

The Drovers Solar Farm

Consultation Report Appendix B: Preparation of the SoCC

Prepared by: Copper Consultancy

Date: November 2025

PINS reference: EN0110013

Document reference: APP/5.2 (Original)

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009





Contents

1	Letter opening SoCC consultation	2
2	Email confirming closure of SoCC consultation.....	4
3	LPA responses to the SoCC	6
4	Letter accompanying issued SoCC.....	11

1 Letter opening SoCC consultation

Dear Sir/ Madam,

The Drovers Solar Farm: Draft Statement of Community Consultation - February 2025

As part of The Drovers Solar Farm DCO, The Drovers Solar Farm (LTD) is required to consult local planning authorities (LPAs) on their Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The SoCC establishes how we plan to consult with the local community on our proposals for The Drovers Solar Farm during the Pre-application stage.

Please find a copy of the draft SoCC attached to this email for your review and comment.

To comply with the requirements under the Planning Act 2008, the consultation on this draft document will run for 28 days; therefore, we will require your feedback by **5pm on 6 March 2025**. Please email your feedback to the project contact email:
info@drovesolarfarm.co.uk

After the consultation, any feedback received will be reviewed and considered alongside any necessary adjustments to our plan for consultation. We will endeavour to respond to every feedback response received and confirm the changes we have adopted in the SoCC. We will also share the final iteration of the SoCC with you ahead of the public consultation later this year.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Harman Sond
Project Development Manager – Island Green Power

2 Email confirming closure of SoCC consultation

Sophie Moss

To: Info (Droves solar Farm)
Subject: RE: The Droves Solar Farm - The consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has now closed.

From: Info (Droves solar Farm)
Sent: 06 March 2025 17:38
To: Info (Droves solar Farm) <info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk>
Subject: The Droves Solar Farm - The consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has now closed.

Good afternoon,

Thank you for submitting your comments on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for The Droves Solar Farm.

To comply with the requirements under the Planning Act 2008, the consultation on this draft document has run for 28 days. The consultation period has now closed.

We are reviewing all comments and will be issuing a formal response before publishing the SoCC more widely.

Should you have any questions in the meantime, please do email us at: info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk

Kind regards,

Sophie
Community Relations

3 LPA responses to the SoCC

Alain Etheve

From: Wood, Simon [REDACTED]@breckland.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 February 2025 13:32
To: Info (Droves solar Farm)
Cc: Collins, Rebecca
Subject: FW: The Droves Solar Farm - Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
Attachments: Invitation to consult on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)_The Droves Solar Farm.pdf; The Droves Solar Farm_Statement of Community Consultation_DRAFT.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: LPA SoCC

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

I have no fundamental issue with the document as presented but would like to make the following points:

- The Indicative PCZ map at Appendix 2 shows the area extending into Kings Lynn and West Norfolk. I would support that. At Section 8 of the document the PCZ is referenced as being within the host authority of Breckland. I think the text should reflect that it includes the neighbouring district as well. I am also pleased to note that the PCZ includes all of Swaffham.
- I am pleased to see that neighbouring, as well as host, Parish and Town Councils appear to be included within the circulation list. I think it would be beneficial to clarify that member Briefings will include not only Breckland and NCC but Kings Lynn and West Norfolk as well.
- I would suggest that the host Parishes and neighbouring Parishes are briefed separately as well.
- As well as Swaffham Library to host hard copies of documents I would suggest Kings Lynn, Dereham or Fakenham libraries as well as Parish Council Offices and Swaffham Town Council offices.

I am happy to discuss these points.

Regards

Simon

Simon Wood

Director of Planning and Building Control
Breckland Council

T: [REDACTED]
M: [REDACTED]

PINS ref: EN0110013
Our ref: 24/01697/NSIPCO
Case Officer: Lucy Smith (Senior Planner)
Email: [REDACTED]@west-norfolk.gov.uk
Direct dial: [REDACTED]

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



Via email: info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk

03 March 2025

RE: The Droles Solar Farm – Draft Statement of Community Consultation

Dear Sophie

Thank you for your email dated 5th February 2025 which relates to the SOCC draft for The Droles Solar Farm.

Following a review of our Statement of Community Involvement (2017), the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk are in broad agreement with the intended scope as set out within the draft document. We do however the following comments to make, as follows:

- We request that Host and Neighbouring Parish Councils are specifically included within Section 8. As it stands, Castle Acre Parish Council are excluded from the document and are not included either in the main text or Appendix 1. Castle Acre Parish Council are an important consultee given the proximity of the site to and impacts on their area.
- In Section 10, for your reference, we would normally expect notices in publications to include the Eastern Daily Press (EDP), Lynn News, and Your Local News.
- In so far as Local Authority Communication Channels, the Borough Council would likely be able to promote the consultation through our communication channels also.
- Please can you ensure that consideration is given to areas outside the PCZ in Appendix 2, particularly in regard to areas impacted by other NSIP schemes – for example High Grove Solar. The effects of the schemes in combination may warrant broader consultation.

Kind regards,
Lucy Smith
Senior Planner



Norfolk County Council response to the Island Green Power Consultation on:

Droves Solar – Statement of Community Consultation

March 2025

1. Overview

Thank you for consulting Norfolk County Council on your draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

The County Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft SoCC and broadly welcomes the suggested consultation approach. The County Council recognises the positive actions that Island Green Power are planning to take to engage with local communities across Norfolk.

2. Detailed Comments

2.1 General Comments

The County Council was pleased to have sight of an early iteration of the draft SoCC in December 2024.

The County Council is pleased a non-technical summary of the PEIR will be available.

2.2 Early Engagement

The County Council would like to see further information on which stakeholders were engaged with, as mentioned in section 6.1; it isn't clear whether this included the groups listed in Appendix 1. It is also unclear whether the letters sent to neighbours are the same as the 5,760 addresses who received the newsletter. It would be helpful to append the content of the letter and newsletter they received.

It would be helpful to include as an appendix the information presented at the engagement workshops, referred to in section 7.1.

2.3 Consultation Methods

The County Council are pleased with the number and location of consultation events proposed. The Council suggests the events are not scheduled during May half term as this may limit numbers that can attend.

The County Council would like to be named as a statutory consultee in section 8. The Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service request they are added as a non-statutory consultee, in the list of non-statutory consultees referred to in section 8.

The Norfolk County Council Skills team are pleased to see that schools and colleges in the relevant area will be consulted, as mentioned in section 8. The Skills team would also like to see further engagement for skills and employment, either through a dedicated employment and skills session/workshop within this phase of engagement, or by consulting more widely with the Skills team, local colleges and the Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIP) to understand the local skills context. Consulting further at this stage will better inform the Socio-Economic section of the PEIR, and the EIA on workforce development in due course.

The local interested groups listed in Appendix 1 appears to be a list of all groups, rather than focussed on those that are local to the scheme and/or would have a particular interest in the proposals.

2.4 Map of Primary Consultation Zone

A key for the map of the indicative primary consultation zone (appendix 2) would be helpful to understand what certain areas refer to, for instance the purple stars and yellow shaded areas.

2.5 Consultation Period

The County Council would like to see the consultation period, currently listed as 6 weeks, extended to an 8–10-week period to allow adequate time for the County Council to fully assess its statutory functions as the Highway Authority, Lead Local Flood Authority, Public Health, Mineral and Waste Planning, Economic Development, Historic Environment etc. In addition, there is a Bank Holiday during the consultation period reducing the number of working days.

Where possible, the County Council requests early sight of consultations such as the PEIR and NTS ahead of the formal consultation, to allow as much time as possible to assess the documents, prepare its response and go through the County Council's reporting mechanisms. The County Council would be willing to sign non-disclosure agreement (NDA) where appropriate.

4 Letter accompanying the issued SoCC

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Drovers Solar Farm: Statement of Community Consultation - April 2025

As part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for The Drovers Solar Farm, we are required to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The SoCC outlines how we intend to engage with local communities throughout the preparation of our DCO application.

We will be holding our statutory consultation between 21 May and 9 July 2025. During this period, we will host a series of consultation activities that will be open to all members of the local community.

All consultation materials will be available to view, free of charge, during the statutory consultation period on our website: www.drovessolarfarm.co.uk. Materials can also be viewed at Swaffham Library, our local information point, and selected materials will be available to take away.

For more details on how to view materials and take part in our statutory consultation, including information about our in-person consultation events and webinars, please refer to the attached copy of the SoCC.

We look forward to your participation and, if you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch by responding to this email or using the contact details below:

- Email: info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk
- Freephone: 0800 0129 154
- Write to us: FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required)

Kind regards,
Harman Sond
Project Development Manager – Island Green Power



THE DROVES
SOLAR FARM