library
- Earls Barton Library
- Rothwell Community Library
- Milton Keynes Library.

4.3.4 The SoCC was also made available in hard copy at each of the consultation events held during the consultation period, and a digital version was viewable on the project website from 7 November 2024.

4.4 Compliance with the SoCC

4.4.1 The table below shows how the statutory consultation held between 7 November and 19 December was undertaken in compliance with the SoCC, as per the requirements of s47 (7) of the Act.

4.4.2 The Consultation Report and its supporting appendices will include all evidence of compliance.



Section of SoCC	SoCC Commitment	Complete/Actions taken
Consultation		
N/A	<p>Consulted and had regard for comments from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Northamptonshire Council North Northamptonshire Council Milton Keynes City Council. 	<p>Comments were received from West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council. Milton Keynes City Council acknowledged receipt of the SoCC but provided no comments.</p> <p>All comments were considered and incorporated where reasonably feasible to do so.</p>
5	<p>We will also be consulting on a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which provides information about the preliminary results of the Applicant's assessments, as part of the statutory consultation. A Non-technical Summary (NTS) will be available to summarise the content of the PEIR in non-technical terms.</p> <p>The PEIR and NTS will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> available on the website available at information points available at in-person events during statutory consultation. <p>The Applicant will be seeking views from members of the public and other stakeholders on these (PEIR and NTS) and other consultation documents.</p>	<p>Ahead of the statutory consultation, the Applicant produced a PEIR and NTS. These materials were made available on the website and at information points (more details can be found below).</p> <p>The Applicant also provided hard copies at each consultation event, and the materials were available to view digitally on request.</p> <p>Views were sought both at events and via official feedback channels. Further evidence of this feedback will be provided as part of the Consultation Report.</p>
7.1	<p>The statutory consultation will be held for six weeks between 7 November 2024 and 19 December 2024.</p> <p>All digital responses to the consultation must be received by 11:59 pm on the closing date.</p>	<p>A six-week statutory consultation was held between 7 November 2024 and 19 December 2024.</p> <p>The deadline for digital responses was upheld. An additional two-week period to receive responses via post was allowed. The deadline for postal responses was 10 January 2025. This</p>



	<p>We will allow an additional two-week period to receive responses via post to account for any delays.</p>	<p>information was confirmed by a website update on 20 December 2024.</p>
7.2	<p>We will be seeking feedback on all aspects of the Applicant's plans for the Scheme. This will involve inviting comments on issues such as, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• indicative masterplans identifying potential areas for the solar arrays, associated development and potential mitigation and enhancement opportunities• the inclusion of Green Hill A.2 as land under consideration for the solar farm. As the site was included in the Scheme after the non-statutory consultation, we will provide the opportunity for residents to share their feedback on its inclusion.• the Cable Route Search Area• the PEIR—which will include preliminary assessments of the Scheme's environmental effects associated with its construction, operation and decommissioning• visualisations of the Scheme from selected viewpoints• issues associated with the construction and operation of the solar farm and proposed mitigation measures• possible community benefit initiatives• any other feedback and local issues or sensitivities of which we should be aware.	<p>Materials provided at in-person events, information points, and online, offered comprehensive information on all aspects of the Scheme. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• indicative masterplans of the Site• an indicative masterplan highlighting the addition of Site A.2• a map indicating the Cable Route Search Area• digital and reference copies of the PEIR• visualisations of the Scheme from selected viewpoints• a Project Information Booklet providing information on the Scheme, including details of its construction, operation and proposed mitigation measures• information on the Applicant's approach to community benefits, detailed within the Project Information Booklet and Exhibition Boards. <p>A feedback form was made available to stakeholders, allowing them to share their views on all aspects of the Scheme.</p> <p>The form also invited feedback on local issues or sensitivities and suggestions for potential community benefits.</p>



<p>7.3</p>	<p>The Scheme has devised a new PCZ for the statutory consultation within the area of the host local planning authorities of North Northamptonshire Council, West Northamptonshire Council, Milton Keynes City Council and the neighbouring authority of Bedford Borough Council.</p> <p>The PCZ followed consultation with North Northamptonshire Council, West Northamptonshire Council and Milton Keynes City Council, and is considered sufficient to engage with members of the local community who would be most impacted by the Scheme and are most likely to operate within the vicinity of it.</p>	<p>A PCZ of 13,482 residential and business addresses was used, covering all main residential clusters within 2 km of the Sites and 1 km from the Cable Route Search Area to the Scheme that could reasonably be expected to be impacted.</p> <p>The PCZ was in the SoCC and agreed with the host authorities during the SoCC consultation.</p> <p>A newsletter was distributed to the PCZ, announcing the start of the statutory consultation and providing details of the Scheme and how to participate.</p> <p>The newsletter included locations, dates and times for all events and listed the locations of information points where further information could be obtained.</p> <p>A consultation leaflet was distributed in week three of the consultation that reminded people of the details of how to participate in the consultation.</p>
<p>7.3</p>	<p>In addition to the PCZ, we will be consulting the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • landowners with interest in the Scheme • statutory consultees, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ host parish councils ○ host and neighbouring local planning authorities ○ technical stakeholders, such as the Environment Agency and Historic England. <p>Non-statutory consultees, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of Parliament • parish meetings • community groups, voluntary organisations, faith communities • environmental groups in the PCZ • schools and colleges in the PCZ • seldom-heard groups. 	<p>All consultee groups were contacted as part of the statutory consultation. A full list of stakeholders can be found in Appendix 1 of the SoCC.</p> <p>Consultees were notified of the statutory consultation prior to the launch date and Invited to a presentation of the Scheme.</p> <p>Consultees were invited to participate In the statutory consultation.</p>



7.3	Members of the general public will be notified of the consultation via notices in local, regional and national newspapers.	<p>In accordance with S48, notices were published:</p> <p>Once in two national Newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guardian • London Gazette. <p>Twice across two successive weeks in locally circulating newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northamptonshire Telegraph • Milton Keynes Citizen • Times and Citizen (Bedfordshire).
	We will also ask parish councils and parish meetings to publicise the consultation on their notice boards.	Parish councils were contacted via the project inbox. It was requested that they publicise the consultation and how to participate (Appendix 5).
Consultation methods		
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>We will be holding four consultation events at locations within or in the immediate vicinity of the PCZ, which are accessible by public and private transport.</p> <p>They will be advertised in consultation leaflets, in the local media, at local information points and through wider publicity using local community groups.</p> <p>Members of the development team will be at these events to discuss the proposals in more detail and answer any questions.</p> <p>Hard copies of selected materials will also be available to view and take away, with all materials available in digital format via the website.</p>	<p>Events were scheduled at accessible locations within the immediate vicinity of the PCZ. The events were held as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday, 18 November 2024, 14:00–19:00: Grendon Village Hall, Main Road, Grendon, Northampton NN7 1JW • Saturday, 23 November 2024, 12:00–17:00: Lavendon Village Hall, 22 High Street, Lavendon, Buckinghamshire MK46 4HA • Wednesday, 27 November 2024, 14:00–19:00: Swanspool Pavilion, Swanspool Parade, Wellingborough NN8 9SR • Saturday, 7 December 2024, 12:00–17:00: Walgrave Village Hall, 1 Newland Road, Walgrave, Northampton NN6 9PZ. <p>Ahead of the events, it was confirmed that the venues were accessible by public transport and that parking was available to accommodate those using private transport.</p> <p>Members of the development team were present to answer questions directly. If they were unable to provide an answer on the day, attendees were encouraged to contact the project team via the official communication channels.</p> <p>The events were advertised through:</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the consultation newsletter and consultation leaflets distributed to the PCZ• local media, through a press release• local information points, through the availability of leaflets, which provided details of the consultation and how to participate• wider publicity through the local community through the distribution of leaflets to local community groups. <p>The following materials were available at the events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• hard copies of the Project Information Booklet• feedback forms for attendees to complete• reference copies of the SoCC and PEIR• indicative masterplans of the Scheme• maps of the proposed access routes.•
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>Three webinars will be held for stakeholders to join via telephone or online via Livestorm.</p> <p>The webinar sessions will be hosted at times in the day and in the evening to accommodate working families.</p>	<p>Three webinars were held using the Livestorm platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday 20 November 2024, 6–7pm• Tuesday 26 November 2024, 6–7pm• Wednesday 4 December 2024, 12:30–1:30pm. <p>To ensure accessibility, arrangements were made for participants to join the webinars via telephone.</p> <p>The webinars scheduled between 18:00–19:00 were held outside typical working hours, accommodating the needs of working families. We scheduled one webinar at lunchtime to make it more accessible for attendees who may have work or other commitments during standard working hours.</p> <p>Following requests from attendees, a recording of a webinar was uploaded onto the Scheme website. The recording contained automated subtitles.</p>
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>Questions will be answered following the presentation on the webinar and in the time available.</p>	<p>The project team delivered a presentation that mirrored the information displayed on the exhibition boards at the consultation events.</p>



	<p>Any remaining unanswered questions will be answered in writing after the event if the respondent contacts the Community Relations Team.</p>	<p>A dedicated question-and-answer session followed the presentation, during which members of the project team were available to address queries within the allocated time. This was not included in the webinar recording.</p> <p>Following the events, the project team received three enquiries relating specifically to the webinar. These were addressed by the community relations team via the project inbox.</p>
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>The link to the webinars will be available on the Scheme website.</p>	<p>The link to register for the webinars was provided on the Scheme website. Only those registered could participate.</p> <p>Once participants had registered they received a link in their inbox, allowing them to access the webinar.</p> <p>For those unable to attend, a recording was made available ensuring a webinar could be viewed, without any requirement to register, at a time that suits the consultee.</p>
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>The webinars will be accessible via web browser and will not require the attendee to download software.</p>	<p>The Livestorm platform was accessible via web browser and did not require attendees to download software.</p>
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>Instructions on how to register and attend the webinars will be provided on the Scheme website.</p>	<p>Instructions on how to register for the webinars were provided under the 'Consultation by Collaboration' section of the Scheme website. This section was updated ahead of the statutory consultation.</p>
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet and the Consultation Feedback Form will be available to take away from all local information points listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brixworth Library• Wellingborough Library• Duston Library	<p>Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet and the Consultation Feedback Form were distributed ahead of the start of the statutory consultation to the following local information points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brixworth Library• Wellingborough Library*• Duston Library



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moulton Library • Earls Barton Library • Rothwell Community Library • Milton Keynes Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moulton Library • Earls Barton Library • Rothwell Community Library • Milton Keynes Library <p>*Note: Wellingborough Library did not initially receive materials at the same time as other locations due to a distribution error. However, this was rectified, and copies of the Consultation Information Booklet and the Feedback Form were issued. These arrived on Friday 29 November.</p> <p>The opportunity was also taken to replenish the supply of materials at the full list of information points. Additional Consultation Information Booklets and Feedback Forms were distributed to ensure supply for the whole consultation period. The additional materials arrived on Friday 29 November.</p>
7.4 (Table 1)	Electronic copies of the SoCC, PEIR and Non-technical Summary (NTS) will be available to view and download electronically (for reference) at each local information point with access to a computer.	<p>The SoCC, PEIR and NTS were available online for information points that had access to a computer. Those information points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brixworth Library • Wellingborough Library • Duston Library • Earls Barton Library • Milton Keynes Library • Moulton Community Library.
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>Reference copies of the SoCC, PEIR and NTS will be provided to information points that do not have access to a computer and/or internet. These locations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moulton Community Library • Rothwell Community Library. 	<p>Reference copies of the SoCC, PEIR, and NTS were made available at Rothwell Community Library.</p> <p>It was brought to the Applicant's attention that due to a distribution error, Moulton Community Library did not receive hard copies of the SoCC, PEIR, and NTS. Unfortunately, this error was not identified within the statutory consultation period. Following an investigation, the Applicant has confirmed that the consultation booklets and feedback forms were delivered to Moulton Community Library on 6 November 2024, and it has established that a computer was available for</p>



		<p>visitors to Moulton Community Library to use and that this could have been used to review the statutory consultation materials online. Consultation information booklets and feedback forms were also delivered to Moulton Community Library on Friday 29 November 2024, and were available to visitors.</p> <p>In order that this error does not affect any person's opportunity to comment on the Scheme, and to adhere to the commitments made in the SoCC and s48 notice, the Applicant will place the hard copies of the PEIR, the NTS and SoCC at Moulton Library for a minimum of 28 days, to align with a period of Targeted Consultation. This will provide people with the opportunity to view and provide any new or additional feedback on the statutory consultation materials, as well as the changes that are the subject of the targeted consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant will place an advertisement in a locally distributed newspaper, providing the details of the targeted consultation and confirming that the PEIR and other statutory consultation materials will be available for review at Moulton Community Library.</p> <p>The Applicant will write directly to residential and business properties and parish councils within the PCZ notifying them of the targeted consultation, and confirming that the PEIR may be reviewed in hard copy at Moulton Library.</p> <p>The Applicant will also provide an update on the Scheme website and issue an e-newsletter to anyone registered for the Green Hill Solar Farm mailing list.</p> <p>The SoCC, PEIR, and NTS were also available for download via the project website and as reference copies at the in-person consultation events, details of which are provided above.</p>
7.4 (Table 1)	All statutory consultation documents (mentioned above) will be presented digitally and available for download, free of charge, from the website.	The SoCC, PEIR, and NTS were available for download via the project website and signposted under the 'Documents' section of the website.



7.4 (Table 1)	Information made available at the consultation events will also be published on the website.	<p>All information provided at the consultation events was made available for download in the "Documents" section of the Scheme's website.</p> <p>This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • digital copies of the exhibition boards displayed at the events. • indicative masterplans that were printed and shared at the events. • a recording of the consultation webinars.
Consultation Materials		
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>A consultation newsletter, posted to all addresses in the PCZ, will provide an overview of the Scheme, the consultation, and how people can get involved.</p> <p>The newsletter will indicate where the other consultation documents can be accessed and publicise the consultation events, including locations, dates and timings.</p> <p>Copies of the newsletter will also be emailed electronically to key stakeholders.</p>	<p>A consultation newsletter was prepared and distributed to all addresses within the PCZ prior to the start of the statutory consultation. It was also sent electronically to stakeholders who had shared their email address with us, and public bodies with a relevant email address.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter included the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an overview of the consultation process • details of the planning process • information about Green Hill Solar Farm • the Applicant's vision for Green Hill Solar Farm • background information on Island Green Power, Green Hill Solar Farm's parent company • details of the early-stage consultation • a location map • information about the public consultation, including how to provide feedback, event times and locations, and details of local information points • a glossary and guidance on navigating the consultation documents • a project timeline • contact details.
7.4 (Table 1)	Information booklet containing a summary of the proposals for Green Hill Solar Farm and how the design of the solar farm has developed following	An information booklet was produced ahead of the start of statutory consultation. It was distributed to local information points and made available in hard copy at consultation



	<p>the non-statutory consultation, including maps illustrating the Scheme.</p> <p>The information booklet will also contain information on the public consultation events, such as the date, time and location of the exhibitions and webinars.</p> <p>It will also list the information deposit points for the consultation materials.</p>	<p>events. It was also available for download on the Scheme website.</p> <p>The information booklet included the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction• Key facts about the Scheme• Details of engagement to date• About Island Green Power• The Need for Green Hill Solar Farm<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ At a national level○ At a local level• The Applicant's vision• Site selection• Evolution of the scheme design• Our proposals• Scheme description• Solar farm details• Indicative masterplans• Green Hill Solar Farm construction, operation, and decommissioning• Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)• Community benefit• How to have your say (inc. how to provide feedback, event times and locations, and details of local information points)• Next steps• Glossary of terms• Contact details. <p>On 28 November 2024, it was noted that Page 25 of the information booklet, under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) section, contained an error. A statement regarding the benefits to local species during the operational phase was corrected to accurately reflect the surveys undertaken.</p> <p>Corrected copies of the information booklet were distributed to local information points and made available at consultation events. The downloadable version on the Scheme website was updated.</p> <p>A correction notice was published on the Scheme website, and made available in print at local information points. The notice directed stakeholders with any outstanding</p>
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		queries to the contact details for the community relations team.
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>A feedback form will allow people to provide feedback on the proposals. This will be electronic and accessible via the website.</p> <p>The form will be available in hard copy on request, at in person consultation events and information points.</p> <p>Completed hard copies can be returned to the development team at consultation events or via Royal Mail – FREEPOST GREEN HILL SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required).</p>	<p>A feedback form was made available on the Scheme website from the start of statutory consultation on 7 November 2024. Feedback forms were also provided at consultation events and information points throughout the consultation period.</p> <p>Additional copies of the feedback form were distributed to stakeholders upon request.</p> <p>The project team continued to receive hard copies of completed feedback forms submitted via freepost throughout the statutory consultation period.</p>
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>The PEIR will describe the Scheme and contain a preliminary assessment of the potential significant environmental effects and the initial strategies to mitigate adverse effects.</p> <p>A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR can also be downloaded free of charge from the website, electronically at local information points and will be available in printed format to view at consultation events.</p>	<p>The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) provided a detailed description of the Scheme, including a preliminary assessment of potential significant environmental effects and initial strategies for mitigating adverse impacts. The PEIR was available on the Scheme website and at local information points.</p> <p>The findings were summarised in the NTS, which was made available for download from the Scheme website and could be viewed electronically at local information points. Reference copies of the NTS were available at in-person consultation events, and tablets were provided to allow digital copies to be viewed upon request.</p>
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>The exhibitions will contain exhibition boards to provide details of the Scheme as well as present maps of the proposed development. The exhibition boards will be available at consultation events and on the website.</p>	<p>Exhibition boards were displayed at each consultation event, and made available for download on the Scheme website. The boards contained the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and about Green Hill Solar Farm • About Island Green Power and the planning process • Vision for Green Hill Solar Farm • Location of Green Hill Solar Farm • Scheme update ('you said, we did') • Summaries of key PEIR topics • Transport and access maps • Approach to community benefits



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to have your say • Maps showing viewpoint locations. <p>In addition to the exhibition boards displayed, visualisations of the Scheme from a number of viewpoints were also presented at each event and made available online.</p>
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>This SoCC will be made available online throughout the consultation and free of charge in hard copy on request.</p> <p>A hard copy of the SoCC will also be available to inspect at each local information point once the s47 notice has been publicised.</p>	<p>The SoCC was available for download on the Scheme website throughout the consultation. Hard copies were also available at information points and at each of the consultation events listed above.</p> <p>Wellingborough Library did not initially receive a copy of the SoCC due to a distribution error. However, this was rectified on 28 November 2024 and a reference copy was issued and made available for inspection.</p>
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>Upon request, all documents will be available in alternative accessible formats, such as braille and large print.</p> <p>Requests for translated summary documents will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All requests should be made to the development team by email at info@greenhillsolar.co.uk or by phone – 0800 0129 882 (or at the consultation events).</p>	<p>No requests were made for documents to be provided in alternative formats, but arrangements had been made to facilitate this.</p> <p>The Applicant accepted two requests for the Indicative Masterplan to be provided in larger print format i.e. in A3 print.</p> <p>The Applicant did not receive any requests for consultation materials to be translated.</p>
7.4 (Table 1)	<p>Select consultation materials are available for no extra charge.</p>	<p>The information booklet, feedback form, and maps were made available free of charge. The project team received and fulfilled requests for these materials throughout the consultation period.</p>
Promotion of consultation		
7.5	<p>Statutory notices will be published in accordance with Section 48 of the Act. These notices will be published once in a national newspaper and the London Gazette and twice (across two successive weeks) in local circulating newspapers.</p>	<p>In accordance with S48, notices were published:</p> <p>Once in two national newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guardian • London Gazette. <p>Twice across two successive weeks in locally circulating newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northamptonshire Telegraph



	<p>Notices will also be sent to prescribed stakeholders and PILs as required by s42 of the Act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milton Keynes Citizen • Times and Citizen (Bedfordshire). <p>A distribution list was prepared, and notices were shared and tracked in accordance with s42 of the Act.</p>
7.5 (Table 2)	<p>A consultation newsletter, posted to all addresses in the PCZ, will provide an overview of the Scheme, the consultation, and how people can get involved.</p> <p>The newsletter will indicate where the other consultation documents can be accessed and publicise the consultation events, including locations, dates and timings.</p> <p>Copies of the newsletter will also be emailed electronically to key stakeholders.</p> <p>The newsletter will contain a QR code to direct people to the Scheme's website.</p>	<p>A newsletter was distributed to the PCZ and key stakeholders via email. Those who received the newsletter via email had previously shared their email address with us and requested that information be shared this way.</p> <p>The newsletter provided details of the Scheme and how to participate in the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The newsletter included locations, dates and times for all events and listed the locations of information points. A QR code was also included to direct stakeholders to the Scheme's website, where additional information could be found.</p>
7.5 (Table 2)	<p>Consultation leaflets will be posted electronically to key stakeholders, such as technical consultants, political leaders and community groups asking them to publicise the consultation within their networks via email.</p> <p>Printed copies of the leaflet will be available at local information points. We will also ask local information points if they can display a hard copy of the consultation leaflet on their notice boards, but this will be at their discretion.</p> <p>Hard copies of the leaflet will be distributed to residents and businesses within the PCZ approximately 3 weeks</p>	<p>A consultation leaflet, containing details of the consultation and ways to participate, was emailed to key stakeholders including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parish councils. • local community groups. • hard-to-reach groups. <p>An accompanying cover note requested that recipients publicise the leaflet via noticeboards or within their individual networks.</p> <p>The leaflet was delivered to residential and business properties within the new PCZ on 28 November. The leaflet contained information on how to take part in the consultation and Local Information Points.</p>



	<p>into the consultation period to boost engagement in the consultation.</p> <p>These leaflets will contain a QR code to direct people to the Scheme's website.</p>	<p>Hard copies of the consultation leaflet were provided to local information points, with a request that they display the leaflet alongside the other consultation materials on their notice boards.</p> <p>The consultation leaflet contained a QR code directing people to the Scheme website.</p>
7.5 (Table 2)	<p>One press release publicising the upcoming consultation and how the community and wider stakeholders can get involved will be issued ahead of the consultation.</p> <p>The press release will be released to national and regional newspapers 7 days in advance of the launch of the public consultation on 31 October.</p>	<p>To avoid repetition of the section notices, the press release was deferred by two days and issued to local press on 4 November 2024. The press release contained information on the Scheme, the consultation, and how to participate, was issued to the following local titles :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daventry Express• Northampton Chronicle & Echo• Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph• Milton Keynes Citizen• The Bucks Herald (MK). <p>No press release was issued to the national press, as a site notice was distributed to The Gazette and The Guardian.</p>
	<p>We will issue communications to key stakeholders, including local political representatives (Councillors and MPs) and parish council clerks representing wards, constituencies, and parishes within the PCZ to provide information about the proposals we are consulting on and invite them to take part in the consultation.</p>	<p>Key stakeholders were emailed an overview of the Scheme, an invitation to participate in the consultation, and details on how to contact the project team.</p>
Statutory notices		
7.6	<p>Statutory notices to publicise the consultation will be published, under the requirement set out in s48 of the Act:</p> <p>publicising the consultation—once in a national newspaper and twice (across two successive weeks) in local circulating newspapers.</p>	<p>In accordance with S48, notices were published:</p> <p>Once in two national Newspapers on 31 October 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Guardian• London Gazette. <p>Twice across two successive weeks in locally</p>



	<p>We will publicise the consultation in the following publications:</p> <p>National Newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guardian • London Gazette. <p>Local newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northamptonshire Telegraph • Milton Keynes Citizens • Times and Citizen (Bedfordshire). 	<p>circulating newspapers on 31 October and 7 November 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northamptonshire Telegraph • Milton Keynes Citizen • Times and Citizen (Bedfordshire).
'Seldom-heard' groups		
7.7 (Table 3)	<p>Older people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freepost and the freephone information line. • Providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as braille and large print (upon request). • Providing paper copies of materials at information point locations. • Face-to-face events at several locations, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses. 	<p>Freepost and a freephone information line were provided, and materials were made available in both digital and non-digital formats.</p> <p>While no requests were received for materials in alternative formats, these arrangements were in place throughout the consultation.</p> <p>Paper copies of materials were distributed to local information points, and face-to-face events were held with members of the project team available to assist attendees.</p>
7.7 (Table 3)	<p>People with visual impairments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as dementia-friendly, braille and large print (upon request). • Option to enlarge text on the website. • Freephone information line. • Face-to-face events at several locations, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses. 	<p>Materials were provided in both digital and non-digital formats, with alternative formats such as braille, large print, and dementia-friendly versions available upon request.</p> <p>While no requests were received for materials in alternative formats, these arrangements were in place throughout the consultation.</p> <p>The Scheme website included an option to enlarge text, and a freephone information line was provided.</p> <p>Face-to-face events were held at several locations, where members of the team were available to assist attendees.</p>



7.7 (Table 3)	<p>People with limited mobility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly mailing the consultation leaflet to all stakeholders within the PCZ and provide details of how to access paper copies of other consultation documents and provide feedback by online and by post. • Online engagement webinars to negate the need for travel to public events. • Freephone information line and freepost. 	<p>The consultation leaflet was directly mailed to all stakeholders within the PCZ and online engagement webinars were offered to negate the need for travel to public events.</p> <p>The venues for the consultation were selected based on their accessibility. The Applicant considered the availability of wheelchair access, parking for those who need to drive, and public transport for those unable to drive.</p> <p>A freephone information line and freepost service were made available throughout the consultation period.</p>
7.7 (Table 3)	<p>Geographically isolated individuals or communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly mailing the consultation leaflet to all stakeholders within the PCZ and providing details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post. • Advertising the availability of telephone callbacks for stakeholders with further questions or who would like to discuss the Scheme further with the development team. 	<p>The consultation leaflet was directly mailed to all stakeholders within the PCZ, providing details on how to access paper copies of other project documents. This included details of how to contact the project team and request materials to be sent via post.</p> <p>Stakeholders were also informed of the availability of telephone callbacks.</p>
	<p>People with hearing impairments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all stakeholders within the PCZ and providing details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post. • Online engagement through the consultation website. • Providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate 	<p>The consultation newsletter was directly mailed to all stakeholders within the PCZ.</p> <p>The Scheme website offered a digital platform for engagement, allowing individuals to access information on the Scheme and download copies of the consultation materials.</p> <p>Materials were also made available in both digital and non-digital formats, with arrangements in place to provide alternate formats such as braille and large print upon request.</p>



	<p>formats such as braille and large print (upon request).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automated subtitles will be available at webinars to ensure each session is accessible 	<p>The Livestorm platform enabled automated subtitles to be available for all webinar events.</p>
Enquiry channels		
7.8	<p>The following enquiry channels were available throughout the consultation for members of the community and other stakeholders to contact the development team, ask questions, request further information or request printed copies of consultation materials and documents.</p> <p>These communication channels continue to be active throughout the pre-application period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telephone: 0800 012 9882 from 9 am–5:30 pm weekdays (with an answerphone facility to take messages outside these hours). Email: Info@greenhillsolar.co.uk People can email 24 hours a day, with emails being monitored between 9 am and 5:30 pm weekdays. We will aim to acknowledge all emails received as soon as practicable and will endeavour to provide a substantive response within 10 working days of receipt. Post: FREEPOST GREEN HILL SOLAR FARM Should enquiries received via post require a response, this will be issued within 10 working days of receipt. Urgent enquiries should be directed to the Scheme’s email address or freephone line. 	<p>Enquiry channels were monitored throughout the consultation period and responses were issued to stakeholders where required.</p> <p>The project team provided substantive responses within 10 working days. In exceptional circumstances where this was not possible, stakeholders were notified and a holding response was sent.</p> <p>Responses to postal enquiries were issued within 10 working days and requests for printed copies of consultation materials and documents were fulfilled.</p>



Responding to consultation		
8.1	<p>Between 7 November 2024 and 19 December 2024, people will be able to submit their feedback relating to the Scheme. All responses must be received by 11:59 pm on the closing date.</p>	<p>Responses to the consultation were received between 7 November 2024 and 19 December 2024.</p> <p>Discretionary extensions were granted on a case-by-case basis to consultees contacted under s42 who expressed concerns about meeting the deadline of 11:59 pm on 19 December. A small number of new land interests were identified within the statutory consultation period; extensions to ensure that any new PIL had a minimum of 6 weeks to respond to consultation was provided when notifying these new PILs of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>An additional three-week period was allowed for postal feedback.</p>
8.1	<p>Responses received after that date may not be considered. We will allow an additional two-week period to receive responses via post.</p>	<p>Feedback received by post was accounted for during an additional three-week period following the close of the consultation.</p> <p>This extension was advertised on the website prior to the consultation deadline.</p>
8.1	<p>Consultation responses can be made in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completing the feedback form online, which can be accessed via the Scheme website: www.greenhillsolar.co.uk• Completing a printed feedback form, which can be collected from a consultation event or local information point, or on request by contacting the development team.• Completed forms can be handed to the development team at events, scanned and emailed back to info@greenhillsolar.co.uk, or sent to FREEPOST GREEN HILL	<p>Feedback channels remained open and were monitored throughout the consultation period.</p> <p>All feedback received through these channels has been noted and transcribed.</p> <p>The feedback received was provided to the design and environmental assessment team to be taken into consideration.</p>



	<p>SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emailing comments to info@greenhillsolar.co.uk.• Writing to us at FREEPOST GREEN HILL SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required).	
8.1	<p>In exceptional circumstances, we will take feedback over the phone, however this will need to be arranged in advance.</p>	<p>While no requests were made for feedback to be given over the phone, these arrangements were in place throughout the consultation.</p>
8.2	<p>We will have a record and regard to all comments received during the consultation.</p>	<p>All feedback received within the allotted consultation period is being carefully reviewed and taken into account..</p> <p>Further evidence of this process, including how comments have been considered, will be detailed in the forthcoming Consultation Report.</p>



5. Responses to statutory consultation

5.1 Feedback analysis

- 5.1.1** The Applicant is currently in the process of analysing all responses received as part of the statutory consultation and will produce a Consultation Report as part of the DCO application.
- 5.1.2** The report will be produced in accordance with s37(3)(c) of the Act and will evidence the consultation responses have been taken into account during the preparation of the application.
- 5.1.3** All the feedback received during the consultation period will be considered directly by the Applicant.
- 5.1.4** The feedback will be categorised into ‘issues’ to enable the Applicant to respond to the issues raised in the Consultation Report.

5.2 Response from host and neighbouring local councils

- 5.2.1** The Applicant is currently reviewing the responses from host and neighbouring councils. A brief summary of the responses from the local councils can be found in the table below:

Local Council	Summary of the response to the consultation
North Northamptonshire Council (NNC)	<p>NNC noted the proposals for the Scheme.</p> <p>NNC welcomed the proposed mitigation measures to reduce impact on residential areas/ villages.</p> <p>NNC requested the Applicant reconsider the land allocation within Green Hill E to reduce the proximity of solar arrays to residential areas and supports ongoing exploration of alternative layouts as the project progresses.</p> <p>NNC’s response to the technical assessments was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Socio-economics: NNC requests consideration of cable theft in consultation with Northamptonshire Police.○ Human Health: Request for clarity on about potential increases in CCTV and surveillance, and the cumulative impact on health should be continued to be considered. Measures to improve health and wellbeing and Increasing Public Rights of Way (PROW) Is supported.○ Arboriculture: Noted areas of arboricultural significance near sites and welcomed the approach in the PEIR and approach set out in the Outline Method Statement. NNC noted the proposals for additional planting across the scheme and that this will be in places within the Sites that support longevity of the planting.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Agricultural Impact: NNC suggests avoiding development on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land to minimize soil impact.○ Electromagnetic Fields: NNC supports further surveys on electromagnetic fields and conservative setback distances for cable design.○ Major Accidents: A further risk assessment is needed once the cable route is defined.○ Other Environmental Matters: Lighting and pipeline issues should be addressed in other chapters, with a focus on ecology and landscape.○ Cumulative Effects: NNC agrees with the methodology and ongoing discussions about cumulative impacts, with additional projects suggested for consideration.
West Northamptonshire Council (WNC)	<p>WNC responded to specific elements of the Scheme. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In a joint response with NNC, WNC commented on the Surface Water Drainage Assessment:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lack of Topography data–WNC requested topography plan.○ The drainage strategy does not provide enough information on how the water will be drained should the system, or part of it should fail. WNC and NNC requested clarity on the strategy for drainage without damage to residential properties and local biodiversity.○ WNC and NNC would like to see a WinDES modelling (or similar) that will simulate storms through the whole drainage system, with results of critical storms, demonstrating that there is no surcharge in the system for the 1 in 1 year, no above ground flooding for the 1 in 30 year, and that any above-ground flooding for 1 in 100 year storm is limited to areas designated and safe to flood, away from sensitive infrastructure or buildings.○ If discharge is to an ordinary watercourse, evidence will need to be provided to ensure that the system can accept the proposed flows to an acceptable downstream point without increasing risk to others.○ The drainage calculations will need to include an analysis of the effects on the drainage system if the outfall is likely to be surcharged during flooding events



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noise and Vibration—Concerns regarding the level of noise during the nighttime, and requested clarity on the noise modelling survey. WNC will seek to place conditions on the:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Site working hours including construction.○ Construction Management Plan (CMP) to include noise, dust and mud control.○ No burning during site preparation, demolition or construction works.○ Noise assessment and reduction.• Archaeology: WNC made the following comments:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Assessments of the archaeological assets and historic landscape character and advised a full assessment of potential setting issues is undertaken, and the results included in a Heritage Statement that will inform the Cultural Heritage chapter of the ES, and is used to develop the mitigation strategies.○ WNC are satisfied that the designated heritage assets within the WNC area that are likely to be affected by the proposals have been scoped in the Green Hill Solar Farm Heritage Scoping Tables.○ Only one of the 3 listed buildings in the group of The Old Rectory (1075355), Rectory Farmhouse (1025896) and The Old Farmhouse and Attached Stables (1534758) is scoped in for further assessment, for the area of Overstone. These assets have group value so the assessment needs to consider them all, and their associated outbuildings, site layouts and wider agricultural setting, which form part of their significance. WNC officer have requested an assessment of cumulative impact with other new development in the immediate area to be carried out.○ The scoping tables include non-designated heritage assets for the WNC area—these are archaeological assets that are recorded in the HER. WNC officers have assessed it against its own Local List of non-designated heritage assets and have not identified any that are likely to be affected.○ The proposed layouts also include areas of ‘ecological mitigation/agricultural land’ at sensitive edges provide an opportunity for enhanced landscaping and additional screening (e.g. field AF21at the north-east corner of Site A, which is the closest to the grade II listed White Lodge Farm). Proper regard should be had to the impact of loss of screening as a result of removing sections of
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	<p>established hedgerow to create new or widen existing site accesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Highways Authority within WNC made the following observations and comments:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The impact of the construction in the local area, particularly on the local traffic. This will need to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and a Transport Assessment (TA) and Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be provided later with further detail.○ The citing of suitable access arrangements for each of the individual sites should be based on; road safety considerations (e.g. provision of suitable visibility splays, vehicle flows and speeds, vehicle swept path analysis and road geometry) and operational considerations (e.g. construction and operational periods, type of vehicles, frequency, service / delivery routes, avoidance of sensitive areas).○ Detailed site access plans should be provided, showing boundaries and ensuring visibility splays meet current standards. The access routes should accommodate both construction and operational vehicles, and vehicle swept path analysis may be necessary.○ Various public rights of way (PROW) could be impacted by the proposals, thus it would need to consider potential impacts on active travel modes / crossings / connections.○ For cable route construction within the public highway, a Section 50 licence is required, along with coordination with the New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA) team.
Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC)	<p>A brief summary of the response from MKCC.</p> <p>The response specific to Green Hill G includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate Change : MKCC suggests using the Climate Change Risk Assessment from the Carbon and Climate Study for the Draft Milton Keynes City Plan 2050 Evidence Base. They also recommend the developer create a Site Waste Management Plan and use modular construction methods to minimize waste.• Landscape and Visual: The site impinges on the Ouse Valley Special Landscape Area, which is identified in the Draft Milton



	<p>Keynes City Plan 2050, evidence base, which is yet to be adopted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ecology and Biodiversity: The assessment should consider nearby Biological Notification Sites and Milton Keynes Wildlife Corridors. An initial Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment should be provided, and the 10% target should be clarified. Monitoring of bat activity during operations is recommended, along with restrictions on use of machinery for badger setts. Early engagement with District Licence Officers for Great Crested Newts is advised.• Hydrology, Flood Risk, and Drainage: Measures should manage surface water runoff, especially in Lavendon, and comply with Plan:MK policy requiring a 9m buffer to watercourses.• Cultural Heritage: MK policy reference needs to be updated to Plan: MK 2016-2031.• Transport and Access: MKCC recommends that the transport consultant provide a scoping note for the Transport Assessment and consider a permissive route to link FP5 and BW2.• Cumulative Impacts: No significant cumulative impacts from other permissions or applications in MKCC.
Bedford Borough Council (BBC)	<p>A brief summary of the response from BBC includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning Performance Agreement (PPA): BBC acknowledges that they may need to hire external consultants to respond to the technical PEIR due to a lack of in-house expertise, but discussions have not yet occurred with the Promotor.• Chapter 3: BBC suggests updating certain sections to align with guidance from the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), Ramsar Guidance, and Natural England's Impact Risk Zones. The location of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) should be specified as it is in a functional flood zone of the Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).• Chapter 4: BBC has concerns about the proposed permissive paths, decommissioning plans, and landscape impacts across the 60 year development. They also raise issues with the cable corridor's width, the protection of hedgerows, and site access. The operational phase should consider BESS and solar panel replacement impacts.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 5: BBC requests evidence of how sites were assessed for their national and international landscape designations.• Chapter 6: BBC recommends referencing additional guidance, including National Policy Statements And Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 for electrical networks and fire safety regulations for grid-scale battery energy storage.• PRow (Public Rights of Way): BBC requests a condition survey, confirmation of legal permissive rights for new routes, and details of how the routes will be managed and maintained. They also highlight the need for temporary closures during construction and for the paths to be multi-use and suitable for walkers, cyclists, and equestrians.• Cumulative Effects: BBC notes two other projects, Lime Kiln and Bottom Railway, that may be relevant to cumulative effects, with Scoping Opinions already issued for both.
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6. Next Steps

- 6.1.1** The Applicant is currently considering the responses from local councils as part of the ongoing design process and assessing how potential impacts of the Scheme can be avoided, managed or mitigated and how this mitigation should be secured through requirements in the DCO application that is submitted, while taking onboard suggestions where possible and appropriate.
- 6.1.2** All feedback submitted during the statutory consultation will be responded to within the Consultation Report and included within the document with all personal details redacted. We will take reasonable care to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Policy.



7. Appendices

Appendix 1–Full list of stakeholders

North Northampton Council

- Leader of the Council
- Vice-Chair
- Executive Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Assets
- Executive Portfolio Holder for Growth & Regeneration
- Executive Portfolio Holder for Climate & Green Environment
- Ward councillors from
 - Earls Barton
 - Brickhill and Queensway
 - Hatton Park
 - Croyland and Swanspool
 - Irchester
 - Burton and Broughton
 - Finedon
 - Rothwell and Mawsley

West Northamptonshire Council

- Leader of the Council
- Deputy Leader of the Council
- Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure
- Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste
- Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, built Environment and Rural Affairs
- Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth
- Ward councillors from
 - Moulton
 - Long Buckby
 - Hackleton and Grange Park
 - Riverside Park
 - Billing and Rectory Farm
 - Talavera
 - Boothville and Parklands
 - Kingsthorpe South
 - Kingsthorpe North
 - Dallington Spencer
 - Duston West and St Crispin
 - Bugbrooke
 - Brixworth

Milton Keynes City Council

- Leader of the Council (includes Planning)
- Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Labour and Cooperative Party)
- Cabinet member for Economy, Sustainability and Innovation (includes Climate Change)
- Cabinet Member for Public Realm (includes Highways)
- Ward councillors from:
 - Olney
 - Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope
 - Newport Pagnell South



- Broughton
- Stantonbury

Bedford Borough Council

- Ward councillors from:
 - Harrold
 - Sharnbrook
 - Bromham

Parish Councils

- Bozeat Parish Council
- Brixworth Parish Council
- Broughton Parish Council
- Castle Ashby Parish Council
- Cogenhoe and Whiston
- Earls Barton Parish Council
- Easton Maudit Parish Council
- Ecton Parish Council
- Great Cransley Parish Council
- Great Doddington Parish Council
- Grendon Parish Council
- Hannington Parish Council
- Hardwick Parish Council
- Holcot Parish Council
- Lamport and Hanging Houghton Parish Council
- Little Harrowden Parish Council
- Loddington Parish Council
- Mawsley Parish Council
- Mears Ashby Parish Council
- Moulton Parish Council
- Northampton Town Council
- Old Parish Council
- Orlingbury Parish Council
- Overstone Parish Council
- Pytchley Parish Council
- Scadwell Parish Council
- Strixton Parish Council
- Sywell Parish Council
- Walgrave Parish Council
- Wellingborough Town Council
- Wilby Parish Council
- Wollaston Parish Council
- Yardley Hastings Parish Council

Technical stakeholders

- British International Freight Association
- English Heritage
- Historic England



- Logistics UK
- Natural England
- North Northampton Council Planning Officers
- West Northampton Council Planning Officers
- Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants

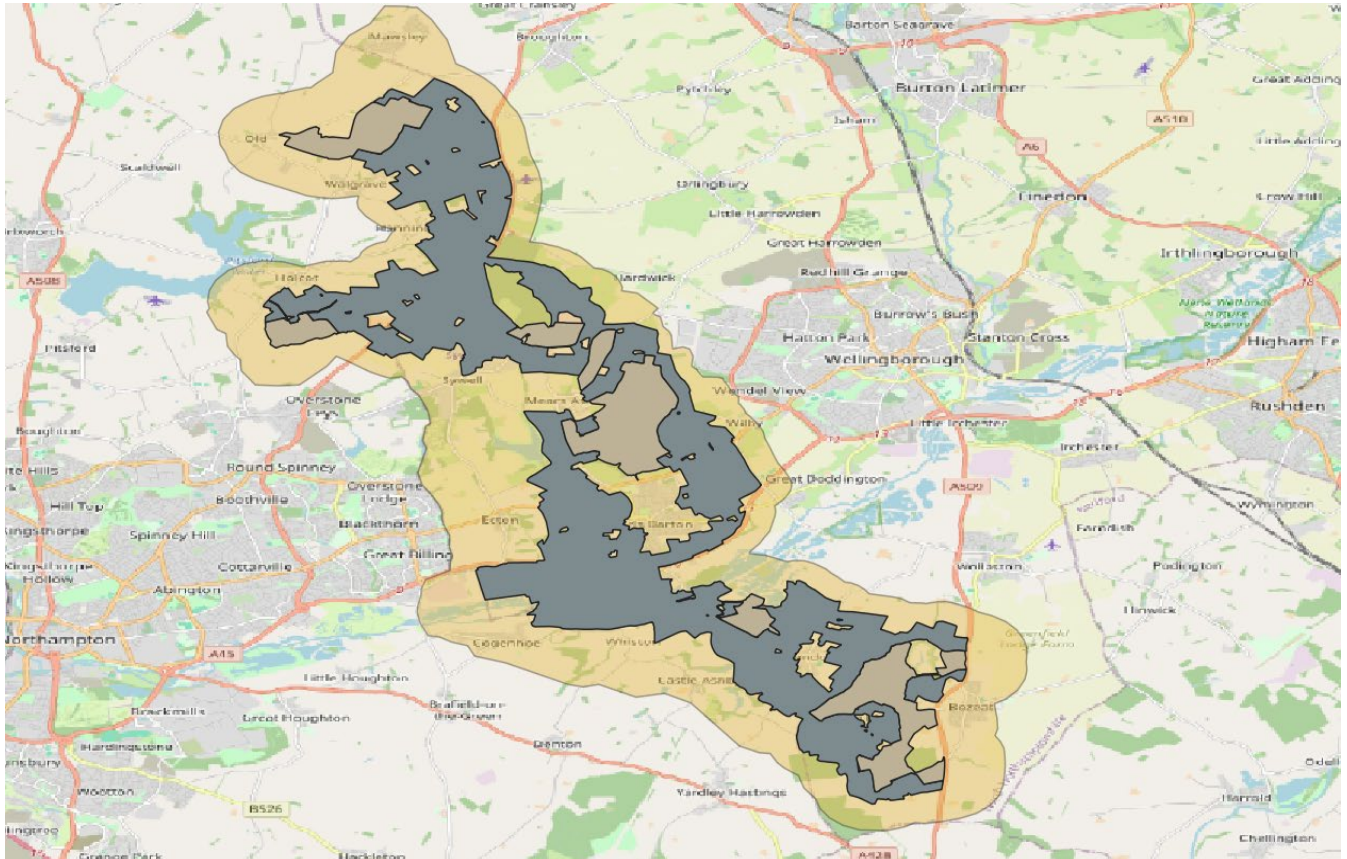
Community Groups

- Age UK Northamptonshire
- Animals – Wellingborough Eco Group
- Brixworth Community Church
- Brixworth Community Larder
- Brixworth History Society
- Brixworth Wombles
- Clean Walgrave
- Climate Action – West Northamptonshire
- Eastern District North Social Club
- Friends of Northants Green Activism
- Great Doddington Working Men’s Club
- Hardy Plant Society Northamptonshire Group
- Helping Hands – Wellingborough
- Holcot and Walgrave Scouts
- Lakeside Club
- Mears Ashby Cricket Club
- Mind Northamptonshire
- Moulton Club
- Nene Valley Bat Group
- Northampton Young Farmers Club
- Northamptonshire ACRE
- Rectory Farm Residents’ Association
- St James Working Mens Club
- Staunch
- Walgrave Neighbourhood Watch
- Walgrave Women’s Institute
- Wellingborough Black Consortium
- Wellingborough Climate Action Project
- Wellingborough LGBT Group
- Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants
- Young Peoples Trust for the Environment



Appendix 2–Primary Consultation Zone in June 2024

The PCZ below covers circa 8,000 residential and business addresses.





Appendix 3–Introductory Newsletter–June 2024





GREEN HILL
SOLAR FARM

Green Hill Solar Farm

Newsletter

Island Green Power is bringing forward proposed plans for a solar farm and battery storage on land located in Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes.

If approved, Green Hill Solar Farm would generate a power output of up to 500 MW megawatts (MW), providing a substantial source of electricity for the country. The energy storage element of the scheme will help store surplus renewable generation and then supply it to the national grid when it is needed.

As the proposed generation capacity exceeds 50 MW, the project will be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

The planning process

The planning process for NSIPs comes under the Planning Act 2008 and requires us to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO). The Green Hill Solar Farm DCO application would be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) – the independent body responsible. A recommendation is then made to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) on whether or not to approve. The Secretary of State makes the final decision on a DCO application.

About Island Green Power

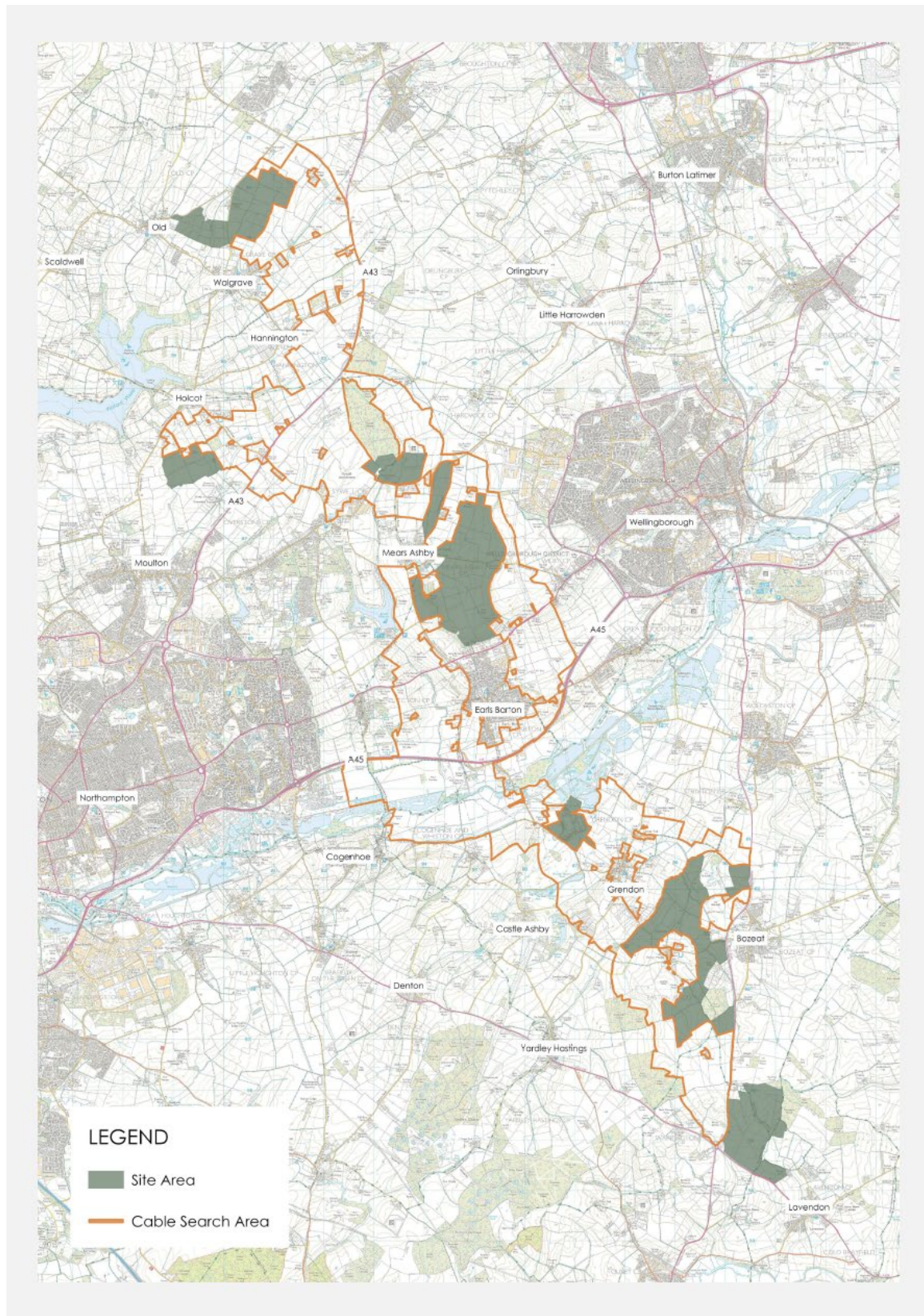
Island Green Power is a leading international renewable energy developer of solar and battery storage projects. Established in 2013, Island Green Power specialise in the development of utility-scale solar projects and battery storage systems with operations across the UK, Spain, Italy, Australia and New Zealand.

Our mission is to help countries increase their solar energy usage, making more renewable energy possible whilst drastically reducing carbon emissions.

Engagement so far

So far as part of the early-stage engagement for the project, we held a number of meetings and workshops in the local area. These included with local political representatives, groups from the local community and technical experts, for example from the local authority.

The workshops provided the opportunity for our team to introduce the early-stage plans and explain more about our proposals. Engagement during the workshops also helped to shape the project at this early stage and allow attendees to discuss in detail a number of key topics and design aspects of our plans.





How to get in contact with us

We want to hear from you. We will do our best to answer any questions you may have about the proposals at this stage, or to provide you with any further assistance you need.

There are number of ways you can get in touch:

✉ Email: info@greenhillsolar.co.uk

☎ Call: **08000129882**

You can also visit our website www.greenhillsolar.co.uk to find out more.



Appendix 4–Section 48 notices

London Gazette, page 1

ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

midnight on **28 November 2024**. Any person submitting any correspondence is advised that your personal data and correspondence will be passed to the applicant/agent to be considered. If you do not wish your personal data to be forwarded, please state your reasons when submitting your correspondence.
N Crass, Casework Manager (4741893)

DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of the proposal to make an Order under section 247 of the above Act to authorise the stopping up and diversion of a length of footpath No. 010/54/20 as lies of Parsonage Way at Leigh, in the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan.
If made, the Order would authorise the stopping up only to enable development to be carried out should planning permission be granted by Wigan Council. The Secretary of State gives notice of the draft Order under Section 253 (1) of the Act.
Copies of the draft Order and relevant plan will be available for inspection during normal opening hours at Leigh Town Hall, Market Street, Leigh, WN7 1DY in the 28 days commencing on 31 October 2024, and may be obtained, free of charge, from the addresses stated below quoting NATTRAN/NW/S247/5878.
Any person may object to the making of the proposed order by stating their reasons in writing to the Secretary of State at nationalcasework@dft.gov.uk or National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR, quoting the above reference. Objections should be received by midnight on **28 November 2024**. Any person submitting any correspondence is advised that your personal data and correspondence will be passed to the applicant/agent to be considered. If you do not wish your personal data to be forwarded, please state your reasons when submitting your correspondence.
N Crass, Casework Manager (4741895)

SECTION 48 PLANNING ACT 2008 REGULATION 4 OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009.

Notice publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") to construct, operate, maintain and decommission a solar photovoltaic (PV) generating station, with a generating capacity of more than 50MW and associated infrastructure on land in Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes (Green Hill Solar Farm).

1. Notice is hereby given that Green Hill Solar Farm Limited (Company registration number 13362789) of Unit 25.7 Coda Studios, 189 Munster Road, London, England SW6 6AW (the Applicant), proposes to apply to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for a Development Consent Order for the Green Hill Solar Farm (the Application).

2. The Green Hill Solar Farm will cover a combined area of approximately 1,200 hectares and will consist of the following sites:
a. Green Hill A, A.2, B, C, D, E, F, G, and Green Hill BESS: eight solar array sites and a dedicated battery energy storage system site, located between Northampton, Wellingborough and Milton Keynes. The solar array sites will include solar panels, conversion units, inverters, and 132kV substations in Green Hill A, B, E, F and G and two 400kV substations in Green Hill C and Green Hill BESS.

b. A battery energy storage system located within Green Hill BESS. A second location for energy storage is also being considered at Green Hill C.

c. A cable route search area has been identified for the underground electricity cables connecting the Green Hill sites, substations and the energy storage system to the National Grid substation at Grendon; and

d. Associated infrastructure, mitigation and enhancement measures, and other ancillary works, for example, fencing, security, local grid connections, temporary access roads, permanent means of access, highway works, temporary works compounds and work sites.

3. The sites are located across several parishes and administrative areas:

• Green Hill A and A.2 are located in the parishes of Old and Walgrave and in the administrative area of West Northamptonshire, approximately 600m south of Walgrave.

• Green Hill B is located within the parish of Holcot and in the administrative area of West Northamptonshire, approximately 1.2km north of Moulton.

• Green Hill C is located within parishes of Sywell and Mears Ashby and in the administrative area of North Northamptonshire, approximately 2km west of Wellingborough.

• Green Hill D is located within the parish of Mears Ashby and in the administrative area of North Northamptonshire, approximately 2km west of Wellingborough.

• Green Hill E is located within the parishes of Mears Ashby and Wilby in the administrative area of North Northamptonshire, approximately 500m north of Earls Barton.

• Green Hill F is located within the parishes of Easton Mauduit and Bozeat in the administrative area of North Northamptonshire, approximately 300m west of the village of Bozeat.

• Green Hill G is located within the parishes of Warrington and Lavendon in the administrative area of Milton Keynes, approximately 600m north of Lavendon.

• Green Hill BESS is located within the parish of Grendon and in the administrative area of North Northamptonshire, approximately 600m north of Grendon.

4. The proposed DCO will, among other things, authorise:

• Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the solar PV electricity generating station and associated development including grid connection and energy storage facility;

• Compulsory acquisition of land, including interests in land, rights over land and imposition of restrictions, powers to override, suspend or extinguish rights over land and powers for the temporary use of land;

• The application, modification and/or disapplication of legislation including legislation relating to compulsory purchase and landlord and tenant; and

• Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licenses, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

5. Green Hill Solar Farm is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the proposed works involved constitute development for which an EIA is required and the proposed application for a DCO will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement. The Environmental Statement will provide a detailed description of the Green Hill Solar Farm and its likely significant environmental impacts. Information compiled so far about the Green Hill Solar Farm's likely significant environmental effects is set out for consultation in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (the PEIR) and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary.

Statutory consultation

6. The Applicant is undertaking a statutory consultation on the proposals for the Green Hill Solar Farm between **Thursday 7 November 2024 and Thursday 19 December 2024**.

7. A copy of the PEIR, together with a Non-Technical Summary, our Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), and other consultation documents, plans and maps explaining our consultation process and details of the nature and location of the Green Hill Solar Farm can be found on the Applicant's website in the documents library at www.greenhillsolar.co.uk. These documents will be free to read, download and print from 7 November 2024 until 19 December 2024.

8. Hard copies of the PEIR and Non-Technical Summary will be available for inspection from 7 November 2024 until 19 December 2024 at the following information points. Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet and the Consultation Feedback Form will be available to take away free of charge. We recommend contacting the venues to check the opening times prior to visiting.

Moulton Community Library

Moulton Community Centre,

Sandy Hill, Reedings, Moulton,

Northamptonshire, NN3 7AX

Monday – Saturday 9:00am –

5:00pm Sunday 9:00am –

4:00pm (self-service only)

Rothwell Community Library

Market Hill, Rothwell NN14 6EP

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

and Saturday – 10:00am –

4:00pm



London Gazette, page 2

ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

9. Electronic copies of the PEIR and Non-Technical Summary may be viewed on a computer at the following information points from 7 November 2024 until 19 December 2024. While access to computers at these information points is free, a membership for the library may be required. Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet and the Consultation Feedback Form will be available to take away free of charge. We recommend contacting the venues to check the opening times and membership requirements prior to visiting.

Brixworth Library

Spratton Road, Brixworth,
Northampton,
NN6 9DS

Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm

Earls Barton Community Library

27 Broad Street, Earls Barton,
Northampton NN6 0ND

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – 2:00pm – 5:00pm
Wednesday – 10:00am – 1:00pm

Duston Library

Duston Community Centre,
Pendle Road, Northampton
NN5 6DT

Monday – Friday – 9:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday – 10:00am – 2:00pm

Milton Keynes Library

555 Silbury Boulevard, Milton
Keynes MK9 3HL

Monday – Friday – 9 am – 6 pm,
Saturday – 9 am – 5 pm

10. Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet and the Consultation Feedback Form will also be available to take away free of charge from **Wellingborough Library**, 7 Pebble Lane, Wellingborough NN8 1AS (Monday - Friday 9 am - 6 pm, Saturday 9 am - 5 pm). We recommend contacting the venue to check the opening times prior to visiting.

11. The Applicant will host consultation events to provide opportunities to view the relevant consultation documentation and speak with members of the project team. The details of the consultation events are as follows:

Venue	Date and Time
Grendon Village Hall Main Road, Grendon, Northampton, NN7 1JW	Monday 18 November 2024 2:00pm – 7pm
Webinar Online or via telephone	Wednesday 20th November 2024 6:00pm – 7:00pm
Lavendon Village Hall 22 High Street, Lavendon, Bucks, MK46 4HA	Saturday 23rd November 2024 12:00pm – 5:00pm
Webinar Online or via telephone	Tuesday 26th November 2024 6:00pm – 7:00pm
Swanspool Pavilion Swanspool Parade, Wellingborough, NN8 9SR	Wednesday 27th November 2024 2:00pm – 7pm
Webinar Online or via telephone	Wednesday 4th December 2024 12:30pm – 1:30pm
Walgrave Village Hall 1 Newland Road, Walgrave, Northampton, NN6 9PZ	Saturday 7th December 2024 12am – 5:00pm

12. These consultation events offer an opportunity to find out more about the Green Hill Solar Farm. Attendees do not need to register in advance to attend an in-person consultation event. A link to the webinars will be available on the project website. Attendees will need to register in advance to attend a webinar either online or via telephone via the link on the project website.

13. For further information or queries, please call 0800 012 9882 (free of charge); write to FREEPOST GREEN HILL SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required); email info@greenhillsolar.co.uk or visit www.greenhillsolar.co.uk.

To obtain hard copies of the consultation documents

14. A hard copy of the PEIR can be printed and delivered at a cost of £750 per copy. All other consultation documents can be made available in hard copy, large print, audio or braille format, free of charge upon request to the Applicant on 0800 012 9882 (free of charge) or by email at info@greenhillsolar.co.uk. Requests for translated documents will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Have your say

15. Feedback can be provided through the consultation feedback form on the Applicant's website at www.greenhillsolar.co.uk. Hardcopy feedback forms will also be available at the information points listed above and at the in person consultation events.

16. The consultation feedback form, responses to or other representation in respect of the Green Hill Solar Farm can also be sent to the Applicant by email to info@greenhillsolar.co.uk or by post to FREEPOST GREEN HILL SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required).

17. Any response or representation in respect of the proposed DCO must be received by the Applicant on or before **11.59PM on Thursday 19 December 2024**.

The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses to consultation and publicity when developing its DCO application. Individual responses may be made publicly available, or made available to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities, in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and data protection legislation. Respondents do not have to provide any personal information, but this information will help the Applicant to understand the range of responses and enable the Applicant to send you further information relating to the Green Hill Solar Farm. Personal information will be kept confidential where possible. Please refer to our Privacy Notice for more details: https://greenhillsolar.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Privacy-Notice_StatCon151482463.1.pdf (4737044)

Property & land

PROPERTY DISCLAIMERS

NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER UNDER SECTION 1013 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

DISCLAIMER OF WHOLE OF THE PROPERTY

T S ref: BV22419386/1/BA

1 In this notice the following shall apply:

Company Name: **LANMIRE PROPERTIES LIMITED**

Company Number: 107418C

Interest: leasehold

Title number: NGL844497

Property: The Property situated at Premises at St Martin's Tavern, 35 Pratt Street, London (NW1 0BG) being the land comprised in the above mentioned title

Treasury Solicitor: The Solicitor for the Affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury of 1 Ruskin Square, Croydon CR0 2WF (DX 325801 Croydon 51).

2 In pursuance of the powers granted by Section 1013 of the Companies Act 2006, the Treasury Solicitor as nominee for the Crown (in whom the property and rights of the Company vested when the Company was dissolved) hereby disclaims the Crown's title (if any) in the property, the vesting of the property having come to his notice on 10 October 2024.

Assistant Treasury Solicitor

28 October 2024

(4737551)

Roads & highways

ROAD RESTRICTIONS

**LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET
THE BARNET (FREE PARKING PLACES, LOADING PLACES,
WAITING, LOADING AND STOPPING RESTRICTIONS)
(AMENDMENT NO. 256) ORDER 2024**

THE BARNET (CHARGED-FOR PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO.164) ORDER 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Barnet have made on the 31st October 2024 the above-mentioned Orders under Sections 6, 45, 46, 49 and 124 of and Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all other enabling powers.



ADVERTISEMENT

SECTION 48 PLANNING ACT 2008

Regulation 4 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

Notice publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") to construct, operate, maintain and decommission a solar photovoltaic (PV) generating station, with a generating capacity of more than 50MW and associated infrastructure on land in Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes (Green Hill Solar Farm).

1. Notice is hereby given that Green Hill Solar Farm Limited (Company registration number 13362769) of Unit 25.7 Coda Studios, 189 Munster Road, London, England SW6 6AW (the Applicant), proposes to apply to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for a Development Consent Order for the Green Hill Solar Farm (the Application).
2. The Green Hill Solar Farm will cover a combined area of approximately 1200 hectares and will consist of the following sites:
 - a. Green Hill A, A.2, B, C, D, E, F, G, and Green Hill BESS: eight solar array sites and a dedicated battery energy storage system site, located between Northampton, Wellingborough and Milton Keynes. The solar array sites will include solar panels, conversion units, inverters, and 132kV substations in Green Hill A, B, E, F, and G and two 400kV substations in Green Hill C and Green Hill BESS.
 - b. A battery storage system located within Green Hill BESS. A second location for energy storage is also being considered at Green Hill C.
 - c. A cable route search area has been identified for the underground electricity cables connecting the Green Hill sites, substations and the energy storage system to the National Grid substation at Grendon; and
 - d. Associated infrastructure, mitigation and enhancement measures, and other ancillary works, for example, fencing, security, local grid connections, temporary access roads, permanent means of access, highway works, temporary works compounds and work sites.
3. The sites are located across several parishes and administrative areas:
 - Green Hill A and A.2 are located in the parishes of Old and Welgrave and in the administrative area of West Northamptonshire, approximately 600m south of Welgrave.
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4. The proposed DCO will, among other things, authorise:
 - Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the solar PV electricity generating station and associated development including grid connection and energy storage facility;
 - Compulsory acquisition of land, including interests in land, rights over land and imposition of restrictions, powers to override, suspend or extinguish rights over land and powers for the temporary use of land;
 - The application, modification and/or discontinuation of legislation relating to compulsory purchase and landlord and tenant; and
 - Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licenses, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.
5. Green Hill Solar Farm is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the proposed works involved constitute development for which an EIA is required and the proposed application for a DCO will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement. The Environmental Statement will provide a detailed description of the Green Hill Solar Farm and its likely significant environmental impacts. Information compiled so far about the Green Hill Solar Farm's likely significant environmental effects is set out for consultation in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (the PEIR) and summarised in a Non-Technical Summary.

Statutory consultation

6. The Applicant is undertaking a statutory consultation on the proposals for the Green Hill Solar Farm between **Thursday 7 November 2024 and Thursday 19 December 2024**. A copy of the PEIR, together with a Non-Technical Summary, our Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), and other consultation documents, plans and maps explaining our consultation process and details of the nature and location of the Green Hill Solar Farm can be found on the Applicant's website in the documents library at www.greenhillsolar.co.uk. These documents will be free to read, download and print from 7 November 2024 until 19 December 2024.
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Moulton Community Library

Moulton Community Centre, Sandy Hill, Readings, Moulton, Northamptonshire, NN3 7AX
Monday – Saturday 9:00am – 5:00pm Sunday 9:00am – 4:00pm (self-service only)

Rothwell Community Library

Market Hill, Rothwell NN14 6EP
Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday – 10:00am – 4:00pm

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Northants Telegraph

1 Kettering

URN: NMC6332608 Date: 2024-11-07 Section: ROP
Advertiser: Copper Consultancy Ltd Page: 65/80



Thursday, November 7, 2024 northants Telegraph.co.uk

NORTHANTS TELEGRAPH

65

PLANNING NOTICES

SECTION 48 PLANNING ACT 2008	
Regulation 4 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.	
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MK Citizen

MK Citizen PAID

URN: NMC6332608 Date: 2024-10-31 Section: ROP
Advertiser: Copper Consultancy Ltd Page: 41/48



Thursday, October 31, 2024 miltonkeynes.co.uk

MKCITIZENEXTRA

41

PLANNING NOTICES

SECTION 48 PLANNING ACT 2008

Regulation 4 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

Notice publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") to construct, operate, maintain and decommission a solar photovoltaic (PV) generating station, with a generating capacity of more than 50MW and associated infrastructure on land in Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes (Green Hill Solar Farm).

1. Notice is hereby given that Green Hill Solar Farm Limited (Company registration number 13362769) of Unit 25.7 Coda Studios, 189 Munster Road, London, England SW6 6AW (the Applicant), proposes to apply to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and NetZero under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for a Development Consent Order for the Green Hill Solar Farm (the Application).

2. The Green Hill Solar Farm will cover a combined area of approximately 1,200 hectares and will consist of the following sites:

a. Green Hill A, A.2, B, C, D, E, F, G, and Green Hill BESS: eight solar array sites and a dedicated battery energy storage system site, located between Northampton, Wellingborough and Milton Keynes. The solar array sites will include solar panels, conversion units, inverters, and 132kV substations in Green Hill A, B, E, F and G and two 400kV substations in Green Hill C and Green Hill BESS.

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VIEW PROPERTY EVERY WEEK

IN PAPER AND ONLINE



Bedfordshire Times and Citizen

Bedfordshire Times&Citizen

URN: NMC6332608 Date: 2024-10-31 Section: ROP
Advertiser: Copper Consultancy Ltd Page: 28/32



28 | BEDFORDSHIRE TIMES & CITIZEN
PLANNING NOTICES

bedfordtoday.co.uk Thursday October 31, 2024

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Appendix 5—Request for consultation leaflet to be displayed at parishes

From: Green Hill Solar <info@greenhillsolar.co.uk>

Sent: 19 November 2024 16:59

To: Green Hill Solar <info@greenhillsolar.co.uk>

Subject: Displaying leaflet in noticeboard

Good afternoon,

We had our first exhibition session yesterday and we have been asked to display this leaflet in parish noticeboards, where possible. Would be able to print the following and display it on your noticeboard to keep residents aware of the upcoming events? Please let us know if not possible.

<https://greenhillsolar.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/consultation-documents/Consultation%20Leaflet.pdf>

Kind regards,

Green Hill Solar Farm - Community Relations



Appendix 6-Section 42 Consultees–November 2024

- Advanced Electricity Networks Ltd
- Aidien Ltd
- Anglian Water
- Aurora Utilities Ltd
- Bedford Borough Council
- Bedford Borough Council
- Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife Trust
- Billing Parish Council
- Boughton Parish Council
- Bozeat Parish Council
- Brafield on the Green Parish Council
- Brixworth Parish Council
- Broughton Parish Council
- Buckinghamshire CC
- Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Cadent Gas Limited
- Carlton with Chellington Parish Council
- Castle Ashby Parish Council
- Central Bedfordshire
- Cherwell
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Clifton Reynes and Newton Blossomville Parish Council
- CNG Services Ltd
- Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council
- Consultee
- Consultee
- Denton Parish Council
- Duston Parish Council
- Earls Barton Parish Council
- East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- Easton Maudit Airfield
- Eclipse Power Network Limited
- Ecton Parish Council
- Energy Assets Networks Limited
- Energy Assets Pipelines Limited
- ES Pipelines Ltd
- ESP Connections Ltd
- ESP Electricity Limited
- ESP Networks Ltd
- ESP Pipelines Ltd
- Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council
- Finedon Town Council



- Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
- Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
- Great Cransley Parish Council
- Great Doddington Parish Council
- Great Harrowden Parish Council
- Great Houghton Parish Council
- Grendon Parish Council
- GTC Pipelines Limited
- Hackleton Parish Council
- Hannington Parish Council
- Harborough
- Hardingstone Parish Council
- Hardwick Parish Council
- Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited
- Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
- Harlestone Manor Parish Council
- Harlestone Parish Council
- Harrold Parish Council
- Health and Safety Executive
- Historic England
- Holcot Parish Council
- Hold Farm Airfield
- Homes England
- Hunsbury Meadows Parish Council
- Huntingdonshire
- Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Ltd
- Independent Pipelines Limited
- Independent Power Networks Limited
- Indigo Pipelines Limited
- Indigo Power Limited
- Inovyn Enterprises Ltd
- Irchester Parish Council
- Irthlingborough Town Council
- Kingsthorpe Parish Council
- Lamport and Hanging Houghton Parish Council
- Last Mile Electricity Ltd
- Last Mile Gas Ltd
- Lavendon Parish Council
- Leep Electricity Networks Limited
- Leep Gas Networks Limited
- Little Harrowden Parish Council
- Little Houghton Parish Council
- Loddington Parish Council
- Mawsley Parish Council
- Mears Ashby Parish Council
- Milton Keynes City Council
- Milton Keynes City Council
- Moulton Parish Council
- Mua Electricity Limited
- Mua Gas Limited
- National Gas



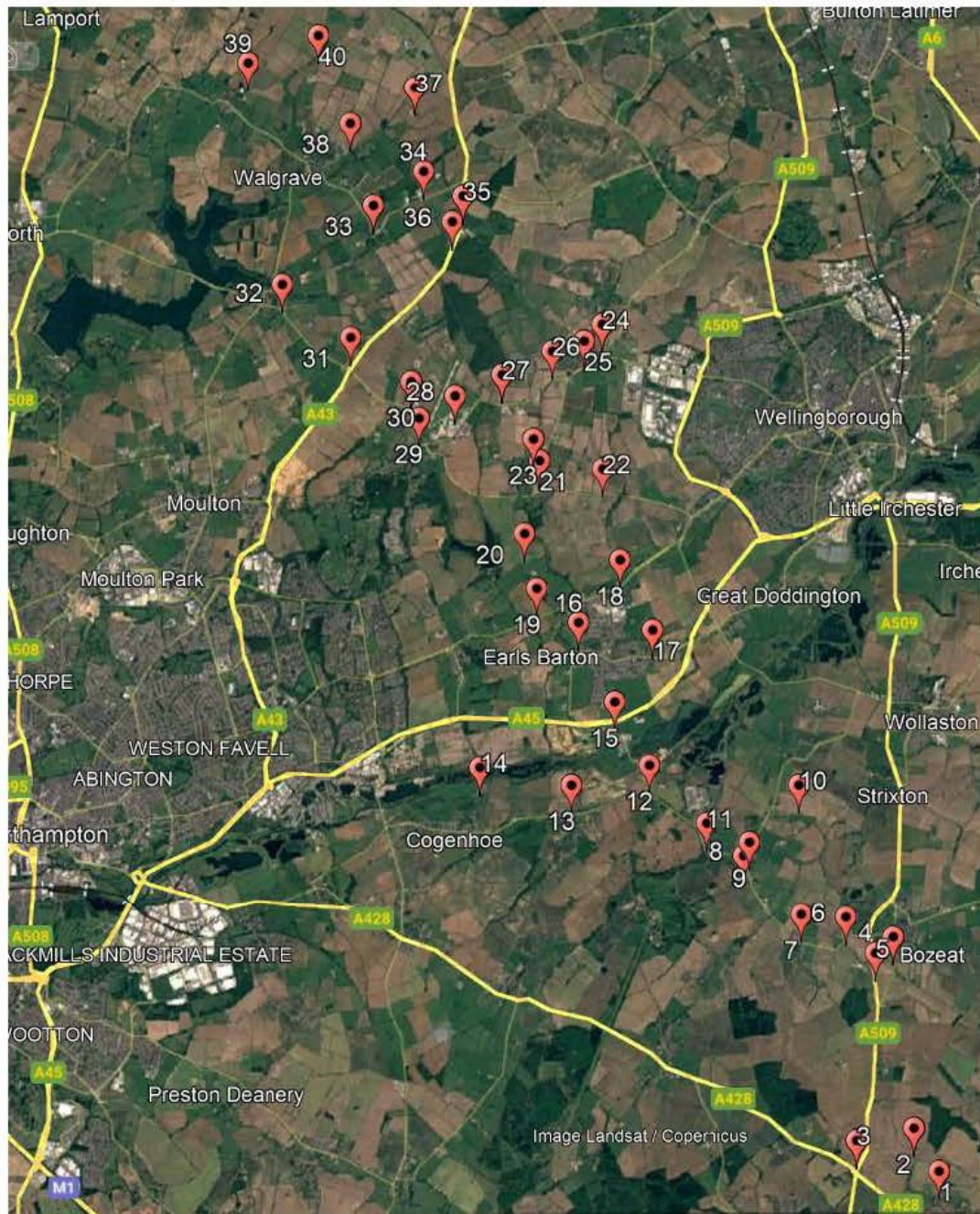
- National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) Limited
- National Grid Electricity System Operation Limited
- National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
- National Highways
- National Highways Historical Railways Estate
- Natural England
- NHS Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board
- NHS England
- NHS England
- NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board
- North Northamptonshire Council
- North Northamptonshire Council
- Northampton Town Council
- Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
- Northern Gas Networks Limited
- Odell Parish Council
- Old Parish Council
- Olney Town Council
- Optimal Power Networks Limited
- Orlingbury Parish Council
- Overstone Parish Council
- Peterborough
- Pitsford Airfield Pitsford Parish Council
- Podington Parish Council
- Pytchley Parish Council
- Quadrant Pipelines Limited
- Ravenstone Parish Council
- Royal Mail Group
- Rugby
- Rushden Town Council
- Rutland
- Scaldwell Parish Council
- Scotland Gas Networks Plc
- South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- South Kesteven
- Southern Gas Networks Plc
- Stark Infra-Electricity Ltd
- Stark Infra-Electricity Ltd
- Stratford-on-Avon
- Strixton Parish Council
- Sywell Aerodrome
- Sywell Parish Council
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Canal and River Trust
- The Canal and River Trust
- The Crown Estate
- The Electricity Network Company Limited
- The Environment Agency
- The Environment Agency



- The Forestry Commission–East & East Midlands
- Turvey Parish Council
- UK Power Distribution Limited
- United Kingdom Health Security Agency
- Upton Parish Council
- Utility Assets Limited
- Vattenfall Networks Limited
- Walgrave Parish Council
- Wellingborough Town Council
- West Hunsbury Parish Council
- West Northamptonshire Council
- West Northamptonshire Council
- Weston Underwood Parish Council
- Wilby Parish Council
- William Pitt Airfield
- Wollaston Parish Council
- Yardley Hastings Parish Council



Appendix 7—Locations of Site Notices





Green Hill Solar – Site Notice Locations.

Ref:	Location
1	Castle Road, Lavendon, Olney MK46 4JG
2	Footpath, North of A428 East of Lavendon
3	Applegreen Three Counties Services A509, Lavendon, Olney MK46 4JG
4	London Road, Bozeat, Wellingborough NN29 7JT
5	Low Farm Easton Maudit, Near Bozeat, Wellingborough NN29 7NP
6	Industrial Units, Easton Lane, Easton Maudit, Wellingborough NN29 7NR
7	Opposite St Peter and St Pauls Church, Easton Maudit, Wellingborough NN29 7NR
8	Grendon Football Club, Yardley Road Grendon NN7 1JH.
9	Easton Way, Grendon, Northampton NN7 1JQ
10	Bridleway, Blackmile Ln, Grendon, Northampton NN7 1JR
11	Station Rd, Grendon, Northampton NN7 1JB
12	Whiston Road, junction with Station Road, Earls Barton, Northampton NN7 1NW
13	Bridleway Junction, Whiston Road, Cogenhoe, Northampton NN7 1NL
14	Cogenhoe Mill Holiday Park, Mill Ln, Cogenhoe, Northampton NN7 1NA
15	Grendon Rd junction with Station Road, Earls Barton, Northampton NN6 0RB
16	B573 junction with Northampton Road, Earls Barton, Northampton NN6 0HA
17	Bridleway junction with B573, Earls Barton, Northampton NN6 0HA
18	A4500 junction with Wellingborough Rd, Earls Barton, Northampton NN6 0JT
19	Layby A4500 to the west of Northampton Road, NN6 0HF
20	Washbrook Lane junction 67 Mears Ashby Rd, Northampton NN6 0HQ
21	Wilby Road, Mears Ashby, Northampton NN6 0DX
22	Next to Cadent Site, Wilby Rd, Northampton NN6 0EB
23	Highfield Road, Mears Ashby, Northampton NN6 0EA
24	Moonshine Gap junction Sywell Rd, Wellingborough NN8 6BS
25	Footpath opposite Appleby Barn, Moonshine Gap, Wellingborough NN9 5GL
26	Footpath junction with Sywell Road, Northampton NN6 0FL
27	Sywell Road junction with Glebe Road, Mears Ashby, Northampton NN6 0BW
28	Sywell Aerodrome, Wellingborough Rd, Northampton NN6 0BN
29	Overstone Road, junction Holcot Lane, Sywell, Northampton NN6 0AZ
30	Bellmans Gate Sywell Aero Drome, Holcot Lane, Northampton NN6 0BL
31	A43 junction Sywell Road, Northampton NN6 9TE
32	Sywell Road, Holcot, Northampton NN6 9SN
33	Church entrance, Main Street, Hannington, Northampton NN6 9SU
34	Industrial Estate entrance, Red House Ln, Hannington NN6 9SZ
35	Woodmead Garden Centre entrance, Hannington, Northampton NN6 9TD
36	Layby, A43, Northampton NN6 9SZ
37	New Lodge Farm Kettering Road, Walgrave, Northampton
38	Walgrave Pocket Park, Walgrave, Northampton NN6 9PH
39	Broughton Rd, Old, Northampton NN6 9RH
40	Junction Broughton Road and Newland Road, Walgrave, Northampton NN6 9PZ



Appendix 8—Responses from LPAs on the draft Statement of Community Consultation

Response from Milton Keynes City Council



Green Hill Solar Farm Limited
Lesley Giles

17th September 2024

Our Ref: 24/01879/CONINF

Dear Ms Giles

I write in relation to the consultation on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) under s.47(2) Planning Act 2008.

The Council has reviewed the draft SoCC and considers that the planned engagement is comprehensive. While we have not received any comments from our parish councils on the draft SoCC, it is the Council's experience that the parish and town councils adjacent to the site, if given the opportunity, will be helpful in raising awareness around the statutory consultation on Green Hill Solar Farm.

The Council is committed to working with Green Hill Solar Farm Limited to increase engagement within Milton Keynes and will provide any further information on local groups and stakeholders as required.

Yours sincerely

Senior Planning Officer
Development Management
on behalf of the Head of Planning

Need to contact us?

planning.services@milton-keynes.gov.uk
01908 691691
Civic, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes MK9 3EJ
www.milton-keynes.gov.uk



Response from North Northamptonshire Council



**North
Northamptonshire
Council**

Development Management Service
Wellingborough Office
Swanspool House, Doddington Road
Wellingborough
NN8 1BP
Tel: 0300 126 3000
www.northnorthants.gov.uk

Project Development Manager
Island Green Power
Unit 25.7 Coda Studios
189 Munster Road
London
SW6 6AW

Ask for: Mrs Nicola Thompson
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@northnorthants.gov.uk
Our Ref: NW/24/00448/EXT
Your Ref:
Date: 17 September 2024

Via email: info@greenhillsolar.co.uk

Dear Ms Giles,

RE: Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
AT: Green Hill Solar Farm

I write further to your letter received on 12 August 2024 seeking North Northamptonshire Council's (NNC) comment on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) (August 2024) for the Green Hill Solar Farm.

NNC has liaised with the inhouse communications team and the following Parish/Town Councils and Ward Councillors:

Ward Councillors

- Irchester
- Earls Barton
- Croyland and Swanspool
- Finedon
- Irthlingborough
- Higham Ferrers
- Rushden Pemberton
- Hatton Park
- Brickhill and Queensway
- Rothwell and Mawsley
- Burton and Broughton

Parish/Town Councils

- Sywell Parish Council
- Mears Ashby Parish Council
- Wilby Parish Council
- Earls Barton Parish Council
- Grendon Parish Council
- Easton Maudit Parish Meeting



- Bozeat Parish Council
- Irchester Parish Council
- Little Harrowden Parish Council
- Hardwick Parish Council
- Wellingbrough Town Council
- Great Doddington Parish Council
- Wollaston Parish Council
- Strixton Parish Council
- Ecton Parish Council
- Loddington Parish Council
- Mawsley Parish Council
- Great Cransley Parish Council
- Broughton Parish Council
- Pytchley Parish Council
- Orlingbury Parish Council
- Walgrave Parish Council

Any comments received have been incorporated into this consultation response.

Comments on Section 4: The Proposed Development

Paragraph 4.1 – This paragraph reads as though the proposed project will consist of a (singular area) solar farm and a battery storage facility.

- It is suggested that this paragraph addresses that the proposed solar farm is spread over several sites (A – G and BESS) within the districts and each area is only connected via the cable route.

Comments on Section 5: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Reference is made to a project website. Confusion has been raised over whether this is the PINS Green Hill Solar Farm page or the Green Hill Solar Farm website?

- Please be clear which website it will be? It should be the Green Hill Solar Farm project website.
- It would also be helpful if provisional submission dates are provided here for the submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application and the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) consultation.

Comments on Section 6: Engagement Approach and Early Engagement (Non-Statutory Consultation)

Paragraph 6.3 - With regard to the political stakeholder's co-design workshop, some attendees felt that that they were more of an information gathering exercise for the developer than being a truly cooperative workshop or consultation. They felt that 'the scheme itself was presented as though any concerns would be disregarded because the planning system would allow the proposal'. This has raised concern amongst stakeholders that further consultation responses will also have little or no influence on the proposals.

- It is suggested that a summary report of the workshops (the June 2024 newsletter does not provide a sufficient summary) is published on the Green Hill Solar Farm



project website including the feedback received as soon as possible. This was agreed in March 2024 at the workshops and has yet to be actioned.

Comments on Section 7: Statutory Consultation

Paragraph 7.1 – This states that the consultation will take place ‘for six weeks between November 2024 and January 2025’. However, for a large portion of this time, many people are preoccupied with preparation for and enjoying Christmas and New Year celebrations and events. This includes travelling to spend time with relatives and friends over the Christmas and New Year period. It is also at a time of year when the weather can restrict travel. It is considered that this timing could severely reduce the opportunity for people to participate in the consultation process.

- It is suggested that this consultation period is either extended or moved to an alternative 6-week period rather than taking place for just 6 weeks during the proposed busy time over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Paragraph 7.2 – This paragraph states that visual representations will be presented, and feedback sought on them.

- It is suggested that comments from consultees within the Environmental Scoping regarding viewpoints is incorporated into the selected viewpoint list.

Paragraph 7.3 – This states that the Public Consultation Zone (PCZ) will be restricted up to 1-kilometre from the project site. Given the size, scale and extent of the scheme this seems unduly restrictive. It is considered that residents within the wider area will experience a substantial change in the character of the landscape in which they live, work and enjoy and so should also be included in the consultation.

- It is suggested that the consultation reaches out beyond this 1-kilometre zone. Not necessarily via letter but could be by other means (flyers, posters/notices on village hall notice boards etc). *Some Parish Councils suggest a 10-kilometre minimum PCZ area should be considered.

Figure 1 is too small and unclear.

- It is suggested that figure 1 should be clearer and include more detail (including the red line(s))

Within the list of what non-statutory groups would be consulted, Parish Meetings need to be included. This is because, for example, Easton Maudit, has a Parish Meeting and not a Parish Council.

- It is suggested that Parish Meetings are included in the non-statutory consultee list.
- Within the non-statutory consultee group, community groups, voluntary organisations, and hard-to-reach groups etc are included. However, there is no mention of the general public, wider than the PCZ. How is the general public intended on being reached? How are ‘hard-to-reach’ groups being identified?

Paragraph 7.4 – This sets out how you are proposing to consult. Given the scale of the development and number of communities impacted, 4 consultation events and 3 webinars are considered low.



- It is suggested that the number of consultation events and webinars are increased. Webinars should also include weekends and evenings to accommodate working families.
- Could webinars be recorded with a recording available on the Green Hill Solar Farm project website?
- Walgrave Parish Council would like Walgrave to be considered as a host for one of the in-person consultation events.
- It is suggested that the consultation event locations chosen are accessible and can be reached by both public and private transport.
- Is Livestorm a common platform for webinars? It is suggested that an alternative more common and accessible streaming platform is considered for the webinars.
- Can the format/approach to Questions & Answers during the webinars be clarified i.e. how many questions will be answered and will questions/answers be visible to all attendees? Will the Questions & Answers detail be available on the Green Hill Solar Farm website following the webinars?
- The requirement to register is likely to be a barrier to some attendees and it is unclear why this is needed. Please can this be reviewed? As it is a webinar there should be no limit to attendee numbers, surely providing a link to the webinar for those interested to just join on the day is sufficient.
- It is appreciated that the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will be a substantial document, however it is considered that a printing cost of £0.35 per page is high and will be a specific barrier to the hard-to-reach groups identified in the draft Statement of Community Consultation. As copies will be available at some locations, then perhaps the maximum cost to anyone that is unable to access these locations should be postage only. Please could this be considered?
- Irchester Parish Council offer Wollaston Library as a host venue as a local information point.
- Some smaller parish councils have requested that a hard copy of all relevant documentation should be provided directly to them free of charge (prior to when a consultation begins – they suggest 10 days prior). Could this please be considered?

Paragraph 7.5 – This section is regarding promoting the consultation. It is considered that for a proposal of this scale, adequate coverage and notice needs to be provided.

- There does not appear to be any plan to promote to the wider public across NNC. On this basis, could additional press releases in a National Newspaper be considered? Perhaps one 14 days in advance and one 7 days in advance? Can this include the web address for the consultation?
- Could the posters also be in an electronic format so that other stakeholders (such as parish and town councils) can easily use them to inform social media platforms such as their Facebook pages, on their websites or within their newsletters etc?
- It states that stakeholder briefings would be considered on an ad hoc basis. Please could clarity around the criteria for such a meeting to be agreed be set out in the Statement of Community Consultation?
- It is suggested that stakeholder briefing sessions to key stakeholders is essential rather than optional.
- Posters and leaflets should include a QR code to the Green Hill Solar Farm website documents.



Paragraph 7.8 – This paragraph is regarding ‘Hard to Reach Groups’ and there is very general information about these groups and how they will be identified.

- It may be part of next steps but please ensure that identifying hard to reach groups will be in liaison with the local authorities.

Paragraph 7.9 – This paragraph discusses the proposed enquiry channels. Parish Councils have raised that the ‘substantive response issued within 10 working days of receipt’ has previously not been adhered to.

- It is suggested that a ‘next steps’ detail is provided in case a response is not received within the timescales set out in Table 4.

Comments on Section 8: Responding to Consultation

Paragraph 8.2 – This note how feedback will influence the designs of the solar farm. Some stakeholders have raised confusion over this sentence.

- Please could it be clear here, that it is the feedback on the design and potential impacts of the solar farm that will be taken into consideration and that it is not just accepting solar panel design comments.

It states in this paragraph that, ‘all responses submitted during the statutory consultation will be responded to within the Consultation Report’. It is unclear how this will be enforced?

- It is suggested that an appendix is included listing those that contributed to the Consultation Report so that contributors can easily see that their response has been acknowledged and included.

North Northamptonshire Council consider that this draft Statement of Community Consultation is compliant with Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

This letter forms a consultation response from North Northamptonshire Council on Island Green Power’s proposals of how Island Green Power intend on consulting with the local community for Green Hill Solar Farm Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) during the Pre-application stage. NNC would be grateful if the comments contained within it can be considered as part of your plan for consultation.

Yours sincerely



George Candler
Executive Director of Place and Economy



Response from West Northamptonshire Council

Green Hill Solar Farm Statement of Community Consultation WNC Comments

September 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to comment of the Green Hill Solar Farm draft Statement of Community Consultation August 2024. These are officer comments prepared with reference to (former) Daventry District Council SCI (adopted May 2017) and (former) South Northamptonshire DC SCI (adopted 2020). [Statement of Community Involvement \(SCI\) | West Northamptonshire Council \(westnorthants.gov.uk\)](#)

The statement sets out clearly how the applicant intends to engage with local communities ahead of the planning submission of the DCO.

Section 2 – The Planning Process

It would be helpful if Section 2 was expanded to make it more user friendly, to explain in layman terms the planning process for a DCO and opportunities for engagement and statutory consultation and how it fits in with the anticipated broad timetable for submission of the application. To assist with this, it should also include a glossary of abbreviations (NSIP, DCO)

Section 3 & 4

No comments

Section 5 - EIA

Can this paragraph be expanded to explain that this information will also be available and consulted on at the same time as the DCO.

Section 6 Non-Statutory consultation

This provides a clear statement of the early engagement undertaken to date, detailing the approach, details of the workshops and methods used to raise awareness of the project. It should be highlighted how the outcome of the early engagement was used to shape and inform the proposal and where that information can be found? Is there any reflection of what methods were successful and what could be improved?

Section 7 Statutory Consultation

This section clearly sets out the intended consultation plan including when consultation will take place, what will be consulted on, who will be consulted and how this will be undertaken. It is recommended that a hard copy of the information is placed at The Forum in Towcester hub this is the planning office for WNC as well as one of the main WNC libraries and in The Guildhall, One Stop shop.



Para 7.8 Hard to reach - Reference to hard to reach should be replaced with 'Seldom Heard' and further consideration on who and how to engage with those groups given. These could include (but not exhaustive) those on low incomes, English as a second language, and those groups with protected characteristics. WNC has a number of forums that could be used to make aware of the proposal. It is likely that expanding the methods of engagement and consultation would increase the reach.

Consultation material

- Exhibition material can be held at The Forum at Towcester and at the One Stop, The Guildhall
- Use social media as a tool to advertise the proposals and highlight how to make comments on the proposal

Section 8 – Responding to Consultation

Para 8.2, indicates how the consultation feedback will be used, this should be expanded to indicate how this will happen? Make clear how comments made as part of engagement / consultation inform the proposal and where this can be found. Will any respondents be notified of the progress of application? E.g. submission of application etc? Will this information be passed on to WNC?

Other comments

As the proposal is within the locality of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (UNVGP SPA), the statement should include any reference to any consultation requirements methods set out in the Habitats Regulation.

Please note in addition to the above attached is an annotated draft of the statement which has identified some typos and suggested inclusions.