

The Drovers Solar Farm

Consultation Report Appendix J – Statement of Compliance

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Planning Act 2008

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





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1 Statement of Compliance

Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008)

Section	Requirement	Compliance
Section 42 (The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application)	(a) such persons as may be prescribed,	<p>The Applicant consulted all relevant prescribed consultees as defined in Regulation 11(1)(a) Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('the APFP Regulations').</p> <p>A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 18 December 2025 and included the list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA Regulations') (as amended). The Applicant consulted with all of these bodies.</p> <p>In addition to this, the Applicant consulted with further 'non-prescribed' consultees as statutory consultees, further details of which will be set out in Appendix E: Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Act – Supporting Material [APP5.2].</p>
	(aa) the Marine Management Organisation, in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2)	The Applicant did not consult the Marine Management Organisation under Section 42(1)(aa) of the Act, as the proposed development is not considered likely to affect any of the areas specified in subsection (2) of Section 42 (e.g. tidal or offshore areas) or Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations.
	(b) each local authority that is within section 43	<p>The Applicant consulted each relevant local authority as defined within Section 43 of the Act. These are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norfolk County Council (C) • Breckland District Council (B) • Broadland District Council (A) • South Norfolk Council (A) • Fenland District Council (A) • East Cambridgeshire District Council (A) • King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council (A) • Mid Suffolk District Council (A) • North Norfolk District Council (A) • South Holland District Council (A) • The Broads National Park (A) • West Suffolk Council (A) • Cambridgeshire County Council (D) • Lincolnshire County Council (D) • Suffolk County Council (D)
	(c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and	The Applicant did not consult the Greater London Authority ('the GLA') under Section 42(1)(c) of the PA 2008, as the Scheme area is not located within Greater London and therefore the GLA is not a relevant consultee.
	(d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44	The Applicant consulted each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44 (see Section 5.2 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1]).

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Section 45 (Timetable for consultation under section 42)	(1) The applicant must, when consulting a person under section 42, notify the person of the deadline for the receipt by the applicant of the person's response to the consultation.	The Applicant notified all those consulted under Section 42 of the deadline in writing by email and/or post (see Section 5.2 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1]).
	(2) A deadline notified under subsection (1) must not be earlier than the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents.	The Applicant published a PEIR on 21 May 2025 for consultation under Sections 42, 47, and 48 of the Act, inviting responses by 9 July 2025 (a 49-day consultation period). The PEIR was available for consultation throughout this period.
	(3) In subsection (2) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the person by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the person.	On 14 May 2025, the Applicant wrote by recorded delivery to all consultees identified under Sections 42(1)(a) and 42(1)(b) of the Act to notify them of the statutory consultation. The letter provided details on how to access the consultation documents, how to respond, the deadline for submissions, and included a copy of the Section 48 notice (see Section 5.2 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1]).
Section 46 (Duty to notify Commission of proposed application)	(1) The applicant must supply the Secretary of State with such information in relation to the proposed application as the applicant would supply to the Secretary of State for the purpose of complying with section 42 if the applicant were required by that section to consult the Secretary of State about the proposed application.	In accordance with Section 46(2) of the Act, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate on 14 May 2025 of the proposed Application prior to commencing statutory consultation. As required by Section 46(1), the Applicant provided the same information as would be supplied to consultees under Section 42 (see Chapter 6 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1]).
	(2) The applicant must comply with subsection (1) on or before commencing consultation under section 42.	The Applicant complied with subsection (1) prior to commencing consultation on 21 May 2025.
Section 47 (Duty to consult the local community)	(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.	The Applicant prepared (see Chapter 4 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1]) and published a SoCC that set out how the Applicant proposed to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.
	(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.	To inform the preparation of the statement, the Applicant consulted Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk on the content of the SoCC (see Section 4.3 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1]).
	(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.	The Applicant consulted with Section 43(1) local authorities on the draft SoCC between 5 February and 6 March 2025. Prior to this period of consultation, the Applicant had informally consulted on the contents of the draft SoCC (see Section 4.2 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1]).

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	purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).	
	(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).	The Applicant had regard to all relevant responses to the draft SoCC. The Applicant shared response tables with Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk to explain how their comments had been considered,
	6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must — make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land, (a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and (b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.	The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the Act on 23 April 2025 (see Section 4.4 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1]). A notice was published in the Eastern Daily Press on 23 April 2025 to publicise the SoCC and its availability. The SoCC was uploaded to the Scheme website and was made available to view and collect from a local information point.
	(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.	The Applicant undertook consultation under Section 47 of the Act in accordance with the SoCC. This is evidenced in Consultation Report Appendix C: Copy of the SoCC and Compliance with the SoCC [APP5.2] and the Consultation Report [APP/5.1] .
Section 48 (Duty to publicise)	(1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.	The Applicant prepared and publicised the application in the prescribed manner set out in the APFP Regulations by publishing a Section 48 notice(see Section 5.5 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1]). The Section 48 Notice was published in the following publications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guardian, 14 May 2025 • The London Gazette, 14 May 2025; and • Eastern Daily Press, 14 May 2025 and 21 May 2025.
	(2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.	The Section 48 notice included a deadline of 23:50 on 9 June 2025 for receipt of responses to the publicity. A copy of the Section 48 notice is provided in Consultation Report Appendix D: Published Section 47 and Section 48 Notices [APP/5.2] . The final notice was published on 14 May 2025, which clearly stated the consultation start and end dates, therefore exceeding the 28-day statutory minimum response time.
Section 49 (Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity)	(1) Subsection (2) applies where the applicant — (a) has complied with sections 42, 47 and 48, and (b) proposes to go ahead with making an application for an order granting development consent (whether or not in the same terms as the proposed application). (2) The applicant must, when deciding whether the application that the applicant is actually to make should be in the same terms as the	The Applicant has reviewed relevant responses made pursuant to Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 in accordance with Section 49. In reviewing the responses, the Applicant is cognisant of its duty to have regard to any relevant responses. A detailed record of relevant responses received and how the Applicant has considered these is provided in Consultation Report Appendix G: Section 42 – Responses Received and Applicants Response [APP/5.2] and Appendix H: Section 47 – Responses Received and Applicants Response [APP/5.2] .

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	<p>proposed application, have regard to any relevant responses.</p> <p>(3) In subsection (2) “relevant response” means— (a) a response from a person consulted under section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by section 45 in that person's case,</p> <p>(b) a response to consultation under section 47(7) that is received by the applicant before any applicable deadline imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under section 47, or</p>	
Section 50 (Guidance about preapplication procedure)	<p>(1) Guidance may be issued about how to comply with the requirements of this Section. (2) Guidance under this section may be issued by the Planning Inspectorate or the Secretary of State. (3) The applicant must have regard to any guidance under this section.</p>	<p>In carrying out the early engagement (non-statutory consultation), the Applicant had regard to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG, 2015), Planning Act 2008: guidance on the pre-application process.</p> <p>In carrying out the statutory consultation, the Applicant had regard to updated guidance published by the Planning Inspectorate in April 2024 and the updated Advice Note on the Consultation Report, published in August 2024.</p>

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

Section	Requirement	Compliance
Reg. 3	<p>Prescribed consultees</p> <p>The persons prescribed for the purposes of section 42(a) (duty to consult) are those listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 1 to these Regulations, who must be consulted in the circumstances specified in relation to each such person in column 2 of that table.</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted all persons prescribed in column 1 who were deemed relevant to this application by the descriptions set out in column 2 of that table. A full list is provided in Consultation Report Appendix E: Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Act – Supporting Material [APP/5.2].</p>
Reg 4 (2)	<p>The Applicant must publish a notice, which must include the matters prescribed by paragraph (3) of this regulation, of the proposed application – (a) for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the proposed development would be situated;</p>	<p>The Applicant published a notice which included all the matters set out in paragraph (3) of this regulation. Copies of the notice are provided in Consultation Report Appendix D: Published Section 47 and Section 48 Notices [APP/5.2].</p> <p>The Section 48 notice was published in the Eastern Daily Press on 14 May 2025 and 21 May 2025.</p>
	<p>(b) once in a national newspaper;</p>	<p>The Section 48 notice was published in The Guardian on 14 May 2025.</p>
	<p>(c) once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette;</p>	<p>The Section 48 notice was published in the London Gazette on 14 May 2025.</p> <p>The Scheme does not affect land in Scotland, and therefore no notice was placed in the Edinburgh Gazette.</p>
	<p>(d) where the proposed application relates to offshore development –</p> <p>(i) once in Lloyd's List;</p> <p>(ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
Reg 4 (3)	<p>The matters which the notice must include are:</p> <p>(a) the name and address of the applicant;</p> <p>(b) a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Commission;</p> <p>(c) a statement as to whether the application is EIA development;</p> <p>(d) a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development;</p> <p>(e) a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location are available for inspection free of charge at the</p>	<p>The Applicant's Section 48 notice included all matters required by this regulation, including a stipulation of a deadline for responses of 9 June 2025.</p> <p>All matters listed under Reg 4 (3) were included in the Section 48 notice.</p> <p>The published Section 48 notices are included in Consultation Report Appendix D: Published Section 47 and Section 48 Notices [APP/5.2].</p>

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	<p>places (including at least one address in the vicinity of the proposed development) and times set out in the notice;</p> <p>(f) the latest date on which these documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection (being a date not earlier than the deadline in sub-paragraph);</p> <p>(g) whether a charge will be made for copies of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge;</p> <p>(h) details of how to respond to the publicity; and</p> <p>(i) a deadline for receipt of those responses by the applicant, being not less than 28 days following the dates when the notice is last published.</p>	

Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

Section	Requirement	Compliance
Reg 8	<p>(1) A person who proposes to make an application for an order granting development consent must, before carrying out consultation under Section 42 (duty to consult) either –</p> <p>(a) request the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates; or</p> <p>(b) notify the Secretary of State in writing that the person proposes to provide an environmental statement in respect of that development.</p>	<p>On 7 November 2024, the Applicant submitted a Scoping Request for the Scheme to the Secretary of State, confirming in accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that an ES would be prepared in respect of the Scheme.</p>
Reg 12	<p>The consultation statement prepared under Section 47 (duty to consult local community) must set out –</p> <p>(a) whether the development for which the applicant proposed to make an application for an order granting development consent is EIA development; and</p> <p>(b) if that development is EIA development, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information.</p>	<p>The Applicant's SoCC confirms that the Scheme is classified as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development.</p> <p>The Section 47 notice (see Consultation Report Appendix D: Published Section 47 and Section 48 Notices [APP/5.2]) states that the Applicant has prepared a SoCC. This SoCC outlines how residents living in the vicinity of the Scheme will be consulted during the pre-application process. It also details the methods the Applicant intends to use for consulting on the PEIR, which will contribute to the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>The Applicant's published SoCC is provided in Consultation Report Appendix C: Copy of the SoCC and Compliance with the SoCC [APP/5.2].</p>
Reg 13	<p>Where the proposed application for an order granting development consent is an application for EIA development, the Applicant must, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under Section 48(1), send a copy of that notice to the consultation bodies and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with regulation 11(1)(c).</p>	<p>The Applicant provided a copy of the notice published in accordance with Section 48 of the PA 2008 to all prescribed consultees.</p> <p>The list of Section 42 consultees is included in Consultation Report Appendix E: Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Act – Supporting Material [APP/5.2]</p> <p>A copy of the Section 48 notice is provided in Consultation Report Appendix D: Published Section 47 and Section 48 Notices [APP/5.2].</p>

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

Section	Requirement	Compliance
Paragraph 009	<p>What is the purpose of the Programme Document?</p> <p>To deliver a good pre-application process, including effective engagement and a well-prepared application, applicants should put together a Programme Document at the outset of the pre-application stage for submission to the Planning Inspectorate and agreement at the Inception Meeting. The Programme Document is an essential element of the quality standard for applications seeking a fast-track route to consent.</p> <p>Following the Inception Meeting, it is expected that the applicant will host and maintain the agreed Programme Document on its website, and update it as necessary during the pre-application period to publicise completion of significant stages and demonstrate progress in preparation of the application.</p>	<p>Following the introduction of this guidance, the Applicant prepared a Programme Document. This document has been maintained and hosted on the Applicant's Scheme website.</p> <p>The most recent revision of the document was uploaded to the Scheme website on 1 November 2025.</p>
Paragraph 010	<p>What should the Programme Document contain?</p> <p>The Programme Document is not a statutory requirement and is not for consultation apart from agreement with the Planning Inspectorate. It should set out the timetable and activities necessary for an effective pre-application process including the level of pre-application services from the Planning Inspectorate, and consultation with various parties required under the Planning Act.</p> <p>The Programme Document should include:</p> <p>the date the applicant intends to submit their application;</p> <p>a comprehensive timetable of the applicant's pre-application process, the main events with dates and milestones demonstrating how the pre-application process will be completed (using the maximum target of 2 years as a benchmark);</p>	<p>The Programme Document has been drafted and maintained to provide this information as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.3 states the date the Applicant intends to submit the DCO Application (19 November 2025) • Section 2.3 provides a timetable of the pre-application process, main dates and milestones • Table 3.1 sets out the main issues identified by the Applicant during the pre-application stage, including the activities that will be undertaken to address those issues. It also identifies potential risks during the preapplication stage • Section 4.0 and Table 4.1 set out the Applicant's proposals for pre-application consultation, including engagement with statutory consultees and local authorities during the pre-application stage. It includes cross-references to the SoCC, where appropriate; and • Section 5 sets out the Applicant's approach to risk management.

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	<p>the applicant's view on the main issues for resolution and activities they will undertake to address those;</p> <p>the applicant's proposals for engaging with statutory consultees and local authorities during the pre-application period and any intended financial support agreements, such as Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs);</p> <p>the applicant's identification of risks to achievement of the pre-application stage and the process by which these risks are tracked and managed; and</p> <p>cross references to the SoCC required by section 47 of the Planning Act.</p>	
Paragraph 012	<p>How should Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) be prepared?</p> <p>Where an NSIP is determined to be EIA development in line with Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017 the applicant is required by Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017 to publish sufficient Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed development. There is no prescribed format for PEI. However, depending on the availability of material, applicants are encouraged to prepare this as an early draft of the Environmental Statement and include it as such as part of the statutory consultation under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act.</p>	<p>The Applicant coordinated engagement under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008 to enable meaningful engagement with statutory consultees and the local community in tandem, ensuring that feedback on the PEIR could be considered alongside wider engagement. The consultation was undertaken for seven weeks (49 days), between 21 May and 9 July 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant set out in the SoCC how it would publicise and consult on the PEIR. This included making the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR available.</p> <p>The PEIR and its accompanying NTS were available to any interested party through the Scheme website, at statutory consultation events, and at the information point.</p> <p>The availability of the PEIR was publicised through the Section 48 notice.</p>
Paragraph 014	<p>What is needed for consideration of good design?</p> <p>Good design is not simply about the look of a project; it is about the whole process of putting a project together so that it achieves the elements of good design including choice of location, vision, narrative, design principles and consultation programme.</p> <p>Applicants should involve a diverse range of people including where appropriate, planners, environmental specialists, landscape architects, architects, engineers and community groups in informing the project vision, narrative, design principles, and project design process to</p>	<p>The Applicant prepared a set of Project Level Design Principles for the statutory consultation, which were presented in Appendix 5.3 of the PEIR.</p> <p>The Project Level Design Principles were presented to the community via the Consultation Information Booklet, which is provided in Consultation Report Appendix F: Statutory Consultation Under Section 47 of the Act – Supporting Material [APP/5.2].</p> <p>The Applicant's Consultation Report [APP/5.1] further sets out how the Applicant sought to ensure its pre-application consultation activities were publicised to and accessible by a diverse range of consultees.</p> <p>The Design Approach Document [APP/5.7] and Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8] document demonstrate how good design has been embedded in the Scheme's design and how the Scheme's design has evolved to the point of the DCO Application within a clear design framework, informed by the Planning Inspectorate's 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure on Good Design' (published October 2024) and the National Infrastructure Commission's 'Design Principles for National Infrastructure' (published 2020).</p>

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	<p>support delivery of the outcomes of the project.</p> <p>Applicants should explain how the design responds to the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) design principles for national infrastructure: climate, people, places and value.</p>	
Paragraph 020	<p>How can applicants ensure consultation is proportionate?</p> <p>The pre-application consultation undertaken should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the project and its effects. A 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not appropriate. For a straightforward and uncontroversial application, an applicant may choose to discharge the obligations of sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act concurrently in a single round of consultation, or in separate stages.</p> <p>For more complex proposals, an applicant may choose to conduct a non-statutory round of consultation (for example considering options) before undertaking a statutory round of consultation, or they may choose to run a multi-stage statutory consultation process.</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken a three-stage engagement process, detailed throughout the Consultation Report [APP/5.1]. The stages are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early-engagement • Statutory consultation • Targeted consultation. <p>The Applicant also maintained ongoing engagement with stakeholders. This continued dialogue fed into the iterative design process, ensuring that feedback was considered and incorporated as the Scheme's design evolved.</p> <p>The Applicant has continually sought feedback from stakeholders regarding its consultation approach and has made changes where possible. The Applicant notes the additional 'pop-up' event in Castle Acre as an example (see Section 5.4 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1])</p> <p>The Applicant's approach to consultation was set out in the SoCC, which was developed in consultation with Norfolk County Council and Breckland Council. This consultation is described in Section 4.3 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1].</p>
Paragraph 020	<p>Larger, more complex applications are likely to warrant going beyond the statutory 28-day minimum timescales for consultation laid down in the Planning Act to ensure enough time for consultees to understand project proposals and formulate a response.</p>	<p>All defined consultation periods (statutory and targeted) for the Scheme have met or exceeded 28 days.</p> <p>The statutory consultation was undertaken for seven weeks (49 days), between 21 May and 9 July 2025. The targeted consultation was held for 28 days between 3 September and 1 October 2025.</p>
Paragraph 020	<p>Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially change its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application.</p> <p>Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation</p>	<p>Following the close of statutory consultation, the Applicant made four localised changes to the Scheme boundary based on the findings of ongoing surveys and assessments.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook a period of targeted consultation between 3 September and 1 October 2025, during which feedback was encouraged on the four localised changes to the Scheme boundary.</p> <p>The Applicant considered that the proposed changes did not constitute fundamental alterations to the Scheme. Furthermore, the changes do not substantially change the conclusions of the PEIR. Accordingly, the Applicant determined that a targeted 28-day consultation, directed towards those considered most likely to be affected by or to have a direct interest in the proposed changes, was appropriate.</p> <p>Prior to the start of the targeted consultation, the Applicant also met with Breckland District Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk to provide an overview of the proposed changes and discuss the scope of the targeted consultation. The Applicant notes that there was broad agreement that the approach was proportional.</p>

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>on the proposed application as a whole be considered.</p> <p>In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take into account the following guiding factors:</p> <p>the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;</p> <p>the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and</p> <p>the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change.</p> <p>For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.</p> <p>Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided.</p>	
Paragraph 021	<p>Who should be consulted?</p> <p>Sections 42 to 44 of the Planning Act, Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009 set out details of who must be consulted, including statutory bodies, the Marine Management Organisation where appropriate, local authorities, and persons having an interest in the land to be developed. Section 47 of the Planning Act sets out the applicant's statutory duty to consult local communities. In addition, applicants will want to consider the issues that may need to be addressed ahead of submission and may also wish to seek the views of other people who are</p>	<p>The Applicant reviewed its consultee list regularly to ensure that contact details were up to date and that any successor body was consulted.</p> <p>Consultation Report Appendix E: Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Act – Supporting Material [APP/5.2] includes a list of consultees for the Scheme.</p>

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>not statutory consultees, but who may be significantly affected by the project.</p> <p>While the list of prescribed bodies who must be consulted was updated in April 2024, from time to time a body may cease to exist but may still be listed as a statutory consultee in the Regulations pending their updating. In such situations applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have with the original body.</p>	
Paragraph 022	<p>How can applicants consult communities effectively?</p> <p>It is good practice for applicants to work with local stakeholders in the formative stages of the project, through early engagement.</p> <p>Early engagement with local authorities, parish and town councils can help applicants to ensure they find the best approach to engage the relevant communities in the most effective and proportionate way.</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook engagement with stakeholders during the early stages of the Scheme. This engagement is detailed in Chapter 2 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1], and helped inform the Scheme design and consultation process.</p>
	<p>Under section 47 of the Planning Act, applicants are required to produce a SoCC, setting out how they intend to consult the local community on the proposed application. Applicants should consider how they can engage communities in a way that supports them to understand the necessary issues at an appropriate stage to support preparation of their application, and how they will show how they have responded to their issues of concern.</p>	<p>The Applicant's process for developing the SoCC is outlined in Chapter 4 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1].</p> <p>The Applicant sought early feedback from Norfolk County Council and Breckland District Council regarding the proposed contents of the SoCC and the engagement approach. Formal engagement took place between February 5 and March 6, 2025. During this process, the Applicant developed plans to engage with the community, which included specific measures to reach out to certain groups, including those who are seldom heard, ensuring that a diverse range of perspectives and voices were included in the consultation.</p> <p>The SoCC is provided in Consultation Report Appendix C: Copy of the SoCC and Compliance with the SoCC [APP/5.2].</p> <p>The responses from local planning authorities to the draft SoCC are included in Consultation Report Appendix B: Preparation of the SoCC [APP/5.2]. Details on how the Applicant considered these responses are provided in Tables 7-9 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1].</p>
Paragraph 022	<p>Local communities may need support to help them to input to the NSIP consenting process. Independent community liaison chairs or forums can be used to provide support to local communities and non-statutory consultees to enable them to provide an effective input to the pre-application process. Applicants will want to consider whether these should be used, not least to assist an applicant's own assessment of</p>	<p>The Applicant has sought to ensure consultation activities are accessible and has been open to engagement requests, noting in the SoCC that it would "<i>consider requests for additional briefing meetings with stakeholders.</i>"</p> <p>The SoCC is provided in Consultation Report Appendix C: Copy of the SoCC and Compliance with the SoCC [APP/5.2].</p>

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	potential examination issues in preparing their Programme Document and SoCC.	
Paragraph 023	<p>How should applicants engage statutory consultees and other relevant groups?</p> <p>Applicants must:</p> <p>consult the prescribed bodies as appropriate under Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009, as well as the Marine Management Organisation in certain circumstances, under section 42 of the Planning Act, giving the consultees at least 28 days to respond;</p> <p>publicise their proposed application under section 48 of the Planning Act, and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009 sets out the detail of what this publicity must entail; and</p> <p>by section 49 of the Planning Act have regard to any relevant consultation responses from either statutory consultees under section 42 of the Planning Act, local communities under section 47 of the Planning Act, or wider publicity under section 48 of the Planning Act.</p>	<p>The Applicant sets out how it has engaged statutory consultees and other relevant groups throughout the Consultation Report [APP/5.1].</p> <p>Consultation under Section 42 is described in Section 5.2 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1].</p> <p>Publicly under Section 48 is described in Section 5.5 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1].</p> <p>The Applicant has reviewed relevant responses made pursuant to Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 in accordance with Section 49. In reviewing the responses, the Applicant is cognisant of its duty to have regard to any relevant responses.</p> <p>A detailed record of relevant responses received and how the Applicant has considered these is provided in Consultation Report Appendix G: Section 42 – Responses Received and Applicants Response[APP/5.2] and Appendix H: Section 47 – Responses Received and Applicants Response [APP/5.2].</p>
Paragraph 024	<p>What do applicants have to do to consult people with an interest in land?</p> <p>Where an applicant proposes to compulsorily acquire an interest or take temporary possession of land it does not own in order to implement a proposed NSIP, under section 42 of the Planning Act they must identify and consult people, including those who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question.</p> <p>It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the application to the Planning Inspectorate that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests. Applicants must ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categorises those land interests) is sufficiently up to date at the time of submission (acknowledging the timescales for preparing and updating it) and fully meets the requirements of Regulations 5 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009.</p>	<p>The Applicant carried out a diligent inquiry using the methods set out in Section 5.2 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1] to identify and consult those with an interest in the land before the commencement of the statutory consultation. These methods included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop referencing • Reviewing the Land Registry • Issuing Land Interest Questionnaires; and • Erecting Site notices. <p>Land interests identified under Section 42(1)(d) were contacted on 14 May 2025 and issued with a version of the letter sent to consultees identified under Section 42(1)(a) and Section 42(1)(b). An example copy of this letter is shown in Consultation Report Appendix E: Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Act – Supporting Material [APP/5.2].</p> <p>Persons identified within Consultation Report Appendix E: Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of Act – Supporting Material [APP/5.2] and the Book of Reference [APP/4.3] (at the time) were consulted.</p> <p>Any changes occurring prior to the Section 42 consultation, and again before submission of the Book of Reference [APP/4.3], were captured. Further details are set out in Section 5.2 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1].</p>

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>[...]</p> <p>Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.</p>	
Paragraph 025	<p>What is the early adequacy of consultation milestone</p> <p>The Programme Document will enable the Planning Inspectorate to determine at the Inception Meeting that the proposed consultation arrangements are adequate for the level of complexity of the proposed project. The Programme Document should also identify an appropriate milestone during the preapplication stage to enable the Planning Inspectorate to test the progress of the consultation.</p>	<p>A Programme Document, prepared in accordance with the guidance set out in the Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus, was shared with the Planning Inspectorate ahead of the Applicant's inception meeting.</p> <p>The Programme Document included a timetable for consultation, setting out key milestones and has since been hosted on the Scheme website.</p>
	<p>This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application.</p> <p>The adequacy of consultation milestone should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.</p> <p>Under section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act, at the acceptance stage, the Planning Inspectorate will seek the formal views from local authorities about the adequacy of consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant prepared a written statement in response to the government's guidance regarding an early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone. A copy of this written statement is provided in Consultation Report Appendix J: Statement of Compliance [APP/5.2].</p> <p>The Applicant shared its Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report with Norfolk County Council, Breckland District Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk on 21 August 2025. Norfolk County Council and Breckland District Council subsequently shared their views via email, copies of which are provided in Consultation Report Appendix J: Statement of Compliance [APP/5.2]</p> <p>The Applicant submitted this statement to the Planning Inspectorate on 15 September 2025.</p>
Paragraph 026	<p>What is the consultation report and how should applicants respond to consultees?</p> <p>[The Consultation Report] should not include an excessively detailed description of every</p>	<p>This Consultation Report [APP/5.1] has been prepared in accordance with this guidance. Relevant sections demonstrating this are as follows:</p>

Section	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>element of the consultation programme. The main objective should be to provide clarity not just on what consultation has been done but, crucially, how the applicant has taken it into account. It should therefore:</p> <p>provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken including the timeline;</p> <p>set out specifically what the applicant has done to comply with the statutory requirements of the Planning Act, including advice issued under section 51 of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation and this guidance;</p> <p>set out how the applicant has complied with the requirements to consult local communities described in the SoCC;</p> <p>set out any relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses);</p> <p>provide a description of how the proposed application for submission has been informed and influenced by taking account of those responses, showing any significant changes made as a result;</p> <p>provide an explanation as to why any responses advising on changes to a proposed project, including advice from statutory consultees and local authorities on effects, were not followed; and</p> <p>be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Planning Inspectorate to understand fully how consultation has been undertaken, and how the issues raised through consultation have been addressed or responded to.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table 1 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1] summarises the pre-application engagement in chronological order • Consultation Report Appendix J: Statement of Compliance [APP/5.2] sets out how the Applicant has complied with relevant legislation and guidance, including the statutory requirements under the PA 2008. • Chapter 4 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1] sets out how the Applicant consulted relevant authorities on the SoCC. • Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 of the Consultation Report [APP/5.1] provided a summary of the responses received under Section 42 and Section 47 of the PA 2008 and the Applicant's consideration of these.
Paragraph 026	<p>It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results. The consultation report may not be the most appropriate format in which to respond to the points raised by various consultee groups and bodies. Applicants should therefore consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full consultation report for those interested.</p>	<p>The Scheme website has remained live throughout the pre-application process and will be updated following the submission of the DCO Application. The Applicant will consider further methods of notifying the community of the outcomes of the statutory consultation.</p>

2 Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

The Drovers Solar Farm

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

Prepared by: Copper Consultancy

Date: August 2025

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



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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report (“the Report”) has been prepared on behalf of The Drovers Solar Farm Limited (“the Applicant”), as part of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) (“the Application”) for The Drovers Solar Farm (“the Scheme”).
- 1.1.2 The Applicant proposes to apply to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (“the Secretary of State”) under the Planning Act 2008¹ (“the Act”).
- 1.1.3 In 2024, the government published two advisory documents relating to the Act.
- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects² (“the Guidance”, published 30 April 2024); and
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus³ (“the Prospectus”, published 16 May 2024 and last updated 30 June 2025)
- 1.1.4 These documents introduce an Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) to the application process, providing an opportunity for the Applicant to outline the stages of consultation undertaken to date, confirm the approaches set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), and summarise the consultation responses and the way in which they are shaping the application.
- 1.1.5 The Applicant must make a written submission to the Inspectorate as part of the AoCM. Under Section 55(4)(b) of the Act, at the acceptance stage, the Planning Inspectorate will seek formal views from local authorities about the adequacy of consultation. The Guidance also states that the Report should include the views of, and any relevant supporting material from, local authorities, if available.
- 1.1.6 The Applicant intends to submit this report no later than three months prior to the submission date of November 2025, as set out in the Programme Document, which was made available on the Scheme website from January 2025.
- 1.1.7 The Applicant has committed to early, meaningful consultation during the pre-application stage. Engagement with the local community, elected representatives, parish councils,

¹ Planning Act 2008 – www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents

² Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>)

³ Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus>)



landowners and other stakeholders has informed the Applicant of concerns relating to the project and shaped the proposals ahead of application submission.

- 1.1.8 This Report provides an overview of the engagement and consultation activities undertaken to date and how these comply with the requirements of the Act.
- 1.1.9 The Applicant is providing this document to the Planning Inspectorate to demonstrate how it has complied with the consultation and publicity requirements prescribed by Sections 42, 46, 47 and 48 of Act, associated provisions of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”) and The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (“the APFP Regulations”) (as amended) and how the Applicant has had regard to government guidance.

1.2 Scheme overview

- 1.2.1 The Scheme is a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation and storage facility with an expected power output of up to approximately 500 MWac. It is located on approximately 825 hectares of land and is situated on land north of Swaffham and south of Castle Acre, West Norfolk.
- 1.2.2 The Scheme is wholly located within the administrative boundaries of Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council, who are the host authorities.
- 1.2.3 The Drovers Solar Farm will consist of:
- the Solar PV Site, which will include solar panels, mounting structures, conversion units and inverters;
 - A Customer Substation, which comprises electrical infrastructure such as transformers, switchgear and metering equipment required to facilitate the export of electricity up to 400-kV (kilovolt) from The Drovers Solar Farm to the National Grid Substation;
 - A 400-kV National Grid Substation operated by National Grid Electricity Transmission and associated grid connection infrastructure and other ancillary works required to facilitate the export of electricity from the Scheme to the National Grid;
 - A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS);
 - Associated infrastructure, mitigation and enhancement measures and other ancillary works, for example, enclosures and fencing, security, drainage, earthworks, highways and access works, mitigation and enhancement measures, temporary works compounds and work sites;
 - Grid Connection Cables – 400-kV (kilovolt) cables connecting the Customer Substation to the Point of Connection; and



- Grid Connection Infrastructure – Underground and/or overhead lines, including the construction of new pylons between the National Grid Substation and the Point of Connection.

1.2.4 The proposed Development Consent Order (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;
- 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, licences, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

2 Consultation and engagement approach

2.1 Consultation approach

2.1.1 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 on the Consultation Report (August 2024)⁴ on the role of local authorities in the development consent process and Advice Note (September 2024)⁵ on EIA notification and consultation.

2.1.2 The approach to consultation consists of two broad phases:

- initial engagement and early engagement workshops (non-statutory consultation) held during the period August 2024–March 2025 and
- a statutory consultation period lasting seven weeks from Wednesday 21 May to Wednesday 9 July 2025.

2.1.3 A summary of the initial engagement and early engagement workshops that took place as part of the non-statutory consultation and the statutory consultation is provided in Section 2.3 and Section 2.4 respectively.

⁴ Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice for Local Authorities – GOV.UK – <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-consultation-report>

⁵ 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



2.2 Initial engagement

- 2.2.1 The primary aim of the Applicant's initial engagement was to introduce the early-stage proposals for the Scheme, including the early environmental assessments and site selection work carried out to date.
- 2.2.2 As part of the initial engagement, the Applicant issued letters in August 2024 introducing the Scheme to:
- Breckland Council;
 - Norfolk County Council;
 - Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk;
 - Swaffham Town Council;
 - host and neighbouring parish councils; and
 - host and neighbouring constituency area MPs.
- 2.2.3 The letter invited stakeholders to an introductory briefing on the Scheme. The Applicant met with local councillors from Breckland Council, Norfolk County Council, the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, and host and neighbouring parish council representatives. A summary of these introductory briefing meetings is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of introductory briefing meetings

Date	Stakeholder attendees
Wednesday 4 September 2024	[REDACTED] Breckland Council [REDACTED] Breckland Council [REDACTED] Breckland Council [REDACTED], Breckland Council [REDACTED] Norfolk County Council [REDACTED] Norfolk County Council
Friday 6 September 2024	[REDACTED] Little Dunham Parish Council [REDACTED] Holme Hale Parish Council
Monday 9 September 2024	[REDACTED] Little Dunham Parish Council [REDACTED] Swaffham Town Council [REDACTED] Little Dunham Parish Council



	██████████ Castle Acre Parish Council ██████████ Little Dunham Parish Council
Wednesday 11 September 2024	██████████ Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
Wednesday 11 September 2024	██████████ Member of Parliament for Ely and East Cambridgeshire

- 2.2.4 In addition to the introductory briefing meetings, the Applicant issued letters to near neighbours, which are residential and commercial properties within 50 m of the proposed development boundary for the Scheme ("the Site").

2.3 Non-statutory consultation

- 2.3.1 In September and October 2024, the Applicant held a series of early-engagement workshops with invited stakeholders, including local councils, community groups and technical consultees, to introduce the proposals for the Scheme and help understand key issues and potential constraints in the local area. Appendix 1 contains a full list of invited stakeholders.
- 2.3.2 These workshops took the form of a presentation by the project team, followed by a collaborative masterplanning exercise between stakeholders and the Applicant, to capture local knowledge and incorporate this into ongoing environmental assessments and design development.
- 2.3.3 Two in-person workshops, providing an opportunity to discuss the proposals and raise questions, were held with local councils and community groups. A summary of these sessions is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of in-person engagement workshops

Workshop	Attendees
Tuesday 17 September 2024, from 14:00 until 17:00, at the Dragonfly Hotel, King's Lynn	██████████ Swaffham Climate Change and Environment Group
	██████████ Necton Parish Council
	██████████ Necton Parish Council
	██████████ Representative for South Acre Parish
	██████████ Representative for South Acre Parish



	██████████ Chair, Castle Acre Parish Council
	██████████ Castle Acre Parish Council
	██████████ Little Dunham Parish Council
	██████████ Wissey Ward, King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council
	██████████ Airfield Ward, Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
	██████████ Airfield Ward, Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk; Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Norfolk Trustee
Tuesday 1 October 2024, from 17:00 until 20:00, at The George Hotel, Swaffham	██████████ Access Field Officer, East of England, British Horse Society
	██████████ Director of Planning and Building Control, Breckland Council
	██████████ Principal Planning Policy Officer, Breckland Council
	██████████ Little Dunham Parish Council
	██████████ Chair, Holme Hale Parish Council
	██████████ Swaffham Methodist Church
	██████████ Swaffham Climate Change and Environment Group
	██████████ Swaffham Climate Change and Environment Group

2.3.4 A number of technical stakeholders expressed an interest in participating but were unable to attend in person. The Applicant therefore organised a series of online workshops to discuss specific topic areas in greater detail.

2.3.5 These workshops, which used slides relevant to the technical disciplines from the presentation given at the in-person events, were each followed by a Q&A session to



address any questions and gather further feedback. A summary of these sessions is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of online technical workshops

Workshop	Attendees
Water and Flood workshop: Tuesday 24 September 2024, from 10:00 until 12:00, using Microsoft Teams	<div>██████████ Principal Planner, Norfolk County Council</div> <div>██████████ INCREES Project, Norfolk County Council</div> <div>██████████ Head of Development Management, Norfolk County Council</div>
Planning, Community Benefit and Socio-Economic workshop: Tuesday 24 September 2024, from 14:00 until 16:00, using Microsoft Teams	<div>██████████ Strategic Flood Risk Planning Officer, Norfolk County Council</div>
Traffic and Transportation workshop: Thursday 26 September 2024, from 10:00 until 11:30, using Microsoft Teams	<div>██████████ Norfolk County Council</div> <div>██████████ Norfolk County Council</div>
Ecology and Biodiversity workshop: Thursday 23 January 2025, from 10:00 until 11:00, using Microsoft Teams	<div>██████████ Norfolk Wildlife Trust</div> <div>██████████ Norfolk Wildlife Trust</div>

- 2.3.6 The Applicant notes that the later Ecology and Biodiversity workshop was arranged to discuss written feedback provided during the non-statutory consultation period on materials presented as part of the early-engagement workshops.
- 2.3.7 A Workshop Summary Report⁶ was prepared by the Applicant, providing a summary of the early engagement workshops, including feedback received. The report was shared with stakeholders and uploaded to the Scheme website on Tuesday 3 December 2024.
- 2.3.8 To raise awareness of the Scheme, in October 2024, the Applicant also circulated an initial newsletter to local communities (defined by a Primary Consultation Zone (“PCZ”)) of approximately 5,760 residential and business addresses, as shown in Appendix 2).

⁶ <https://drovessolarfarm.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/The-Drovers-Solar-Farm-Workshop-Summary-Report.pdf>



- 2.3.9 The newsletter included information about the Scheme, such as an indicative timeline, Site map and details on how to contact the project team – including the website, email address and Freephone number – for those seeking further information. It was also made available on the Scheme website.

2.4 Statutory consultation

- 2.4.1 In accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act, the Applicant has undertaken pre-application consultation on the Scheme ahead of submission of the Application, with the following consultees:
- Prescribed bodies (in accordance with Section 42(1)(a));
 - Local authorities (in accordance with Section 42(1)(b) and as set out in Section 43(1));
 - Those with an interest in the land (in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) and as set out in Section 44);
 - Community and other organisations in the “vicinity” of the Site who may be affected both directly and indirectly by the Scheme (in accordance with Section 47); and
 - Wider communities and organisations (local, national and regional) in order to seek their comments on the Scheme proposals (in accordance with Section 48).
- 2.4.2 The statutory consultation was held for seven weeks from Wednesday 21 May to Wednesday 9 July 2025.
- 2.4.3 The consultation sought feedback on all aspects of the Applicant’s plans for the Scheme, including:
- indicative masterplans identifying potential areas for the solar PV arrays, associated development, and potential mitigation and enhancement opportunities;
 - 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 Scheme and proposed mitigation measures; and
 - possible community benefits, including funding for local initiatives.
- 2.4.4 The consultation also sought general feedback and other local issues or sensitivities that the Applicant should be aware of.



Defining the Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) and identifying consultees

- 2.4.5 The Applicant devised a new PCZ for statutory consultation, within the area of the host local planning authority of Breckland Council and the neighbouring local planning authority of the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, both of which are within Norfolk County Council.
- 2.4.6 The PCZ extends up to two kilometres from the proposed Site, within which the solar PV panels and associated development are proposed to be located, with additional extensions around residential clusters, including:
- Swaffham;
 - Narborough;
 - West Acre;
 - Castle Acre; and
 - Sporle with Palgrave.
- 2.4.7 The PCZ was extended following the early-engagement workshops to account for changes to the Site.
- 2.4.8 The extension of the PCZ was considered sufficient based on the anticipated impacts of the Scheme, ensuring engagement with members of the community who may be directly or indirectly affected during the construction, operation, maintenance or decommissioning of the Scheme.
- 2.4.9 Figure 1 shows the PCZ for the statutory consultation. The PCZ contains approximately 7,000 residential and business addresses.

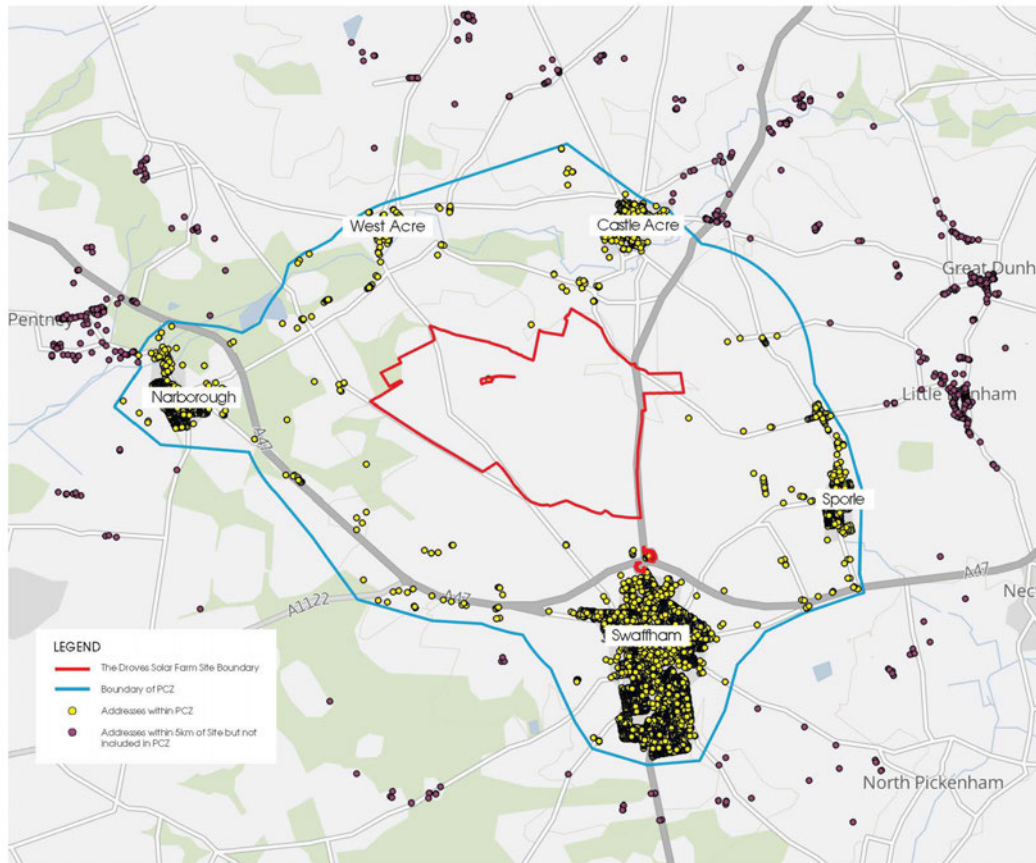


Figure 1: Statutory consultation PCZ

2.4.10 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:

- landowners with an interest in land that may be affected by the Scheme;
- statutory consultees, such as:
 - Norfolk County Council;
 - host parish councils;
 - host and neighbouring local planning authorities;
 - technical stakeholders, such as the Environment Agency and Historic England;
 - airfields and aerodromes within the vicinity of the Site; and
 - Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service.
- non-statutory consultees, such as:
 - Members of Parliament;
 - neighbouring parish councils;
 - local government elected representatives;
 - schools and colleges in the PCZ;



- Norfolk Wildlife Trust;
- local interest groups, including community groups, voluntary organisations and faith communities;
- environmental groups in the PCZ; and
- organisations representing specific groups in society, such as Age UK Norfolk and local disability groups.

2.4.11 A full list of consultees engaged as part of the statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 47 of the Act, can be found in Appendix 3. A full list of statutory consultees engaged as part of the statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 42 of the Act, can be found in Appendix 4.

Publicising the consultation

2.4.12 Consultation was undertaken in line with the requirements of the Act and the APFP Regulations.

2.4.13 According to the requirements in Section 42 and Section 48 of the Act, notices publicising the proposed application were published once in a local, a national newspaper and The London Gazette, and Section 42 consultees were notified via a Section 42 notice letter and a Section 48 notice.

2.4.14 Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations requires the Section 48 notice under the Act be publicised once in a national newspaper and for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the Scheme (see Appendix 4).

2.4.15 The Section 48 notices were advertised in the nationally circulating publications listed in Table 4. The Section 48 notices were advertised in the locally circulating publication listed in Table 5.

Table 4: National newspapers

Publication	Format	Date of notice
The Guardian	Print and online	Wednesday 14 May 2025
The London Gazette	Print and online	Wednesday 14 May 2025

Table 5: Local newspapers

Publication	Format	Date of notice one	Date of notice two
Eastern Daily Press	Print and online	Wednesday 14 May 2025	Wednesday 21 May 2025



- 2.4.16 Letters were issued to statutory consultees on Wednesday 14 May 2025, as required by Section 42 of the Act.
- 2.4.17 In addition to formal requirements under Section 48 and Section 42 of the Act, the Applicant used a variety of methods to make people in the PCZ aware of the Scheme and to advertise the consultation, in addition to the activities already outlined. These methods are outlined in Table 6.

Table 6: Additional methods to promote the statutory consultation

Method	Detail
Stakeholder briefings	<p>A separate invitation, distinct from the Section 42 letters, was issued to local planning authorities and host and neighbouring parish councils on Wednesday 12 March 2025, inviting them to attend a pre-statutory consultation briefing meeting.</p> <p>Two briefing meetings were held for key members from Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk on Tuesday 29 April 2025 and Thursday 8 May 2025.</p> <p>Following a request for a briefing meeting, an invitation was extended to Norfolk Fire and Rescue. A representative attended the session held on Thursday 8 May 2025.</p> <p>Two separate briefing meetings were held for relevant representatives from host and neighbouring parish councils on Tuesday 6 May 2025.</p>
Consultation Newsletter	<p>The Applicant issued a Consultation Newsletter to all addresses in the PCZ on Friday 2 May 2025, providing an overview of the Scheme and how to participate in the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Newsletter was uploaded to the Scheme website on Tuesday 6 May 2025.</p>
Consultation Leaflet and Consultation Poster	<p>On Friday 9 May 2025, the Applicant circulated a copy of the Consultation Leaflet (see Appendix 5) and Poster (see Appendix 6) to stakeholders via email.</p> <p>In the accompanying cover note, the Applicant invited recipients to share the materials with their relevant networks and contacts, at their discretion.</p>



	<p>A copy of the Consultation Newsletter was also included, with an offer to provide hard copies of the Consultation Leaflet, Poster and Newsletter upon request.</p> <p>The Consultation Poster and Leaflet were uploaded to the Scheme website on Tuesday 6 May 2025.</p>
Press release	<p>A press release was issued via email to local and national media outlets on Wednesday 14 May 2025.</p> <p>The press release provided wider notification to local stakeholders of the consultation events, reaching stakeholders outside the PCZ.</p>
Scheme website	<p>The Scheme website was updated on Friday 9 May 2025 to announce the upcoming statutory consultation and provide details on how to participate.</p> <p>A further update was made on Tuesday 20 May 2025, confirming that the statutory consultation was live from Wednesday 21 May 2025.</p>
Information point and community collection points	<p>Consultation materials were available to view at Swaffham Library throughout the statutory consultation period. Hard copies of the PEIR, the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR, and the SoCC were available for reference, while the Consultation Information Booklet and Feedback Form were available to take away.</p> <p>The same materials, excluding the PEIR, were also provided at two community collection points: Westacre Theatre and Narborough Community Centre.</p>
Site notices	<p>Notices were placed in publicly accessible locations (see Appendix 7) within Site to provide notification of the consultation.</p> <p>The site notices were checked regularly throughout the statutory consultation period and any damaged or removed notices were replaced.</p>

Engagement activities and information provision

- 2.4.18 During the statutory consultation, the Applicant used a range of methods to ensure an inclusive, meaningful and open consultation. The consultation used digital and non-digital methods of communication to ensure it could be accessed by all stakeholders.



- 2.4.19 As part of the statutory consultation, the Applicant hosted four in-person consultation events and two online webinars for members of the public to engage with. The list of the consultation events can be found in Table 7.

Table 7: Statutory consultation events

Date and time	Format	Location
Saturday 31 May 2025 11:00–17:00	In-person consultation event	Sporle Community Centre, 78 The Street, Sporle, King's Lynn, PE32 2DR
Monday 2 June 2025 10:00–14:00	In-person consultation event	Narborough Community Centre, Chalk Lane, Narborough, King's Lynn, PE32 1SR
Thursday 5 June 2025 12:30–13:30	Online webinar	Livestorm platform
Wednesday 11 June 2025 12:00–19:00	In-person consultation event	Swaffham Assembly Rooms, 1 Market Place Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7AB
Friday 20 June 2025 10:00–14:00	In-person consultation event	Westacre Theatre, River Road, West Acre, Norfolk, PE32 1UA
Wednesday 25 June 2025 18:30–19:30	Online webinar	Livestorm platform

- 2.4.20 The Applicant notes that an additional “pop-up” event was held in Castle Acre on Thursday 12 June 2025. The event was arranged in response to concerns raised during the pre-statutory consultation briefing meeting held on Tuesday 6 May 2025 (see Table 6) about the absence of an in-person consultation event in Castle Acre, given its proximity to the Scheme. Unlike the main in-person consultation events, no banners were displayed; however, indicative masterplans were available for attendees to view and discuss with the project team.
- 2.4.21 This event was not included in the SoCC as it was arranged after the SoCC had been published.
- 2.4.22 To publicise the additional session, the Applicant prepared a leaflet which was shared with Castle Acre Parish Council, uploaded to the Scheme website on Tuesday 3 June 2025 and displayed on local village noticeboards from Tuesday 27 May 2025.



- 2.4.23 In addition to the consultation events, the Applicant met with local stakeholders to present the proposals for the Scheme. Table 8 provides a list of the stakeholder briefings held during the statutory consultation.

Table 8: Statutory consultation stakeholder briefing meetings

Stakeholder	Date	Location
Representatives from Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council, the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk and the Norfolk Local Access Forum.	Friday 30 May 2025	Site visit
East of England Ambulance Service	Monday 9 June 2025	Online
Norfolk Community Foundation	Monday 30 June 2025	Online
King's Lynn u3a Climate Change Group	Tuesday 1 July 2025	Online
Norfolk Wildlife Trust	Wednesday 16 July 2025	Online

- 2.4.24 The Applicant notes a second email invitation was issued on Thursday 19 June 2025 to non-statutory consultees identified as stakeholders most likely to have a direct interest in the proposals, owing to local environmental, heritage, community and recreational interests. The invitation encouraged participation in the statutory consultation and offered the opportunity to attend a dedicated briefing meeting.
- 2.4.25 The Applicant also notes that the meeting held with Norfolk Wildlife Trust took place outside the statutory consultation period, following an extension to the consultation deadline to Friday 18 July 2025 to ensure the availability of relevant attendees.
- 2.4.26 The consultation materials used during the statutory consultation can be found in Table 9. Throughout the statutory consultation, all materials were available to view on the Scheme website.



Table 9: Consultation materials

Materials	Details
Consultation Newsletter	<p>A Consultation Newsletter was posted to all addresses in the PCZ. It provided an overview of the Scheme, the consultation and how people can get involved.</p> <p>The Consultation Newsletter indicated where the other consultation documents could be accessed and publicised the consultation events, including locations, dates and timing.</p>
Consultation Leaflet and Consultation Poster	<p>The Consultation Leaflet and Consultation Poster detailed the statutory consultation dates, explained where the consultation documents could be accessed, and set out how members of the community could participate.</p>
Consultation Information Booklet	<p>The Consultation Information Booklet provided a summary of the Scheme and outlined how the design had evolved since the non-statutory consultation, including maps illustrating the Scheme layout.</p> <p>It also included details of the public consultation events, such as the dates, times and locations of the exhibitions and webinars, as well as information on how to access other materials.</p>
Consultation Feedback Form	<p>The Feedback Form allowed consultees to provide feedback on the Scheme. It could be completed digitally via the Scheme website or in hard copy.</p>
Exhibition materials	<p>Consultation events contained Exhibition Banners that provided an overview of the Scheme.</p> <p>A number of maps and plans, including the Indicative Masterplan, were also available to view.</p>
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR	<p>The PEIR describes the Scheme and contains a preliminary assessment of the likely environmental effects of the Scheme, along with an outline of proposed measures to mitigate adverse effects.</p> <p>A NTS of the PEIR was also provided as part of the statutory consultation materials.</p>



Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	The SoCC set out how the Applicant intended to consult people living in the vicinity of the land that is needed for the Scheme.
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- 2.4.27 At the in-person consultation events, a range of materials were available for attendees to view, including Exhibition Banners, the PEIR, the NTS of the PEIR, the SoCC, and a selection of maps and plans. Information Booklets and Feedback Forms were provided for attendees to take away, along with copies of the Consultation Poster and Consultation Leaflet.
- 2.4.28 Consultation materials were made available in hard copy at the local information point and designated community collection points for the duration of the statutory consultation.
- 2.4.29 Details of the information points and the availability of each document are set out in Table 10.

Table 10: Information point and community collection points

Venue	Designation	Materials to take away	Reference materials
Swaffham Library	Information point	Consultation Information Booklet Feedback Form	SoCC NTS PEIR
Narborough Community Centre	Community collection point	Consultation Information Booklet Feedback Form	SoCC NTS
Westacre Theatre	Community collection point	Consultation Information Booklet Feedback Form	SoCC NTS

- 2.4.30 All consultation documents were available upon request in hard copy and in accessible formats, such as braille or large print. Requests for a printed hard copy of the PEIR (including in accessible formats) would have been considered on a case-by-case basis, with a typical charge of £750 to cover printing and postage costs. Requests for individual volumes would have been charged based on the cost per volume requested. No such requests were received during the consultation period.
- 2.4.31 The enquiry channels listed in Table 11 were available throughout the consultation for members of the community and other stakeholders to contact the project 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.

Table 11: Enquiry channels

Method	Contact details	Hours of operation
Telephone	0800 0129 154	9:00 to 17:30 on weekdays (with an answerphone facility to take messages outside these hours)
Email	info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk	Members of the public were able to email 24 hours a day, with emails being monitored between 9:00 and 17:30 on weekdays. The Community Relations 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 THE DROVES SOLAR FARM	Respondents were able to provide their responses in written format via the Freepost address.

2.4.32 Respondents were able to provide their responses in the following ways:

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

2.4.33 A total of 118 responses were received during this round of engagement through the online feedback form, hard-copy letters, emails and hard-copy feedback forms.



3 Developing the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

3.1 Informal consultation on the SoCC

- 3.1.1 Ahead of conducting the statutory consultation, a SoCC was prepared, consulted on and published following the process as prescribed in Section 47 of the Act.
- 3.1.2 The Applicant began early engagement on the SoCC with Planning Officers from Norfolk County Council and Breckland Council in October and November 2024.
- 3.1.3 The Applicant introduced the SoCC and shared a high-level timeline for its preparation and consultation during scheduled planning meetings on Tuesday 29 October 2024 and Tuesday 26 November 2024. A draft outline was also shared via email with Planning Officers as part of an informal consultation. Planning Officers met with the Applicant on Tuesday 21 January 2025 to discuss the draft outline. The Applicant shared the revised suggested outline with Planning Officers via email. An acknowledgement was received from Norfolk County Council.

3.2 SoCC consultation

- 3.2.1 The Applicant identified Norfolk County Council and Breckland Council as relevant host authorities under Section 43(1) of the Act. The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk was also identified as a neighbouring authority which has a direct border with the Site. These host and neighbouring authorities were formally consulted on the draft SoCC, in accordance with Section 47 of the Act.
- 3.2.2 In accordance with Section 47 of the Act, the Applicant formally consulted the relevant host and neighbouring authorities on the SoCC.
- 3.2.3 The draft SoCC was sent to Breckland Council, Norfolk County Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk on Wednesday 5 February 2025. This marked the beginning of the 28-day formal consultation period, in compliance with the Act.
- 3.2.4 A deadline for responses was set for Thursday 6 March 2025. A reminder notification was sent on Thursday 20 February 2025.
- 3.2.5 Breckland Council responded on Friday 21 February 2025 to confirm that they were satisfied with the Applicant's overall approach to consultation. Their response also included four comments for consideration.
- 3.2.6 The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk responded on Monday 3 March 2025 with several comments for review. The Council expressed broad agreement with the Applicant's intended scope as set out in the draft SoCC.



- 3.2.7 Norfolk County Council submitted their comments on Tuesday 4 March 2025. Norfolk County Council welcomed the Applicant's intended approach to engagement with local communities across Norfolk. They also provided several comments for consideration.
- 3.2.8 The Applicant confirmed receipt of each response once received. A formal notification email was shared upon the close of consultation on Thursday 6 March 2025.
- 3.2.9 Following the close of consultation, the Applicant reviewed and incorporated the feedback received where practicable. The Applicant issued a formal response to identified host and neighbouring authorities on Monday 31 March 2025.
- 3.2.10 The SoCC was made available online and at the local information point on Wednesday 23 April 2025, in line with the publication of the Section 47 notice. The Applicant also shared a copy of the SoCC via email with stakeholders on Wednesday 23 April 2025.
- 3.2.11 A copy of the draft SoCC and the formal response letters issued to each authority via email will be included in the Consultation Report submitted with the Application.
- 3.2.12 Tables 12-14 (below) detail all the feedback received from Breckland Council, Norfolk County Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, and the regard had by the Applicant.
- 3.2.13 The Consultation Report and its supporting appendices will provide comprehensive evidence of compliance with the SoCC consultation process, including details of how all feedback was taken into account.

Table 12: Breckland Council response and actions taken

Section of SoCC	Comment	Regard had
8. Who we are consulting	The Indicative PCZ map at Appendix 2 shows the area extending into King's Lynn and West Norfolk. [Breckland Council] would support that. At Section 8 of the document the PCZ is referenced as being within the host authority of Breckland. [Breckland Council] think the text should reflect that it includes the neighbouring district as well. [Breckland Council] [is] also pleased to note that the PCZ includes all of Swaffham.	The Applicant amended the SoCC to reflect that the PCZ includes the neighbouring Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.
9. How we will consult	I am pleased to see that neighbouring, as well as host, Parish and Town Councils	The Applicant updated the SoCC to clarify that the Borough Council of King's Lynn



	<p>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 [Norfolk County Council] but King's Lynn and West Norfolk as well. I would suggest that the host Parishes and neighbouring Parishes are briefed separately as well.</p>	<p>& West Norfolk would be invited to briefing meetings alongside Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council.</p> <p>The Applicant subsequently held briefing meetings with key members on Tuesday 29 April and Thursday 8 May 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant held separate briefing meetings for host and neighbouring parish councils on Tuesday 6 and Thursday 8 May 2025.</p>
9. How we will consult	<p>As well as Swaffham Library to host hard copies of documents I would suggest King's Lynn, Dereham or Fakenham libraries as well as Parish Council Offices and Swaffham Town Council offices.</p>	<p>The Applicant considered Dereham Library and Fakenham Library for hosting consultation materials and determined that they were located too far away and outside the PCZ, and therefore would not be accessible or convenient for consultees.</p> <p>The Applicant considered, but did not take forward, the use of Swaffham Town Council offices, as these would have duplicated the function of the Swaffham Library. Similarly, parish council offices were not used as local information points, as opening hours were not consistent enough to ensure reliable public access.</p>

Table 13: Norfolk County Council response and actions taken

Section of SoCC	Comment	Regard had
6.1 Early engagement	<p>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</p>	<p>The Applicant updated the SoCC to reflect those invited to introductory briefing meetings.</p> <p>Additionally, the Applicant clarified the recipients of the near-neighbour letter as those</p>



	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.	within 50 meters of the Site, and the newsletter as those within the PCZ. It was decided not to append the newsletter, as some of the information became out of date; however, it was made available on the Scheme website.
6.2 Approach to consultation	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.	Taking into account the Council's comments, and in recognition of public holidays during the consultation period and the potential cumulative impacts of other developments, the Applicant extended the consultation period to seven weeks. The statutory consultation subsequently ran from Wednesday 21 May 2025 until 23:59 on Wednesday 9 July 2025.
7.1 Early-engagement workshops	It would be helpful to include as an appendix the information presented at the engagement workshops, referred to in section 7.1.	The materials presented at the engagement workshops were made available on the Scheme website and were signposted in the SoCC. Given the volume of materials – including detailed maps and a presentation – it was not considered practical to include them as an appendix to the SoCC.
8. Who we are consulting	The County Council would like to be named as a statutory consultee in section 8.	The Applicant named Norfolk County Council as a statutory consultee.
8. Who we are consulting	The Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service request they are added as a non-statutory consultee, in the list of non-statutory	The Applicant considers that the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is a statutory consultee under the APFP Regulations and therefore included them



	consultees referred to in section 8.	accordingly in the updated wording.
8. Who we are consulting	<p>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 Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on workforce development in due course.</p>	<p>The Applicant is preparing an Employment and Skills Strategy to be submitted as part of the Application. To support this, an Employment and Skills workshop was held, with representatives from Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council, and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk invited to attend.</p> <p>The Applicant will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders, including the Norfolk County Council Skills Team, local colleges, and other key organisations, to identify issues and opportunities and explore how the Scheme can support existing programmes and maximise local opportunities.</p> <p>The Applicant is also assessing workforce requirements across all phases of the Scheme. The outcomes of this assessment, together with findings from ongoing engagement, will be reported in the Employment and Skills Strategy and the Environmental Statement (ES), which will be submitted as part of the Application.</p>
N/A	<p>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</p>	<p>The Applicant shared a digital copy of the PIER, via the Council's internal SharePoint site on Tuesday 20 June 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledged the County Council's willingness to sign a non-disclosure agreement, but considered this unnecessary given the working relationship</p>



	a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) where appropriate.	and ongoing engagement between the parties.
9. How we will consult	<p>The County Council is pleased with the number and location of consultation events proposed.</p> <p>The Council suggests the events are not scheduled during May half term as this may limit numbers that can attend.</p>	<p>The Applicant understood that the May half-term holiday was scheduled between Monday 26 and Friday 30 May 2025, but also recognised that holiday schedules vary between schools.</p> <p>The consultation events were therefore scheduled at a range of times, including later dates in June, to accommodate this and maximise overall attendance throughout the consultation period.</p>
Appendix 1	The local interest groups listed in Appendix 1 appears to be a list of all groups, rather than focused on those that are local to the scheme and/or would have a particular interest in the proposals.	<p>The Applicant revised the list of Local Interest Groups to better reflect those that are either directly affected by or have a particular interest in the proposals for the Scheme.</p> <p>The updated list can be found in Appendix 1 of the SoCC.</p>
Appendix 2	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.	The Applicant amended the map to include a Legend that clarified areas referred to.

Table 14: Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk response and actions taken

Section of SoCC	Comment	Regard had
7. Non-statutory consultation	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	The Applicant recognises the importance of assessing and communicating the potential cumulative impacts of development. Engagement was undertaken with RWE



	<p>Grove Solar. The effects of the schemes in combination may warrant broader consultation.</p>	<p>regarding the neighbouring High Grove Solar Farm, resulting in a joint statutory consultation exhibition banner and map. These materials illustrated both schemes and explained to stakeholders how to participate in the respective statutory consultations.</p> <p>The Applicant also implemented a number of outreach measures, including a press release, to ensure that those outside the PCZ were notified of the statutory consultation and given the opportunity to provide feedback.</p> <p>In addition, a cumulative impact assessment was produced as part of the PEIR, evaluating the potential cumulative impacts of the Scheme alongside other NSIP schemes, such as High Grove Solar Farm, as well as other developments.</p>
8. Who we are consulting	<p>We request that Host and Neighbouring Parish Councils are specifically included within Section 8. As it stands, Castle Acre Parish Council is excluded from the document and is not included either in the main text or Appendix 1. Castle Acre Parish Council is an important consultee given the proximity of the site and impacts on their area.</p>	<p>The Applicant agrees and amended the SoCC to include explicit reference to neighbouring parish Councils.</p> <p>The Applicant subsequently consulted with Castle Acre Parish Council.</p>
10. Promoting the consultation	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Applicant noted this and considered the suggested publications. A decision was made based on distribution in relation to the PCZ, with the Applicant determining that the Eastern Daily Press provided sufficient coverage to effectively engage the PCZ.</p>



		<p>The Section 47 notice was published in print and online in the Eastern Daily Press.</p> <p>The Section 48 notices were published in print and online in the Eastern Daily Press.</p>
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3.3 Publicity under Section 47 of the Act

- 3.3.1 In compliance with the publicity requirements of Section 47(6) of the Act, the SoCC was publicised in a locally circulating newspaper in advance of the statutory consultation beginning and the issuing of the Section 48 notice.
- 3.3.2 This notice provided information on how the Applicant intended to engage with stakeholders and local communities during the upcoming seven-week statutory consultation.
- 3.3.3 The Section 47 notice was published in print and online in the Eastern Daily Press on Wednesday 23 April 2025 (see Appendix 9).
- 3.3.4 The Applicant notes that the publication date of the Section 47 notice was agreed in consultation with Norfolk County Council, to provide clarity for stakeholders and to take account of the proximity of the Scheme to RWE's High Grove Solar Farm, also located within Breckland District.
- 3.3.5 To distinguish the two schemes, the Applicant coordinated the timing of its SoCC publication with RWE, ensuring both were published in the same week. This approach was intended to minimise confusion within local communities by making clear that the schemes were separate and subject to distinct consultation processes.
- 3.3.6 The Applicant continues to work in collaboration with RWE to co-ordinate planned engagement activities.
- 3.3.7 A printed copy of the SoCC was displayed at the following local information point and community collection points from Wednesday 23 April 2025:
- Swaffham Library;
 - Westacre Theatre; and
 - Narborough Community Centre.
- 3.3.8 The SoCC was available to view at each of the four consultation in-person events during the statutory consultation period, and a digital version was available to view and download from the Scheme website from Wednesday 23 April 2025.



3.4 Compliance with the SoCC

- 3.4.1 The table below shows how the statutory consultation held between Wednesday 21 May and Wednesday 9 July 2025 was undertaken in compliance with the commitments set out in the SoCC, as per the requirements of Section 47(7) of the Act.
- 3.4.2 The Consultation Report and its supporting appendices will include all evidence of compliance.

Table 15: SoCC commitments and evidence of compliance

Section of SoCC	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
N/A	<p>Consulted and had regard for comments on the SoCC from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breckland Council;• Norfolk County Council; and• Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk	<p>Comments were received from Breckland Council, Norfolk County Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.</p> <p>The Applicant had regard to all comments and incorporated changes to the SoCC where practicable. The Applicant sent each authority a formal response to outline how each comment had been considered.</p>
6.2	<p>The approach to consultation consists of two phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ongoing engagement and early engagement workshops (non-statutory consultation) held during September–October 2024; and• a statutory consultation period lasting seven weeks in summer 2025.	<p>The Applicant is committed to continued engagement with stakeholders.</p> <p>Early engagement began in August 2024, and included introductory briefing meetings with local political representatives, and an initial newsletter posted to local communities included in the first iteration of the PCZ. The Applicant also held a series of early-engagement workshops in September 2024 and October 2024.</p> <p>Further details about early engagement activities, and how the Applicant had regard to the feedback received, can be found in Section 6 and Section 7 of the SoCC.</p> <p>A seven-week statutory consultation was held between Wednesday 21 May 2025 and Wednesday 9 July 2025.</p>



8	<p>We have devised a Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) for the statutory consultation within the area of the host local planning authority of Breckland Council and the neighbouring local planning authority of the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk. The PCZ is shown in Appendix 2. The area extends up to two kilometres from the proposed site boundaries (within which the solar PV arrays and associated development would be located) with additional extensions around residential clusters, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swaffham;• Narborough;• West Acre;• Castle Acre; and• Sporle with Palgrave. <p>The PCZ was extended following our early-engagement workshops to account for changes to the Site's red-line boundary. It is considered sufficient to engage with members of the local community who may be directly or indirectly impacted by the Scheme as a result of its construction, operation, maintenance or decommissioning. The PCZ contains approximately 7,000 residential and business addresses.</p>	<p>The PCZ was extended following early-engagement and non-statutory consultation to account for changes to the Site.</p> <p>The PCZ was extended from approximately 5,760 addresses to approximately 7,000 addresses. The revised PCZ extended 2 km from the Site with additional extensions around residential clusters in proximity to the Site.</p> <p>The PCZ was included in the SoCC and agreed with Breckland Council, Norfolk County Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk during the SoCC consultation in February–March 2025.</p> <p>The PCZ was used to inform both the scope of the statutory consultation and the selection of event locations, with in-person events held at venues within the PCZ to ensure accessibility for affected communities. A Consultation Newsletter was also posted to all addresses in the revised PCZ on Tuesday 6 May 2025.</p>
8	<p>In addition to local residents and businesses in the PCZ, we will also be consulting the following groups:</p> <p>landowners with an interest in land that may be affected by the Scheme;</p> <p>statutory consultees, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Norfolk County Council;	<p>All consultee groups were contacted as part of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>Landowners with an interest in land that may be affected by the Scheme were notified and invited to participate in the statutory consultation on Thursday 15 May 2025, ahead of the launch on Wednesday 21 May 2025.</p> <p>Non-statutory consultees were notified and invited to participate in the statutory consultation on Thursday 15 May 2025,</p>



	<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;• airfields and aerodromes within the vicinity of the Site; and• Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service. <p>non-statutory consultees, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members of Parliament;• neighbouring parish councils;• local government elected representatives;• schools and colleges in the PCZ;• Norfolk Wildlife Trust; and• local interest groups (see Appendix 3), including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ community groups, voluntary organisations and faith communities;○ environmental groups in the PCZ; and○ organisations representing specific groups in society, such as Age Concern UK Norfolk and local disability groups.	<p>ahead of the launch on Wednesday 21 May 2025. A full list of consultees who received an invitation can be found in Appendix 3.</p>
	<p>We will also ask parish councils and parish meetings to publicise the consultation on their noticeboards.</p>	<p>The Consultation Newsletter and Consultation Leaflet and Poster were sent to host and neighbouring parish councils via email on Friday 9 May 2025.</p> <p>In the accompanying cover note, it was suggested that councils share the materials within their networks and display them on local noticeboards; however, this was left to their discretion. The Applicant also noted hard copies could be provided upon request.</p>



9 (Table 3)	<p>We will invite key members and local political representatives from Breckland Council, Norfolk County Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk to an introductory briefing ahead of the public launch of the statutory consultation. The timing of these meetings will be based on expressions of interest; however, we will aim to arrange them at the convenience of participants.</p>	<p>The Applicant invited key members and local political representatives from Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk to an introductory briefing on Wednesday 12 March 2025.</p> <p>The invitation letter included several suggested dates and times, and invited stakeholders to register their interest and preference by email.</p> <p>A follow-up email was sent on Wednesday 26 March 2025 to remind stakeholders to share their interest and preferences for the briefing.</p> <p>Based on the preferences expressed by respondents, the Applicant finalised two dates and times for the introductory briefing meetings. These were shared with everyone who had registered their interest, on Monday 7 April 2025.</p> <p>The briefings were held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 29 April 2025 09:30–10:30; and• Thursday 8 May 2025 12:30–13:30. <p>The briefings were attended by 10 representatives from Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council.</p>
9 (Table 3)	<p>We will invite local political representatives from host and neighbouring parish councils to attend an introductory briefing meeting ahead of the public launch of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>These meetings will be held separately from those scheduled for Breckland Council, Norfolk County Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.</p>	<p>Representatives from host and neighbouring parish councils were invited to a statutory consultation briefing meeting on Wednesday 9 April 2025.</p> <p>Based on expressed preference, the Applicant shared two virtual briefing slots for parish councils to register for.</p> <p>The briefings were held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 6 May 2025 at 12:30–13:30 and 18:30–19:30.</p> <p>The briefings were attended by representatives from Castle Acre Parish Council, Necton Parish Council, Sporle</p>



		<p>with Palgrave Parish Council and South Acre Parish Council.</p> <p>A request for an additional in-person consultation event in Castle Acre from Castle Acre Parish Council was subsequently actioned by the Applicant. The additional event was held at the Castle Acre Village Hall on 12 June 2025, from 17:30–19:30.</p>
9 (Table 3)	<p>We will be holding four consultation events at locations within or in the immediate vicinity of the PCZ that are accessible by public and private transport. They will be advertised in consultation leaflets, in the local media and at the local information point.</p> <p>Members of the project team will be at these events to discuss the proposal in more detail and to answer any questions. 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>The locations of the events are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporle Community Centre, 78 The Street, Sporle, King's Lynn PE32 2DR – Saturday 31 May 2025, 11:00–17:00; • Narborough Community Centre, Chalk Lane, Narborough PE32 1SR – Monday 2 June 2025, 10:00–14:00; • Swaffham Assembly Rooms, 1 Market Place Swaffham, PE37 7AB – Wednesday 11 June 2025, 12:00–19:00; and • Westacre Theatre, River Road, West Acre, King's Lynn PE32 1UA – Friday 20 June 2025, 10:00–14:00. <p>Events will be held on a range of days and times, including during</p>	<p>Four in-person consultation events were scheduled at accessible locations within the PCZ. The events were held as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday, 31 May 2025, 11:00–17:00 at Sporle Community Centre, 78 The Street, Sporle, King's Lynn PE32 2DR; • Monday, 2 June 2025, 10:00–14:00 at Narborough Community Centre, Chalk Lane, Narborough PE32 1SR; • Wednesday, 11 June 2025, 12:00–19:00 at Swaffham Assembly Rooms, 1 Market Place, Swaffham PE37 7AB; and • Friday, 20 June 2025, 10:00–14:00 at Westacre Theatre, River Road, West Acre, King's Lynn PE32 1UA. <p>In total, the four planned statutory consultation events were attended by 91 people.</p> <p>A request for an additional consultation event in Castle Acre from Castle Acre Parish Council was actioned by the Applicant. The event was held at the Castle Acre Village Hall on 12 June 2025, from 16:00–19:00.</p> <p>The additional Castle Acre event was attended by 68 people, including representatives from Castle Acre Parish Council.</p> <p>Ahead of the events the Applicant confirmed that the venues were accessible by public transport and that parking was available directly outside</p>



	<p>the evening and at weekends, to accommodate different schedules.</p> <p>If for any reason these events need to be rearranged, this will be communicated on the Scheme website, to key stakeholders and those who have registered to receive updates on the Scheme via the mailing list.</p>	<p>each venue to accommodate those using private transport.</p> <p>Members of the project team were present to answer questions and concerns directly. If they were unable to provide an answer on the day, attendees were encouraged to contact the project team via the Community Relations mechanisms (email, Freephone and Freepost).</p> <p>No consultation events required rearrangement. As a result, there was no need to notify stakeholders, the mailing list or make updates to the Scheme website in this regard.</p>
9 (Table 3)	<p>Two webinars will be held for stakeholders to join via telephone or online via Livestorm, an online web conferencing platform for webinars and virtual meetings.</p> <p>Attendees of the webinars will be able to ask questions that will be answered by the project team during the webinar. Questions will be answered following the presentation and within the time available. Any remaining unanswered questions will be answered in writing after the event, if the participant contacts the Community Relations team to resubmit the question.</p> <p>The webinar sessions will be hosted at times in the day and in the evening to accommodate different schedules.</p> <p>The dates and times of the webinars are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 5 June 2025, 12:30–13:30; and • Wednesday 25 June 2025, 16:30–19:30. <p>We will require attendees to register for these online events in advance via the automated</p>	<p>Two webinars were held using the Livestorm platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 5 June 2025, 12:30–13:30; and • Wednesday 25 June 2025, 18:30–19:30. <p>Instructions on how to register for the webinars, and the registration links, were available under the “Consultation by Collaboration” section of the Scheme website. This section was updated ahead of the statutory consultation on Tuesday 20 May 2025.</p> <p>A link to this page was also shared directly with a stakeholder who enquired via the Community Relations inbox.</p> <p>The Livestorm platform was accessible via web browser and would not normally require attendees to download additional software.</p> <p>The webinars were at lunch time and after work to accommodate the needs of those in employment, in working families or with other commitments during standard working hours.</p> <p>To ensure accessibility, arrangements were made for participants to join the webinars via telephone, where required.</p>



	<p>registration form on the Livestorm website. The link to the registration form for the webinars will be available on the Scheme website.</p> <p>Instructions on how to register and attend the webinars will also be provided on the Scheme website. The webinars will be accessible via web browser and will not normally require attendees to download additional software.</p> <p>If for any reason these webinars need to be rearranged, this will be communicated on the Scheme website, to key stakeholders and those who have registered to receive updates on the Scheme via the mailing list.</p>	<p>During each webinar session, the project team delivered a presentation that mirrored the information displayed on the Exhibition Banners displayed during the in-person consultation events.</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.</p> <p>The Community Relations Team received one follow-up enquiry, which was responded to by the Community Relations team.</p>
9 (Table 3)	<p>Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet and the Consultation Feedback Form will be available to take away from the following local information point: Swaffham Library, The Pightle, Swaffham PE37 7DF.</p> <p>Printed reference copies of the SoCC, PEIR and NTS will also be available to view.</p> <p>Electronic copies of the SoCC, PEIR and NTS will be available to view and download.</p> <p>Although access to the computer at the library is free, a membership for the library may be required.</p>	<p>Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet, Feedback Form, Consultation Leaflet, Consultation Poster, SoCC, NTS of the PEIR and PEIR were distributed ahead of the start of statutory consultation to the following information point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swaffham Library. <p>Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet, Feedback Form, Consultation Leaflet, Consultation Poster, SoCC and NTS were also distributed ahead of the start of statutory consultation to two community collection points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narborough Community Centre; and • Westacre Theatre. <p>Confirmation of delivery to each location was received on Tuesday 20 May 2025 via postal tracking. Further confirmation was received from each location during the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>Narborough Community Centre and Westacre Theatre shared confirmation via email, with photographic evidence,</p>



	<p>on Wednesday 21 May 2025 and Thursday 22 May 2025, respectively.</p> <p>Swaffham Library confirmed that all the consultation materials had been received via email on Friday 23 May 2025, with photographic evidence shared on Monday 23 June 2025.</p> <p>The opportunity was also taken to replenish the supply of materials at the information point and community collection points.</p> <p>On Monday 2 June 2025, following the event at Narborough Community Centre, it was noted that the SoCC was missing. This was replaced following the event by the Applicant.</p> <p>Additional Consultation Information Booklets and Feedback Forms were distributed to Swaffham Library on Monday 23 June 2025. This distribution ensured that the availability of the materials continued throughout the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>Narborough Community Centre confirmed via email that the NTS of the PEIR was missing on Wednesday 18 June 2025. An additional reference hard copy was subsequently distributed to Narborough Community Centre on Wednesday 25 June 2025, following an additional print run.</p> <p>During the event at Westacre Theatre on Friday 20 June 2025, the Applicant confirmed that all materials were available at the venue.</p> <p>The Applicant was informed of a temporary closure to Swaffham Library owing to planned refurbishment. The Applicant was notified via email on Friday 23 May 2025.</p> <p>Swaffham Library was closed from Friday 6 June 2025 to Sunday 15 June 2025 and reopened to the public on Monday 16 June 2025.</p>
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		<p>Despite the unforeseen closure, the Applicant retained the commitment to ensuring the availability of materials over a period in excess of 28 days. The Community Relations Team did not receive any requests indicating that stakeholders had experienced difficulties accessing materials or submitting feedback as a result of the closure. The Applicant notes that a discretionary extension would have been considered had any such issues been raised. The Applicant also notes that the closure was advertised via the library's website.</p> <p>Electronic copies of all the statutory consultation materials, including the SoCC, PEIR and NTS, were available to view and download online via the Scheme website from Tuesday 20 May 2025. Free computer access was available at the local information point, Swaffham Library, for registered library members.</p>
9 (Table 3)	<p>Stakeholders will also be able to request hard copies of selected consultation materials to be sent to them free of charge. The consultation materials that will be available free of charge, upon request, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SoCC;• Consultation Information Booklet;• Consultation Feedback Form;• Consultation Newsletter; and• NTS. <p>A hard copy of the PEIR can be provided on request, though there will be a cost associated with this. The cost of printing the PEIR is yet to be confirmed.</p>	<p>The Applicant received seven requests for hard-copy consultation information materials during the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>Stakeholders requested hard copies of the NTS of the PEIR, SoCC and Feedback Form. All requests were honoured and the hard copy materials were distributed by post free of charge.</p> <p>All consultation documents were available upon request in hard copy and in accessible formats, such as braille or large print. Requests for a printed hard copy of the PEIR (including in accessible formats) would have been considered on a case-by-case basis, with a typical charge of £750 to cover printing and postage costs. Requests for individual volumes would have been charged based on the cost per volume requested. No such requests were received during the consultation period.</p> <p>Details of the availability of materials and how to request them were included on</p>



		the Scheme website under “Further information” on the “Consultation by collaboration” page.
9 (Table 3)	<p>The Scheme website (www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk) is live and will be updated to publicise the statutory consultation and how to find out more information and provide feedback.</p> <p>All statutory consultation documents (mentioned above) will be presented digitally and available for download, free of charge, from the website. Information made available at the consultation events will also be published on the website.</p>	<p>The Scheme website was updated to publicise the statutory consultation, and how to find out more information and provide feedback, on Friday 9 May 2025.</p> <p>An additional update on Tuesday 20 May 2025 confirmed the statutory consultation was live from Wednesday 21 May 2025.</p> <p>All statutory consultation materials were available to view and download from the “Documents” page of the Scheme website on Tuesday 20 May 2025, one day ahead of the launch of the seven-week statutory consultation period.</p> <p>These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • statutory consultation materials, including promotional materials and those displayed at the events; • indicative masterplans that were printed and shared at the events; • the PEIR, divided by Volume and Chapter, and the NTS of the PEIR; and • the SoCC. <p>The “Documents” page of the Scheme website was also updated on Friday 23 May 2025 to include the Castle Acre Consultation Event Leaflet to support its promotion.</p>
9 (Table 3)	<p>The Consultation Information Booklet will contain a summary of the proposals for the Scheme and how the design has developed following the non-statutory consultation, including maps illustrating the Scheme design.</p> <p>It will also contain information on the public consultation events, such as the date, time and location of the exhibitions and webinars. It</p>	<p>The Consultation Information Booklet was prepared ahead of the start of statutory consultation.</p> <p>It was distributed to the local information point and community collection points to view and take away. It was also available at the in-person consultation events and was available to view and download from the Scheme website.</p>



	<p>will also provide details of the local information point hosting consultation materials.</p>	<p>The Consultation Information Booklet included the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• introduction to the Scheme, and the consultation and planning process;• about Island Green Power;• the need for the Scheme;• Site evaluation and selection process;• a summary of early-stage and ongoing engagement activities;• a summary of key themes identified during early-stage workshops;• a summary of how the Applicant has used early-stage feedback to refine the design proposals and masterplanning process;• Island Green Power design principles• project-level design principles;• masterplanning strategies;• Indicative Masterplan;• the story of The Drovers;• Scheme description;• infographic detailing how a solar farm works;• information about the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Scheme;• an overview of the EIA process;• summaries of selected PEIR chapters (including landscape and visual, cultural heritage and archaeology, and ecology and biodiversity);• community benefit;• how to take part in the statutory consultation (including times, dates and locations of in-person events and online webinars);• how to access hard copies of the consultation materials;• statutory consultation document guide and glossary;
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what happens after the statutory consultation; • an indicative project timeline from submission onwards; • details of how to contact the Community Relations Team; and • a QR code to direct readers to the Scheme website.
9 (Table 3)	<p>An online form will allow consultees to provide feedback on the Scheme. This will be accessible via the Scheme website.</p> <p>The form will be available in hard copy on request, at in-person consultation events and at the information point. Completed hard copies can be returned to the project team at consultation events or via Royal Mail – FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required).</p>	<p>An online Feedback Form was available on the Scheme website from the launch of statutory consultation on Wednesday 21 May 2025 until 23:59 on Wednesday 9 July 2025.</p> <p>Feedback Forms were available to take away from in-person consultation events, the information point and the community collection points throughout the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>Additional copies of the Feedback Form were distributed to stakeholders upon request.</p> <p>The project team received hard copies of the completed Feedback Forms via Freepost throughout the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>An additional discretionary period of 10 days following the close of the statutory consultation was honoured by the Applicant to allow for late submissions via post.</p>
9 (Table 3)	<p>The PEIR will describe the Scheme and contain a preliminary assessment of the potential significant environmental effects and an outline of measures to mitigate adverse effects.</p> <p>The PEIR will be based on information available at that time, but the assessments will be developed once further detail is available (such as further survey work) and reported within an ES</p>	<p>The PEIR provided a detailed Scheme description, outlined preliminary EIA findings and identified the proposed mitigation measures to reduce, enhance and manage the effects the Scheme may have on the environment. The PEIR was available to view and download on the Scheme website from the launch of statutory consultation on Wednesday 21 May 2025.</p> <p>A reference copy of the PEIR was available at the in-person consultation events and at the information point.</p>



	<p>submitted with the DCO application.</p> <p>An NTS (Non-Technical Summary) of the PEIR can also be downloaded free of charge from the website electronically at the local information point, and will be available in printed format to view at consultation events.</p>	<p>The findings of the PEIR were summarised in the NTS of the PEIR, which was available to view and download from the Scheme website from the launch of statutory consultation on Wednesday 21 May 2025.</p> <p>Hard copies of the NTS of the PEIR were available to view at the in-person events and at the information point and community collection points during the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The NTS of the PEIR was posted to stakeholders upon request by the Community Relations Team.</p>
9 (Table 3)	<p>Public exhibition events will contain exhibition boards to provide details of the Scheme.</p> <p>The exhibition boards will be available at consultation events and on the website.</p>	<p>Exhibition Banners were displayed at each in-person event, and were available to view and download from the Scheme website from the launch of statutory consultation on Wednesday 21 May 2025.</p> <p>The Exhibition Banners contained the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • welcome to our statutory consultation event, with a QR code to access the digital Feedback Form; • about Scheme and Island Green Power; • our consultation to date, including how feedback received during the early-stage engagement has shaped the design of the Scheme; • project-level design principles; • masterplanning strategies; • Indicative Masterplan; • the story of The Drovers; • overview of the EIA process; • community benefit; • what happens next; and • how to have your say. <p>In addition to the Exhibition Banners displayed during the in-person events, printed versions of the Indicative</p>



		Masterplan were presented on tables for attendees to view.
9 (Table 3)	<p>This SoCC will be made available online throughout the consultation and free of charge in hard copy on request. A hard copy of the SoCC will also be available to inspect at the local information point once the Section 47 notice has been publicised.</p>	<p>The Section 47 notice was published in the Eastern Daily Press on Wednesday 23 April 2025 (see Appendix 9 for copies of the Section 47 notice).</p> <p>The SoCC was published on the Scheme website on Wednesday 23 April 2025. It was available to view and download throughout the seven-week statutory consultation period.</p> <p>The SoCC was sent via email to the stakeholders listed in Appendix 3 on Wednesday 23 April 2025.</p> <p>A reference copy of the SoCC was available at the information point and community collection points from Wednesday 23 April 2025.</p> <p>A reference copy of the SoCC was also available at the in-person consultation events.</p>
9 (Table 3)	<p>Stakeholders will be able to request hard copies of selected consultation materials to be sent to them free of charge. The consultation materials that will be available free of charge, upon request, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SoCC; • Consultation Information Booklet; • Consultation Feedback Form; • Consultation Newsletter; and • NTS. <p>All requests should be made to the project team by email at info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk, by Freephone on 0800 0129 154 or at the consultation events.</p>	<p>The Applicant received seven requests for hard copies of selected consultation materials.</p> <p>Requests were made for printed copies of the Consultation Information Booklet, Feedback Form and NTS of the PEIR to be sent to stakeholders via post. The Applicant accepted all the requests and distributed the materials via post.</p> <p>The Applicant did not receive any requests for documents to be provided in alternative formats or to be translated. If the Applicant had received these requests, arrangements would have been made to facilitate these.</p>
10	A range of methods will be used to promote the consultation to a wider audience, as listed in Table	In accordance with Section 48 of the Act, notices were published:



	<p>4. In addition, statutory notices will be published in accordance with Section 48 of the Act.</p> <p>These notices will be published once in a national newspaper and the London Gazette and twice (across two successive weeks) in local newspapers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once in a national newspaper (The Guardian) and the London Gazette on Wednesday 14 May 2025. • Twice in two successive weeks in the following locally circulating newspaper, on Wednesday 14 May 2025 and Wednesday 21 May 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eastern Daily Press.
10 (Table 4)	<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. The Consultation 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 Consultation Newsletter will also be emailed electronically to key stakeholders.</p> <p>The Consultation Newsletter will contain a QR code to direct people to the Scheme website.</p>	<p>A Consultation Newsletter was prepared and distributed by post on Tuesday 6 May 2025 to all addresses within the PCZ, ahead of the launch of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Consultation Newsletter was also sent electronically via email to all consultees listed in Appendix 3 on Friday 9 May 2025, accompanied by an invitation to participate in the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Consultation Newsletter provided an overview of the Scheme, the consultation process and how to participate in the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Consultation Newsletter included the locations, dates and times of the in-person events and webinars. It also detailed the locations of the information point and community collection points. A QR code was included to direct stakeholders to the Scheme website, where additional information could be found.</p>
10 (Table 4)	<p>Consultation Leaflets will be sent electronically to key stakeholders, such as community groups, asking them to publicise the consultation within their networks.</p> <p>Appendix 3 contains the list of stakeholders who will be asked to publicise the Consultation Leaflet, though this will be at their discretion.</p>	<p>The Consultation Leaflet and Poster were included with the Consultation Newsletter in an email sent out to non-statutory consultees, including local elected representatives and local interest groups, on Wednesday 9 May 2025.</p>



	<p>Printed copies of the Consultation Leaflet will be available at the local information point.</p> <p>Hard copies of the Consultation Leaflet will be distributed to residents and businesses within the PCZ approximately three weeks into the consultation period to boost engagement in the consultation.</p> <p>The Consultation Leaflet will contain a QR code to direct people to the Scheme website.</p>	
10 (Table 4)	<p>We will ask the local information point if they can display a hard copy of the Consultation Poster on their noticeboards, but this will be at their discretion.</p> <p>These Consultation Posters will contain a QR code to direct people to the Scheme website.</p>	<p>Swaffham Library received printed copies of the Consultation Leaflet and Poster for placement at their discretion.</p>
10 (Table 4)	<p>One press release publicising the upcoming consultation, and how the community and wider stakeholders can get involved, will be issued. The press release will be issued to national and regional newspapers seven days in advance of the launch of the statutory consultation.</p>	<p>A press release publicising the statutory consultation, and how the community and wider stakeholders could get involved, including by attending in-person and online events, was issued to national and regional newspapers on Wednesday 14 May 2025.</p> <p>The press release was issued to the following regional newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Daily Press; • Lynn News; • Dereham Times; • Norwich Evening News; • North Norfolk News; and • Watton and Swaffham Times. <p>The press release was issued to the following national newspaper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Guardian.



10 (Table 4)	<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 Scheme and invite them to take part in the consultation. These will be issued to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs;• elected representatives at Norfolk County Council;• elected representatives at the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk;• elected representatives at Breckland Council;• host parish councils;• neighbouring local authorities;• neighbouring parish councils; and• local interest groups, such as community and environmental groups (see Appendix 3). <p>We will, in addition to the in-person and webinar events listed above, consider requests for additional briefing meetings with stakeholders.</p>	<p>Key stakeholders identified in the SoCC were emailed an invitation to participate in the statutory consultation on Thursday 15 May 2025. The list of stakeholders who received an invitation can be found in Appendix 3.</p> <p>The invitation included details about the dates, times and locations of the in-person consultation events and online webinars, how to provide feedback and how to contact the Community Relations Team.</p>
10 (Table 4)	<p>The project team will email local interest groups ahead of the statutory consultation, via the managed inbox. A full list of groups to be contacted can be found in Appendix 3.</p> <p>If we successfully contact representatives of these groups, we will request that a Consultation Poster be displayed on relevant noticeboards.</p>	<p>The Consultation Leaflet and Poster were included with the Consultation Newsletter in an email to local interest groups on Friday 9 May 2025. The email included a note to encourage stakeholders to print or share the Consultation Leaflet and Poster, at their discretion, among their community networks and noticeboards to help promote the statutory consultation and ensure it was accessible and inclusive.</p> <p>An additional email was sent on Thursday 15 May 2025 to invite</p>



	<p>We will also encourage these groups to promote the consultation through their preferred channels, such as Facebook, though this will remain at their discretion.</p>	<p>stakeholders to participate in the statutory consultation.</p> <p>This invitation included details of the dates, times and locations of in-person consultation events and online webinars, how to provide feedback and how to contact the Community Relations</p>
10 (Table 4)	<p>The project team will contact the communications teams at Breckland Council, Norfolk County Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk to request that the consultation be promoted through their channels, such as Facebook.</p>	<p>The Applicant contacted the communications teams at Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk on Monday 24 March 2025 to request that the statutory consultation be promoted through their channels, such as Facebook.</p> <p>A follow-up email sharing a digital graphic and accompanying copy was sent to the communications teams at Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk on Monday 28 April 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant did not receive any confirmations from the communications teams that the digital graphic had been published via online channels.</p>
11	<p>We want to ensure that our consultation is inclusive. We recognise that some people or groups may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons.</p> <p>Consultation methods used to engage with these groups are set out in Table 5. We will continue to liaise with local organisations representing groups of people with these characteristics, where required, to ensure accessibility to the consultation and that our approach best meets the needs of their members and those they represent.</p>	<p>Local interest groups, including seldom-heard and representatives for vulnerable groups, were invited to participate in the statutory consultation via email on Thursday 15 May 2025.</p> <p>The invitation included details about the dates, times and locations of in-person consultation events and online webinars, how to provide feedback and how to contact the Community Relations Team.</p> <p>The in-person event venues had step-free access and accessible toilets. Members of the project team were on hand to support any vulnerable members of the public, including wheelchair users. Chairs were also available at each event.</p>



11 (Table 5)	<p>To help older people, we will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freepost and a Freephone information line ;• important information in both digital and non-digital formats, and in alternative formats, such as braille and large print (upon request);• paper copies of materials at the local information point; and• face-to-face events at several locations, with members of the project team available to assist with completing feedback responses.	<p>A Freepost address and Freephone number were provided to ensure accessible and inclusive methods for stakeholders to participate in the statutory consultation.</p> <p>Consultation materials were available in both digital and non-digital formats.</p> <p>The Applicant did not receive any requests for documents to be provided in alternative formats or to be translated. If such requests had been received, the Applicant would have facilitated these.</p> <p>Hard copies of the consultation materials were available to reference and take away at the in-person consultation events, local information point and community collection points.</p> <p>Members of the project team were available to assist attendees during the events.</p>
11 (Table 5)	<p>To help people with visual impairments, we will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provide important information in both digital and non-digital formats, and in alternative formats, such as dementia-friendly, braille and large print (upon request);• the option to enlarge text on the website;• a Freephone information line; and• face-to-face events at several locations, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.	<p>A Freepost address and Freephone number were provided to ensure accessible and inclusive methods for stakeholders to participate in the statutory consultation.</p> <p>Arrangements were in place to support any stakeholder who requested to submit feedback verbally via the Freephone line. The Applicant did not receive any requests for this during the statutory consultation period.</p> <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 alternative formats, these arrangements were in place throughout the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Scheme website included an option to enlarge text and print or download materials.</p>



		In-person consultation events were held at several locations, where members of the team were available to assist attendees and support participation where required.
11 (Table 5)	<p>To help people with limited mobility, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directly mail the Consultation Newsletter and leaflet to all stakeholders within the PCZ and provide details of how to both access paper copies of other consultation documents and provide feedback online and by post ; • host online engagement webinars to negate the need to travel to public events; and • provide a Freephone information line and Freepost address. 	<p>The Consultation Newsletter and Leaflet were posted directly to stakeholders in the PCZ.</p> <p>Two online webinars were offered as an alternative to the in-person consultation events, to negate the need for travel.</p> <p>The in-person consultation event venues were selected based on their accessibility. The Applicant identified venues that met key accessibility criteria, including step-free access, designated parking and proximity to public transport routes.</p> <p>A Freepost address and Freephone number were provided to ensure accessible and inclusive methods for stakeholders to participate in the statutory consultation.</p>
11 (Table 5)	<p>To help people with hearing impairments, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directly mail the Consultation Newsletter to all stakeholders within the PCZ and provide details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and how to provide feedback by post; • provide important information in both digital and non-digital formats; and • make automated subtitles available at webinars to ensure each session is accessible. 	<p>The Consultation Newsletter and Consultation Leaflet were posted directly to stakeholders in the PCZ.</p> <p>The Scheme website offered a digital platform for engagement and participation in the statutory consultation. The “Documents” page of the website hosted all the consultation materials, which were available to view and download.</p> <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>The Livestorm platform enabled automated subtitles during the two webinar events.</p>



11 (Table 5)	<p>To help geographically isolated individuals or communities, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct mail the Consultation Newsletter and leaflet to all stakeholders within the PCZ and provide details of how to access paper copies of other project documents and provide feedback by post; and• advertise the availability of telephone callbacks for stakeholders who would like to discuss the Scheme further with the project team.	<p>The Consultation Newsletter and Consultation Leaflet were posted directly to stakeholders in the PCZ.</p> <p>The Consultation Newsletter provided details on how to access printed copies of the consultation materials, including at the local information point, community collection points and upon request.</p> <p>Details of how to contact the project team via email, Freephone information line or Freepost were included in the Consultation Newsletter and Consultation Leaflet.</p> <p>Stakeholders were also informed of the availability of telephone callbacks with the Community Relations Team.</p>
12 (Table 6)	<p>The following enquiry channels will be available throughout the statutory consultation for members of the community and other stakeholders to contact the project team, ask questions and request further information or printed copies of consultation materials and documents. These channels are set out in Table 6 and will continue to be active throughout the pre-application period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Telephone: Freephone 0800 0129 882, from 9:00–17:30 on weekdays (with an answerphone facility to take messages outside these hours)• Email: info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk• People can email 24 hours a day, with emails being monitored between 9:00 and 17:30 on 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.	<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>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post: FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM <p>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>	
13	<p>During the statutory consultation period, respondents will be able to submit their feedback relating to the Scheme. All responses must be received by 23:59 on the closing date. Responses received after that date may not be considered. We will allow an additional two-week period to receive responses via post.</p>	<p>Responses to the statutory consultation were received between Wednesday 21 May 2025 and 23:59 on Wednesday 9 July 2025.</p> <p>Discretionary extensions were granted on a case-by-case basis to consultees contacted under Section 42 who expressed concerns about meeting the deadline of 23:59 on Wednesday 9 July 2025.</p> <p>An additional 10-day period was allowed for postal feedback.</p>
13.1	<p>How to respond to the consultation</p> <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.drovessolarfarm.co.uk;• completing a printed Feedback Form, which can be collected from a consultation event or the local information point, or on request by contacting the project team – completed forms can be handed to the project team at events, scanned and emailed back to info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk, or sent to FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required);• emailing comments to info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk; and	<p>Feedback channels remained open and were monitored throughout the consultation period.</p> <p>All feedback received through these channels was provided to the design and environmental assessment team to be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Further evidence of this process, including how comments have been considered, will be detailed in the forthcoming Consultation Report.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">writing to us at FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required). The exact Freepost address is yet to be confirmed.	
13.1	The project team can also be contacted by Freephone on 0800 0129 154. They can assist with any questions about the Scheme or the consultation. In exceptional circumstances, we will take feedback over the phone; however, this will need to be arranged in advance.	While no requests were made for feedback to be given over the phone, these arrangements were in place throughout the consultation.

4 Compliance with the Act

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 The Applicant undertook consultation consistent with the commitments set out in the published SoCC, in accordance with Section 47(7) of the Act.
- 4.1.2 Table 16 describes how the Applicant's pre-application consultation activities have complied with these requirements in the Act.

Table 16 Table of compliance with the Act

Section	Requirement	Compliance
Section 42 (The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application)	(a) such persons as may be prescribed,	<p>The Applicant consulted all relevant prescribed consultees as defined in Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations and the APFP Regulations.</p> <p>A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on Wednesday 18 December 2025 and included the list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations. The Applicant consulted with all of these bodies.</p> <p>In addition to this, the Applicant consulted with further 'non-prescribed' consultees as statutory consultees, further details of which will be set out in the Consultation Report.</p>



	(aa) the Marine Management Organisation, in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2)	The Applicant did not consult the Marine Management Organisation under Section 42(1)(aa) of the Act, as the proposed development is not considered likely to affect any of the areas specified in subsection (2) of Section 42 (e.g. tidal or offshore areas) or Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations.
	(b) each local authority that is within section 43	<p>The Applicant consulted each relevant local authority as defined within Section 43 of the Act. These are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norfolk County Council (C) • Breckland District Council (B) • Broadland District Council (A) • South Norfolk Council (A) • Fenland District Council (A) • East Cambridgeshire District Council (A) • King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council (A) • Mid Suffolk District Council (A) • North Norfolk District Council (A) • South Holland District Council (A) • The Broads National Park (A) • West Suffolk Council (A) • Cambridgeshire County Council (D) • Lincolnshire County Council (D) • Suffolk County Council (D)
	(c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and	Not applicable.
	(d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44	The Applicant consulted each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.



Section 45 (Timetable for consultation under section 42)	(1) The applicant must, when consulting a person under section 42, notify the person of the deadline for the receipt by the applicant of the person's response to the consultation.	The Applicant notified all those consulted under Section 42 of the deadline in writing by email and/or post.
	(2) A deadline notified under subsection (1) must not be earlier than the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents.	The Applicant published a Preliminary Environmental Information Report on Wednesday 21 May 2025 for consultation under Sections 42, 47, and 48 of the Act, inviting responses by Wednesday 9 July 2025 (a 49-day consultation period). The Preliminary Environmental Information Report was available for consultation throughout this period.
	(3) In subsection (2) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the person by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the person.	On Wednesday 14 May 2025, the Applicant wrote by recorded delivery to all consultees identified under Sections 42(1)(a) and 42(1)(b) of the Act to notify them of the statutory consultation. The letter provided details on how to access the consultation documents, how to respond, the deadline for submissions, and included a copy of the Section 48 notice.
Section 46 (Duty to notify Commission of proposed application)	(1) The applicant must supply the Secretary of State with such information in relation to the proposed application as the applicant would supply to the Secretary of State for the purpose of complying with section 42 if the applicant were required by that section to consult the	In accordance with Section 46(2) of the Act, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate on Wednesday 14 May 2025 of the proposed Application prior to commencing statutory consultation. As required by Section 46(1), the Applicant provided the same information as would be supplied to consultees under Section 42.



	Secretary of State about the proposed application.	
	(2) The applicant must comply with subsection (1) on or before commencing consultation under section 42.	The Applicant complied with subsection (1), prior to commencing consultation on Wednesday 21 May 2025.
Section 47 (Duty to consult the local community)	(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.	The Applicant prepared and published a SoCC that set out how the Applicant proposed to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.
	(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.	To inform the preparation of the statement, the Applicant consulted Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk on the content of the SoCC.
	(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.	The Applicant consulted with Section 43(1) local authorities on the draft SoCC between Wednesday 5 February and Thursday 6 March 2025. Prior to this period of consultation, the Applicant had informally consulted on the contents of draft SoCC.
	(4) In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the	The consultation documents supplied by the Applicant included a covering letter and email, and the draft SoCC.



	applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).	
	(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).	The Applicant had regard to all relevant responses to the draft SoCC. The Applicant shared response tables with Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk to explain how their comments had been considered,
	6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must — make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land, (a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and (b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.	<p>The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the Act on Wednesday 23 April 2025.</p> <p>A notice was published in the Eastern Daily Press on Wednesday 23 April 2025 to publicise the SoCC and its availability.</p> <p>The SoCC was uploaded to the Scheme website and was made available to view and collect from the local information point.</p>
	(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.	<p>The Applicant undertook consultation under Section 47 of the Act in accordance with the SoCC.</p> <p>This is evidenced in the accompanying table (Table 15) and will be further detailed in the Consultation Report.</p>



Section 48 (Duty to publicise)	(1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.	<p>The Applicant prepared and publicised the application in the prescribed manner set out in the APFP Regulations by publishing a Section 48 notice.</p> <p>The Section 48 Notice was published in the following publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guardian, Wednesday 14 May 2025 • The London Gazette, Wednesday 14 May 2025 • Eastern Daily Press, Wednesday 14 May 2025 and Wednesday 21 May 2025
	(2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.	<p>The Section 48 notice included a deadline of 23:50 on Wednesday 9 June 2025 for receipt of responses to the publicity.</p> <p>The final notice was published on Wednesday 14 May 2025, which clearly stated the consultation start and end dates, therefore exceeding the 28 days statutory minimum response time.</p>
Section 49 (Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity)	<p>(1) Subsection (2) applies where the applicant — (a) has complied with sections 42, 47 and 48, and (b) proposes to go ahead with making an application for an order granting development consent (whether or not in the same terms as the proposed application).</p> <p>(2) The applicant must, when deciding whether the application that the applicant is actually to make should be in</p>	<p>The Applicant is reviewing all relevant responses made pursuant to Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 in accordance with Section 49. In reviewing the responses, the Applicant is cognisant of its duty to have regard to any relevant responses.</p> <p>A summary of relevant responses received and how the Applicant has considered these will be provided in the Consultation Report submitted with the DCO application</p>



	<p>the same terms as the proposed application, have regard to any relevant responses.</p> <p>(3) In subsection (2) “relevant response” means— (a) a response from a person consulted under section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by section 45 in that person's case,</p> <p>(b) a response to consultation under section 47(7) that is received by the applicant before any applicable deadline imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under section 47, or</p>	
Section 50 (Guidance about preapplication procedure)	<p>(1) Guidance may be issued about how to comply with the requirements of this Section. (2) Guidance under this section may be issued by the Planning Inspectorate or the Secretary of State. (3) The applicant must have regard to any guidance under this section.</p>	<p>In carrying out the early engagement (non-statutory consultation), the Applicant had regard to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG, 2015), Planning Act 2008: guidance on the pre-application process.</p> <p>In carrying out the statutory consultation, the Applicant had regard to updated guidance published by the Planning Inspectorate in April 2024 and the updated Advice Note on the Consultation Report, published in August 2024.</p> <p>Full details will be set out in the Consultation Report.</p>



5 Responses to statutory consultation

5.1 Feedback analysis

- 5.1.1 The Applicant recognises its duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity, in accordance with Section 49 of the Act.
- 5.1.2 The Applicant is preparing a full Consultation Report to be submitted as part of Application. The Consultation Report will be in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the Act.
- 5.1.3 In doing so, the Applicant's Consultation Report will demonstrate how consultation responses have been taken into account during the preparation of the application.
- 5.1.4 Throughout the period since statutory consultation, the Applicant has continued to consider feedback received, alongside the findings of environmental assessments and the Scheme's Design Principles, and has made refinements to the design accordingly.
- 5.1.5 Changes arising from this process include, but are not limited to:
- Refinement of the BESS, Customer Substation, and National Grid Substation locations in response to concerns regarding visual impact;
 - Removal of solar panels from multiple fields following feedback on landscape and visual impact;
 - Refinement of the approach to permissive routes to improve connectivity across the Site;
 - Refinement of construction vehicle routing and access points into the Site; and
 - Provision of additional greening around field boundaries in sensitive areas, particularly in proximity to Castle Acre.
- 5.1.6 The Applicant notes that many consultation responses raised broader concerns regarding the potential impact of the Scheme on cultural heritage assets within the Nar Valley region, particularly around Castle Acre, as well as matters relating to the safety and fire risk of the BESS. Comments were also received regarding potential effects on ecology, biodiversity and watercourses. Interested parties will have the opportunity to engage further on these topics throughout the Examination process.
- 5.1.7 The Applicant is continuing its engagement with stakeholders and will consider how the Scheme design may further evolve in consideration of responses received.



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 on board suggestions where possible and appropriate.
- 6.1.2 The Applicant intends to undertake a targeted consultation, scheduled for September 2025, to accommodate a number of minor changes to the proposed development boundary for the Scheme. Further details will be made available in due course, and relevant stakeholders, including relevant host authorities, affected land interests and parish councils, will be notified in advance of the consultation. Consultees will be given 28 days to provide their comments to the Applicant. The targeted consultation will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the SoCC.
- 6.1.3 All feedback submitted during the statutory consultation and targeted consultation will be responded to within the Consultation Report and included within the document with all personal details redacted.



7 Appendices

Appendix 1: Stakeholders invited to early engagement workshops

Members of Parliament

- South West Norfolk
- North West Norfolk
- Mid Norfolk
- Waveney Valley
- Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket
- West Suffolk
- Ely and East Cambridgeshire
- North East Cambridgeshire

Breckland Council

Leadership and Cabinet:

- Leader of the Council
- Deputy Leader; Executive Member for Housing & Planning
- Executive Member for Waste, Environmental Health, Licensing & Sustainability.

Planning and Development:

- Director of Planning and Building Control
- Principal Planning Officer.

Ward Members:

- Nar Valley Ward
- Swaffham Ward
- Ashill Ward
- Launditch Ward
- Bedingfeld Ward
- Necton Ward.

Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Ward Members:

- Massingham with Castle Acre Ward
- Gayton and Grimston Ward



- Airfield Ward
- Wissey Ward.

Parish and Town Councils:

- Narford Parish Meeting
- Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council
- Southacre Parish Meeting
- Swaffham Town Council
- Newton by Castle Acre Parish Meeting
- Little Dunham Parish Council
- Necton Parish Council
- Holme Hale Parish Council
- North Pickenham Parish Council
- Narborough Parish Council
- West Acre Parish Council
- Castle Acre Parish Council
- Pentney Parish Council
- East Walton Parish Meeting.

Technical Consultees:

- English Heritage
- Historic England
- Natural England
- Logistics UK
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- Norfolk Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
- Norfolk Rivers Trust.

Environmental Groups:

Regional Groups:

- Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership
- Get Norfolk Greener
- Norwich Friends of the Earth
- Climate Norfolk
- CPRE Norfolk



- Norfolk Birding
- Norfolk and Norwich Bat Group
- National Farmer's Union
- Young Activist Network.

Local Groups:

- Extinction Rebellion King's Lynn & West Norfolk
- King's Lynn KLiimate Concern
- The Breckland Farmers Wildlife Network
- West Norfolk Conservation Volunteers
- Gaywood Valley Conservation Group
- Breckland Flora Group
- Breckland Local Group.

Community Interest, Sport and Leisure Groups:

- Breckland Walkers Group
- British Horse Society – East of England
- West Norfolk Walking for Health
- Nar Valley Long Distance Walkers Association
- Norfolk Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club
- King's Lynn Cycling Club
- Cycling Club Breckland
- Nar Valley Ornithological Society
- Active Norfolk
- Community Action Norfolk (CAN)
- Dereham Round Table
- Dereham Runners Athletic Club
- Dereham Town Football Club
- Dereham Trefoil Guild
- Dereham Walkers are Welcome
- Mid Norfolk Singers
- Swaffham Bell Ringers
- Swaffham Cricket Club
- Swaffham Golf Club



- Swaffham Town Bowls Club
- Swaffham RUFC
- Castle Acre Playing Field Association
- Castle Acre Coronation Bowls Club
- Castle Acre Cricket Club
- Castle Acre Swifts Football Club
- West Norfolk Artists Association
- Women's Institute Norfolk Federation.

History and Civic Groups:

- The Breckland Society
- King's Lynn Civic Society
- West Norfolk & King's Lynn Archaeological Society
- Swaffham Heritage.

Faith and Religious Groups:

- Nar Valley Group
- Breckland Christian Fellowship
- St. Mary's (Sporle)
- St Peter & St Paul Church (Swaffham)
- Swaffham Baptist Church
- Swaffham Methodist Church
- Fountain of Life Ashill
- St Nicholas Ashill
- Our Lady of Pity RC (Swaffham)
- West Norfolk Islamic Community Centre.

Elderly Support:

- Age Concern Swaffham & District
- Age UK Norfolk.

Disability Groups:

- Vision Norfolk
- West Norfolk Disability Information Service
- Hear for Norfolk (Norfolk Deaf Association)
- West Norfolk Deaf Association



- ASD Helping Hands
- Caring Friends for Cancer
- West Norfolk Autism Group
- Dereham Deaf Social Club
- Disability Network Norfolk Group.

Vulnerable Groups and Social Support:

- Creative Arts East
- Dereham Food Cabin
- The Matthew Project
- MensCraft
- Mind Norfolk and Waveney
- Scotty's Little Soldiers
- TimeNorfolk
- Norfolk Good Neighbours
- Nourishing Norfolk Network
- Norfolk Strategic Housing Partnership.

LGBTQ+ Groups:

- Norfolk LGBTQ+ Project.

Traveller Groups:

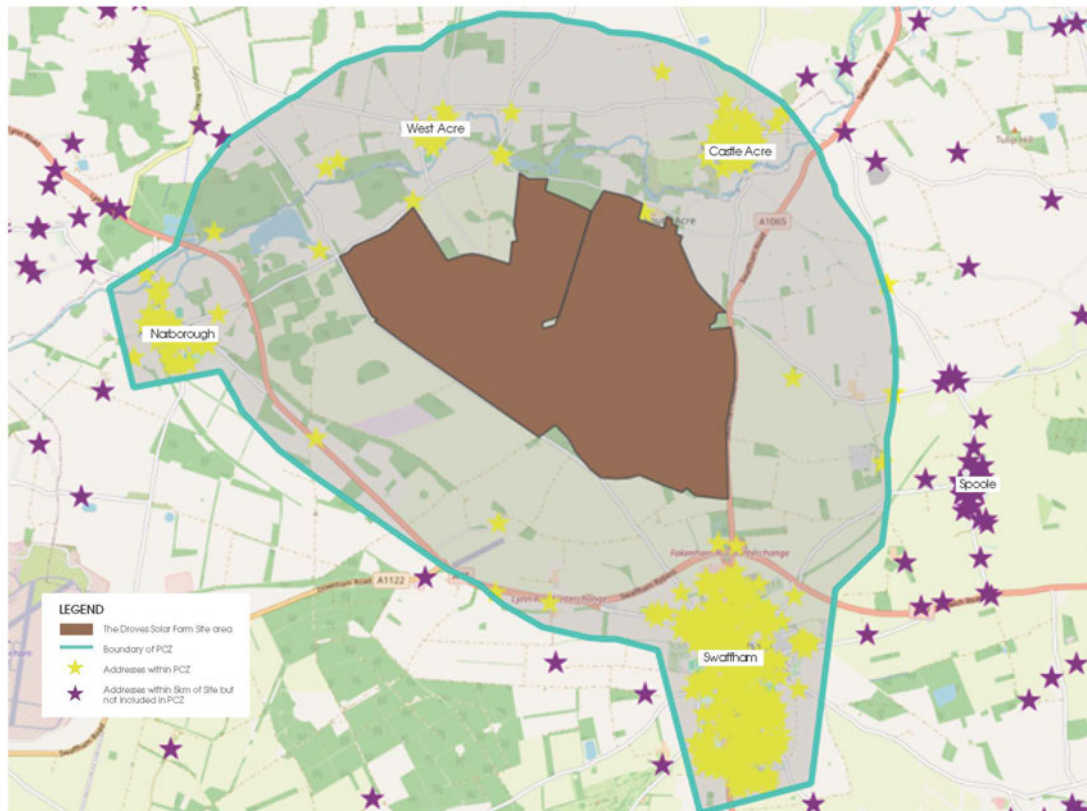
- Friends, Families and Travellers.

Young People's Groups:

- Brownies and Rainbows Norfolk Girlguiding
- King's Lynn Youth Club
- Swaffham and District Young Farmers Club
- Norfolk Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
- 1st Swaffham Scouts
- Girl Guides South West Norfolk Division.



Appendix 2: Initial PCZ



Appendix 3: List of stakeholders consulted under Section 47 of the Act

Local MPs

- South West Norfolk
- North West Norfolk
- Mid Norfolk
- Waveney Valley
- Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket
- West Suffolk
- Ely and East Cambridgeshire
- North East Cambridgeshire.

Norfolk County Council

Leadership and Cabinet:

- Leader of the Council
- Deputy Leader of the Council
- Deputy Leader of the Independent Group



- Cabinet Member for Economic Growth
- Director of Growth and Investment.

Planning and Development:

- Chair of Planning (Regulatory) Committee
- Vice Chair of Planning (Regulatory) Committee
- Planning and Highways Delegations Committee (This likely refers to the committee itself, or members associated with it)
- NSIP Team Lead/Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects – Team Leader
- Planning – Project Manager NSIPs
- Principal Landscape Architect
- Planning – Sustainability, Infrastructure & Development Group Manager
- Flood LLFA Strategic Flood Risk Planning Officer
- Heritage – Senior Officer Archaeology
- Strategic Planning Manager.

Other Departments/Functions:

- Economic Development
- Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service
- Public Health.

Ward Councillors from:

- Loddon and Chedgrave
- North Coast
- East Flegg
- Marshland South
- Gorleston St Andrews
- Swaffham
- Gayton and Nar Valley
- Necton and Launditch
- The Brecks.

Breckland Council

Leadership and Executive:

- Leader of the Council
- Deputy Leader of the Council



- Executive Member for Waste, Environmental Health, Licensing & Sustainability (Cabinet Member)
- Executive Member for Health and Communities (Cabinet Member)
- Deputy Leader of the Independent and Green Group
- Leader of the Independent and Green Group
- Leader of the Labour Group
- Chairman of the Council
- Executive Director.

Planning and Development:

- Chair of the Planning Committee
- Director of Planning and Building Control
- Planning Policy Manager
- Planning Officer
- Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee
- Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee, Nar Valley Ward Councillor (This appears to be a combined role/identifier)
- Members of the Planning Committee
- Member of the Planning Committee (Substitute)
- Executive Member for Strategic & Operational Planning (Cabinet Member)
- Executive Support Member for Planning Policy.

Ward Councillors from:

- Forest
- All Saints and Wayland
- Saham Toney
- Attleborough Queens and Besthorpe
- Nar Valley
- Swaffham
- Ashill
- Launditch
- Bedingfeld
- Necton
- Lincoln
- Upper Wensum



- Thetford – Castle Ward
- Watton
- Dereham Withburga
- Burrell
- Mattishall
- Attleborough Burgh and Haverscroft
- Thetford Priory
- Dereham - Toftwood
- Launditch
- Thetford Boudica
- Dereham Neatherd.

Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Leadership and Cabinet:

- Leader of the Council
- Cabinet Member for Property & Corporate Services
- Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Biodiversity
- Cabinet Member for Development & Regeneration
- Executive Director; Responsible for Planning Control, Enforcement & Policy.

Planning and Development:

- Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee
- Lead Planning Officer
- Member of the Planning Committee
- Member of the Environment & Community Panel (also a Member of the Planning Committee)
- Member of the Planning Committee Sifting Panel (in conjunction with Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee role).

Parish Councils:

- Narford Parish Meeting
- Southacre Parish Meeting
- Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council
- Swaffham Town Council
- Newton by Castle Acre Parish Meeting
- Little Dunham Parish Council



- Necton Parish Council
- Holme Hale Parish Council
- North Pickenham Parish Council
- Narborough Parish Council
- West Acre Parish Council
- Castle Acre Parish Council
- Pentney Parish Council
- East Walton Parish Meeting.

Statutory Bodies and Technical Stakeholders:

- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Historic England
- National Highways
- Natural England
- Logistics England
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
- Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
- The Woodland Trust
- Norfolk Rivers Trust
- Norfolk Local Access Forum
- British Horse Society – East of England

Environmental Groups:

Regional Groups:

- Get Norfolk Greener
- Norwich Friends of the Earth
- Climate Norfolk
- Norfolk Birding
- Norfolk and Norwich Bat Group
- National Farmers' Union



- Young Activist Network – Environmental Campaign Group
- Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association
- Norfolk Young Farmers and National Farmers' Union (NFU) – Countrysiders Club
- Norfolk Beekeepers' Association
- Norfolk Butterfly Conservation
- Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service.

Local groups:

- Extinction Rebellion King's Lynn & West Norfolk
- King's Lynn KClimate Concern
- The Breckland Farmers Wildlife Network
- West Norfolk Conservation Volunteers
- Gaywood Valley Conservation Group
- Breckland Flora Group
- Breckland Local Group
- Swaffham Climate Change and Environment Group (Bob Wade)
- King's Lynn u3a Climate Change Group
- Nar Valley Ornithological Society
- The Ramblers' Association – Mid Norfolk Group
- Mid Norfolk Conservation Volunteers
- West Norfolk and King's Lynn Beekeepers' Association.

Community and Interest Groups:

Sport and outdoor activities groups:

- Breckland Walkers Group
- The British Horse Society - East of England
- West Norfolk Walking for Health
- Nar Valley Long Distance Walkers Association
- West Norfolk Aviation Society
- Norfolk Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club
- Kings Lynn Cycling Club
- Cycling Club Breckland
- Nar Valley Ornithological Society
- Active Norfolk



- Community Action Norfolk (CAN)
- Dereham Round Table
- Dereham Runners AC
- Dereham Town Football Club
- Dereham Trefoil Guild
- Dereham Walkers are Welcome
- Mid Norfolk Singers
- Swaffham Bell Ringers
- Swaffham Cricket Club
- Swaffham Golf Club
- Swaffham Town Bowls Club
- Rugby Union Football Club
- Castle Acre Playing Field Association
- Castle Acre Coronation Bowls Club
- Castle Acre Cricket Club
- Castle Acre Swifts Football Club
- West Norfolk Artists Association
- Women's Institute Norfolk Federation.

Civic and history groups:

- The Breckland Society
- Kings Lynn Civic Society
- West Norfolk & King's Lynn Archaeological Society
- Swaffham Heritage.

Churches local to the Scheme:

- Nar Valley Group
- Breckland Christian Fellowship
- St. Mary's (Sporle)
- St Peter & St Paul (Swaffham)
- Swaffham Baptist Church
- Swaffham Methodist Church
- Fountain of Life Ashill
- St Nicholas Ashill



- Our Lady of Pity RC (Swaffham).

Carers:

- ASD Helping Hands
- Caring Friends for Cancer
- Carers Matter Norfolk
- Young Carers Matter Norfolk.

Community Support:

- Norfolk Good Neighbours
- Norfolk Local Access Forum
- Norfolk Community Foundation
- Community Action Norfolk (CAN).

Educational Establishments (within PCZ):

- Little Pedlars Nursery (Swaffham)
- Sporle Pre-School
- Swaffham Pre-school Playgroup
- Teenie Icení's Day Nursery
- Narborough Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School
- Castle Acre Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School
- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School (Swaffham)
- Sporle Church of England Primary Academy
- Swaffham Church of England Primary Academy
- Heartwood Church of England Primary School (Swaffham)
- OneSchool Global, Swaffham Campus
- The Nicholas Hamond Academy.

Elderly Support:

- Age Concern Swaffham & District
- Age UK Norfolk.

Disability Groups:

- Vision Norfolk
- West Norfolk Disability Information Service
- Hear for Norfolk (Norfolk Deaf Association)
- West Norfolk Deaf Association



- ASD Helping Hands
- Caring Friends for Cancer
- West Norfolk Autism Group
- Alzheimer's Society Norfolk
- Asperger East Anglia
- Equal Lives
- MS Society (Norwich and District Group)
- Norfolk Learning Disability Partnership
- Dereham Deaf Social Club
- Disability Network Norfolk Group.

Religious Groups:

- West Norfolk Islamic Community Centre.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex:

- Asexual (LGBTQIA+) community
- LGBTQ+ Project (Supporting Norfolk and Waveney)
- Oasis Norfolk
- Queer Norfolk.

Traveller Groups:

- One Voice 4 Travellers
- Friends, Families and Travellers.

Young People:

- Brownies and Rainbows Norfolk Girlguiding
- King's Lynn Youth Club
- Swaffham and District Young Farmers' Club
- Norfolk Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
- 1st Swaffham Scouts
- Norfolk Youth Parliament
- Girl Guides South West Norfolk Division.

Parent Groups:

- Norfolk Early Childhood and Family Service (ECFS)
- Just One Norfolk
- Gingerbread Norfolk (single parent support).



Mental Health, Well-being and Recovery Support Groups:

- Arts for Health – Creative Arts East
- MAP Young People
- The Matthew Project
- MensCraft
- Mind Norfolk and Waverney
- Time Norfolk
- One to One Project – West and North Norfolk
- Swaffham and District Mental Health Association.

Socio-Economic Support Groups:

- Dereham Food Cabin
- Nourishing Norfolk Network
- Norfolk Strategic Housing Partnership
- Better Together Norfolk
- Military
- Scotty's Little Soldiers
- Help for Heroes
- The Royal British Legion – Swaffham Branch
- SSAFA Norfolk.

Appendix 4: List of stakeholders consulted under Section 42 of the Act

Relevant Parish Council(s)

- Pentney Parish Council
- Gayton Parish Council
- West Acre Parish Council
- Great Massingham Parish Council
- Castle Acre Parish Council
- Cockley Cley Parish Council
- Beachamwell Parish Council
- Swaffham Town Council
- Necton Parish Council
- Narborough Parish Council
- Sporle with Palgrave Parish Council



- North Pickenham Parish Council
- Holme Hale Parish Council
- Little Dunham Parish Council.

Technical Stakeholders

- The Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Forestry Commission – East and East Midlands
- Historic England
- East of the Ouse, Polver and Nar Internal Drainage Board
- Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board
- Norfolk County Council Highways Department
- Breckland Council Highways Department
- Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Highways Department
- National Highways
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Health and Safety Executive
- NHS England
- The Crown Estate
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
- Norfolk Constabulary
- East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service
- NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board
- Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust
- East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- National Highways Historical Railways Estate
- NATS En-Route Safeguarding
- Royal Mail Group
- Homes England
- Anglian Water
- Cadent Gas Limited
- Northern Gas Networks Limited



- Scotland Gas Networks PLC
- Southern Gas Networks PLC
- CNG Services Ltd
- Energy Assets Pipelines Limited
- ESP Pipelines Ltd
- ESP Connections Ltd
- ESP Networks Ltd
- Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
- GTC Pipelines Limited
- Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
- Independent Pipelines Limited
- Indigo Pipelines Limited
- Inovyn Enterprises Ltd
- Last Mile Gas Ltd
- Leep Gas Networks Limited
- Mua Gas Limited
- Quadrant Pipelines Limited
- Stark Works
- National Gas
- Advanced Electricity Networks Ltd
- Aidien Ltd
- Aurora Utilities Ltd
- Eclipse Power Networks Limited
- Energy Assets Networks Limited
- ESP Electricity Limited
- Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
- Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd
- Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited
- Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Ltd
- Independent Power Networks Limited
- Indigo Power Limited
- Last Mile Electricity Ltd
- Leep Electricity Networks Limited



- Mua Electricity Limited
- Optimal Power Networks Limited
- Stark Infra-Electricity Ltd
- The Electricity Network Company Limited
- UK Power Distribution Limited
- Utility Assets Limited
- Vattenfall Networks Limited
- UK Power Networks Limited
- National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC
- National Grid Electricity System Operation Limited.

Local Authority

- Norfolk County Council
- Breckland Council
- Broadland District Council and South Norfolk Council
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Fenland District Council
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Mid Suffolk District Council
- North Norfolk District Council
- South Holland District Council
- Suffolk County Council
- The Broads National Park
- West Suffolk Council.

Other

- Shipdham Airfield
- Great Massingham Airfield
- RAF Marham
- Great Friars Thornes Farm Airstrip
- East Winch Airfield
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation



- Broads Authority.

Appendix 5: Section 48 notices

The London Gazette (Wednesday 14 May 2025)

Share your feedback on the Gazette website - [take our 1 minute survey here](#)



Published by Authority | Est 1665

Notice details

Type:

Planning

> Town and Country Planning

Publication date:

14 May 2025, 12:00

Edition:

The London Gazette

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4886225

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1601

[About Town and Country Planning notices](#)

Town and Country Planning

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 50 megawatts and associated infrastructure on land north of Swaffham and south of Castle Acre, West Norfolk.

1. Notice is hereby given that The Drovers Solar Farm Limited ("the Applicant") (Company registration number 14684480) of Unit 25.7 Coda Studios, 189 Munster Road, London, England SW6 6AW, 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 Drovers Solar Farm ("the Application").
2. The Drovers Solar Farm will cover a combined area of approximately 825 hectares of land ("the Site"). The Site is located south of South Acre, West Acre and Castle Acre. River Road bisects the Site, routing in a general south-northwest direction. West Acre Road and Narford Lane border the Site along the southern and south-western boundary. The Site's north-eastern boundary routes parallel to the south of South Acre Road to the junction to the A1065. Castle Acre Road (merging into the A1065) runs in a general north-south direction routing parallel along the eastern boundary of the Site.
3. The Drovers Solar Farm will consist of:
 - a) The solar array sites, which will include solar panels, conversion units and inverters.
 - b) A Customer Substation, which comprises electrical infrastructure such as transformers, switchgear and metering equipment required to facilitate the export of electricity up to 400kV (kilovolt) from The Drovers Solar Farm to the National Grid Substation.
 - c) A 400kV National Grid Substation operated by National Grid Electricity Transmission and associated electrical infrastructure and other ancillary works required to facilitate the export of electricity from The Drovers Solar Farm to the National Grid.
 - d) A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) area.
 - e) Associated infrastructure, mitigation and enhancement measures and other ancillary works, for example, enclosures and fencing, security, drainage, earthworks, highways and access works, mitigation and enhancement measures, temporary works compounds and work sites.
 - f) Cable Route Corridor - underground cabling connecting the solar array sites and Conversion Units to the BESS and the Customer Substation.
 - g) Grid Connection Corridor - cabling connecting the Customer Substation to the National Grid Substation point of connection to transfer the energy generated to the national grid system, which may be underground or via overhead lines.
 - h) Grid Connection Infrastructure - Underground and/or overhead lines, including the construction of new pylons between the National Grid Substation and the point of connection.
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. The Drovers 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 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 Drovers Solar Farm and assess its likely significant environmental effects. Information compiled so far about The Drovers 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 (NTS).

Statutory consultation

6. The Applicant is undertaking a statutory consultation on the proposals for The Drovers Solar Farm between Wednesday 21 May 2025 and Wednesday 9 July 2025.

7. A copy of the PEIR, together with the PEIR NTS, the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), and other consultation documents, plans and maps explaining the consultation process and details of the nature and location of The Drovers Solar Farm can be found on the Applicant's website in the documents library at www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk. These documents will be free to read, download and print from Wednesday 21 May 2025 to Wednesday 9 July 2025.

8. Hard copies of the PEIR, PEIR NTS SoCC, maps and plans will be available for inspection free of charge from Wednesday 21 May 2025 and Wednesday 9 July 2025 at the information point below. Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet and the Consultation Feedback Form will be available to take away free of charge from the information point below.

9. Electronic copies of the SoCC, PEIR and NTS can also be viewed on the library's computer. While access to the computer at the library is free, a membership for the library may be required. We recommend contacting the library to check the opening times prior to visiting.

Venue	Address	Opening times	Contact details
Swaffham Library	Swaffham Library, The Pighle, Swaffham, PE37 7DF	During staffed hours, a membership is not required to access the library.	Email: libraries@norfolk.gov.uk
		Staffed hours:	Phone: 01760 721513
		Tuesday and Thursday 10am-7pm	
		Friday 1 pm-7pm	
		Saturday 10am-4pm	
		During open access hours, a membership is required to access the library.	
		Open access hours:	
		Monday: 8am to 7pm - Open Library access	
		Tuesday: 8am to 10am - Open Library access	
		Wednesday: 8am to 7pm - Open Library access	
		Thursday: 8am to 10am - Open Library access	
		Friday: 8am to 1 pm - Open Library access	
		Saturday: 8am to 10am - Open Library access	
		Sunday: 10am to 4pm - Open Library access	
		<i>Please note: Membership is free, and we recommend getting in touch with the library for more details.</i>	

10. The Applicant will host public information events to provide interested parties with the opportunity to view the consultation materials as well as speak with members of the project team. The details of the events can be found below.

11. These consultation events offer an opportunity to find out more about The Drovers Solar Farm. Attendees do not need to register in advance to attend an in-person consultation event.



Venue	Date and Time
Sporle Community Centre: 78 The Street, Sporle, King's Lynn, PE32 2DR	Saturday 31 May 2025: 11:00- 17:00
Narborough Community Centre : Chalk Lane, Narborough, PE32 1SR	Monday 2 June 2025: 10:00- 14:00
Swaffham Assembly Rooms: 1 Market Place, Swaffham, PE37 7AB	Wednesday 11 June 2025: 12:00- 19:00
Westacre Theatre: River Road, West Acre, King's Lynn, PE32 1UD	Friday 20 June 2025: 10:00- 14:00

12. The Applicant will also host two webinars for interested parties to join via telephone or online via Livestorm, a conferencing platform.

Date	Time
Thursday 5 June 2025	12:30- 13:30
Wednesday 25 June 2025	18:30- 19:30

13. We will require attendees to register for these online events in advance via a registration form. The link to the registration form will be available on The Drovers Solar Farm website, which will also provide joining instructions.

14. For further information or queries, please call 0800 0129 154 (free of charge); write by letter to FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required); email info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk or visit www.drovessolarfarm.co.uk.

To obtain hard copies of the consultation documents

15. Hard copies of all other consultation materials, including the PEIR, may be requested during the consultation period by contacting the Applicant on FREEPHONE 0800 0129 154 or by email to info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk.

16. Requests for consultation materials in an alternative format such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments or in an alternative language for those who do not speak English as their first language will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Requests for multiple copies of these documents will be considered on a case-by-case basis and a reasonable charge may apply to cover printing and postage costs.

17. A printed hard copy of the PEIR will cost £750 (which includes printing and postage costs).

Have your say

18. Feedback can be provided through the Consultation Feedback Form on the Applicant's website at www.drovessolarfarm.co.uk. Hardcopy feedback forms will also be available at the information point detailed above and at the in-person consultation events.

19. The Consultation Feedback Form, responses to the consultation or other representations in respect of The Drovers Solar Farm can also be sent to the Applicant by email to info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk or by post to FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required).

20. Any response or representation in respect of the proposed DCO must be received by the Applicant on or before 23:59 on Wednesday 9 July 2025.

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 Drovers Solar Farm. Personal information will be kept confidential where possible. Please refer to our Privacy Notice for more details on The Drovers Solar Farm website: www.drovessolarfarm.co.uk/



The Guardian (Wednesday 14 May 2025)

Section:GDN 1N PaGe:20 Edition Date:250514 Edition:01 Zone: Sent at 13/5/2025 10:39

cYanmaGentaYeBow

ADVERTISEMENT

SECTION 48 PLANNING ACT 2008

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2. The Drovers Solar Farm will cover a combined area of approximately 625 hectares of land ("the Site"). The Site is located south of South Acre, West Acre and Castle Acre. River Road bisects the Site, running in a general south-northwest direction. West Acre Road and Narford Lane border the Site along the southern and south-western boundary. The Site's north-eastern boundary makes parallel to the south of South Acre Road to the junction to the A3065. Castle Acre Road (emerging into the A1065) runs in a general north-south direction running parallel along the eastern boundary of the Site.
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 - c) A 400kV National Grid Substation operated by National Grid Electricity Transmission and associated electrical infrastructure and other ancillary works required to facilitate the export of electricity from The Drovers Solar Farm to the National Grid.
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Date	Time
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Eastern Daily Press (Wednesday 14 May 2025 and Wednesday 21 May 2025)

WEDNESDAY MAY 14, 2025

EASTERN DAILY PRESS

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OTHER

SECTION 48 PLANNING ACT 2008

Regulation 4 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009. Notice publishing 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 50 megawatts and associated infrastructure on land north of Swaffham and south of Castle Acre, West Norfolk.

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Venue	Address	Opening times	Contact details
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	During open access hours, a membership is required to access the library. Open access hours: Monday: 8am to 7pm - Open Library access Tuesday: 8am to 10am - Open Library access Wednesday: 8am to 7pm - Open Library access Thursday: 8am to 10am - Open Library access Friday: 8am to 1pm - Open Library access Saturday: 8am to 10am - Open Library access Sunday: 10am to 4pm - Open Library access. <i>Please note: Membership is free, and we recommend getting in touch with the library for more details.</i>	
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Narborough Community Centre Chalk Lane, Narborough, PE32 1SR	Monday 2 June 2025 10:00- 16:00
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Westacre Theatre River Road, West Acre, King's Lynn, PE32 1UD	Friday 20 June 2025 10:00- 16:00

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Thursday 5 June 2025	12:30- 13:30
Wednesday 25 June 2025	18:30- 19:30

13. We will require attendees to register for these online events in advance via a registration form. The link to the registration form will be available on The Drovers Solar Farm website, which will also provide joining instructions.
14. For further information or queries, please call FREEPHONE 0800 0129 154 (free of charge), write by letter to FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required), email info@droversolarfarm.co.uk or visit www.droversolarfarm.co.uk.

To obtain hard copies of the consultation documents

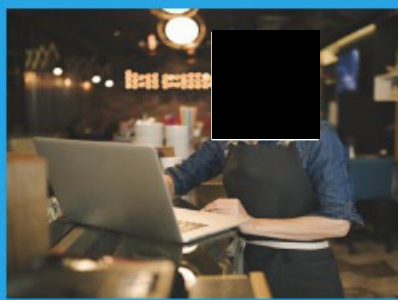
15. Hard copies of all other consultation materials, including the PEIR, may be requested during the consultation period by contacting the Applicant on FREEPHONE 0800 0129 154 or by email to info@droversolarfarm.co.uk.
16. Requests for consultation materials in an alternative format such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments or in an alternative language for those who do not speak English as their first language will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Requests for multiple copies of these documents will be considered on a case-by-case basis and a reasonable charge may apply to cover printing and postage costs.
17. A printed hard copy of the PEIR will cost £750 (which includes printing and postage costs).

Have your say

18. Feedback can be provided through the Consultation Feedback Form on the Applicant's website at www.droversolarfarm.co.uk. Hardcopy feedback forms will also be available at the information point detailed above and at the in-person consultation events.
19. The Consultation Feedback Form, responses to the consultation or other representations in respect of The Drovers Solar Farm can also be sent to the Applicant by email to info@droversolarfarm.co.uk or by post to FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required).
20. Any response or representation in respect of the proposed DCO must be received by the Applicant on or before 23:59 on Wednesday 9 July 2025.

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 Drovers Solar Farm. Personal information will be kept confidential where possible. Please refer to our Privacy Notice for more details on The Drovers Solar Farm website: www.droversolarfarm.co.uk



We connect local businesses with new customers via our industry-leading digital marketing services technology.

Insights from more than 1,000* UK clients proves we know what works.

Our digital marketing solutions are proven to help local businesses get more customers, grow awareness and thrive. We can help you make a great impression with a top-notch website, a storming social media game, a powerful search engine marketing strategy, and much more.

check out www.localiq.co.uk/digital-marketing-services

LOCALIQ
localiq.co.uk



*Source: Newquartz, data 2021



Appendix 6: Consultation Leaflet



Island Green Power (IGP) is a leading developer of utility-scale solar energy projects.

The Drovers Solar Farm Limited, a subsidiary of IGP, is bringing forward proposed plans for a solar farm with battery storage.

If consented, The Drovers Solar Farm ("the Project") could generate approximately 500 MWac (Megawatt Alternating Current) of renewable energy, enough to power approximately 115,000 homes, annually.

About The Drovers Solar Farm

The Drovers Solar Farm would cover approximately 825 hectares of land, situated north of Swaffham and south of Castle Acre, West Norfolk. As we are still in the early stages of design, survey work is ongoing to determine the exact areas within the Site that will be allocated for environmental mitigation, solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, and associated development.

Our vision is for The Drovers Solar Farm to support the UK's transition to decarbonised, low-cost renewable energy while leaving a positive legacy for the people of Breckland and its natural environment.

How to contact us

If you have any questions or comments, or would like to be kept up to date on the Project, please contact our Community Relations Team using the details below.

@ Email us at:
info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk

📞 Community Relations Freephone:
0800 0129 154 (Our phone lines are monitored 9:00–17:30 Monday to Friday, with an answerphone facility available outside of these hours)



Scan the QR code to learn more about the Project.

We are now inviting you to take part in our seven-week statutory consultation. **More details can be found overleaf.**



How to get involved

We are now inviting you to take part in our seven-week statutory consultation that **starts on 21 May and runs until 9 July 2025**.

Our events

We are holding a series of events as part of our statutory consultation where people can view and discuss our plans for The Drovers Solar Farm with members of the project team. We are also holding webinar events for those unable to attend in person.

The statutory consultation events will be held at the following times and locations:

Date	Time	Location
Saturday 31 May	11:00–17:00	Sporle Community Centre 78 The Street, Sporle, King's Lynn, PE32 2DR
Monday 2 June	10:00–14:00	Narborough Community Centre Chalk Lane, Narborough, King's Lynn, PE32 1SR
Wednesday 11 June	12:00–19:00	Swaffham Assembly Rooms 1 Market Place, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7AB
Friday 20 June	10:00–14:00	West Acre Theatre River Road, West Acre, Norfolk, PE32 1UD

You can register for our webinars in advance by visiting our website:

www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk

Date	Time	Location
Thursday 5 June	12:30–13:30	Online
Wednesday 25 June	18:30–19:30	Online

Local information point

Visit our local information point, where you can view (but not take away) a hard copy of the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR, and the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). You can also collect a Consultation Information Booklet and Feedback Form.

Venue	Materials available to take away	Reference materials
Swaffham Library The Pightle, Swaffham PE37 7DF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation Information Booklet• Feedback Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PEIR• NTS• SoCC

All consultation materials will be available to view and download free of charge on our website throughout the statutory consultation period.

Find out more

To find out more about our consultation, visit www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk, or contact our Community Relations Team at info@drovesolarfarm.co.uk or **0800 0129 154**.



Appendix 7: Consultation Poster

The Drovers Solar Farm



Island Green Power (IGP) is a leading developer of utility-scale solar energy projects.

The Drovers Solar Farm Limited, a subsidiary of IGP, is bringing forward proposed plans for a solar farm with battery storage.

If consented, The Drovers Solar Farm ("the Project") could generate approximately 500 MWac (Megawatt Alternating Current) of renewable energy, enough to power approximately 115,000 homes, annually.

About The Drovers Solar Farm

The Drovers Solar Farm would cover approximately 825 hectares of land, situated north of Swaffham and south of Castle Acre, West Norfolk. As we are still in the early stages of design, survey work is ongoing to determine the exact areas within the Site that will be allocated for environmental mitigation, solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, and associated development.

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How to contact us

If you have any questions or comments, or would like to be kept up to date on the project, please contact our Community Relations Team using the details below.

Email us at: info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk

Community Relations Freephone: **0800 0129 154** (Our phone lines are monitored 9:00-17:30 Monday to Friday, with an answerphone facility available outside of these hours)



Scan the QR code to learn more about the Project.

We are now inviting you to take part in our seven-week statutory consultation.

How to get involved

We are now inviting you to take part in our seven-week statutory consultation that starts on **21 May** and runs until **9 July 2025**.

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Friday 20 June	10:00-14:00	West Acre Theatre River Road, West Acre, Norfolk, PE32 1UD

You can register for our webinars in advance by visiting our website: www.drovessolarfarm.co.uk

Date	Time	Location
Thursday 5 June	12:30-13:30	Online
Wednesday 25 June	18:30-19:30	Online

Local information point

Visit our local information point, where you can view (but not take away) a hard copy of the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR, and the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). You can also collect a Consultation Information Booklet and Feedback Form.

Venue	Materials available to take away	Reference materials
Swaffham Library The Pightle, Swaffham PE37 7DF	• Consultation Information Booklet • Feedback Form	• PEIR • NTS • SoCC

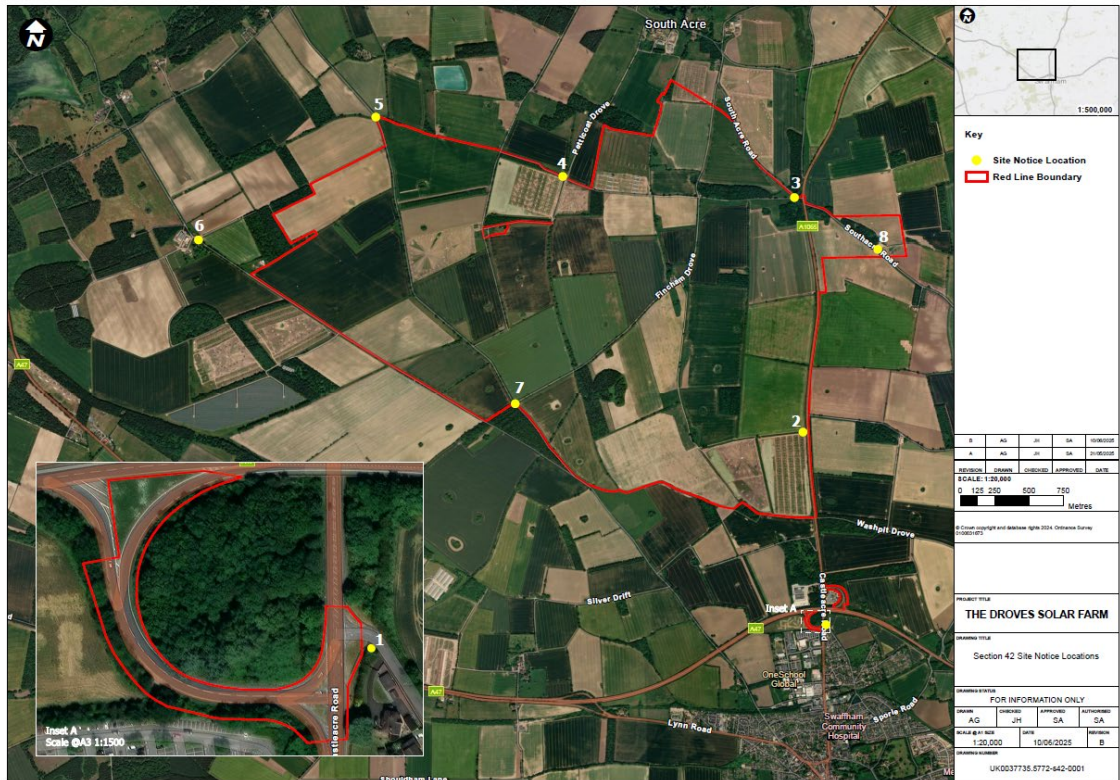
All consultation materials will be available to view and download free of charge on our website throughout the statutory consultation period.

Find out more

To find out more about our consultation, visit www.drovessolarfarm.co.uk, or contact our Community Relations Team at info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk or **0800 0129 154**.



Appendix 8: Site notices





Appendix 9: Local Planning Authorities responses to SoCC consultation

Norfolk County Council (March 2025)



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.



Breckland Council (21 February 2025)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: Friday, February 21, 2025 1:31:57 PM
To: Info (Drovers solar Farm) <info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk>
CC: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: The Drovers Solar Farm - Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
Attachments: Invitation to consult on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)_The Drovers Solar Farm.pdf (179.24 KB), The Drovers Solar Farm_Statement of Community Consultation_DRAFT.pdf (779.72 KB)
Follow up: Follow up
Start date: Friday, February 21, 2025 12:00:00 AM
Due date: Friday, February 21, 2025 12:00:00 AM
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



Breckland Council



Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (3 March 2025)

PINS ref: EN0110013
Our ref: 24/01697/NSIPCO



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



Via email: info@drovessolarfarm.co.uk

03 March 2025

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

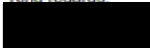
Dear Sophie

Thank you for your email dated 5th February 2025 which relates to the SOCC draft for The Drovers 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



www.west-norfolk.gov.uk

King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 1EX
Customer Information Centre: (01553) 616200



Appendix 10: Section 47 notice

Eastern Daily Press (Wednesday 23 April 2025)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 23, 2025

EASTERN DAILY PRESS

39

Notice publicising a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in accordance with Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008.

Notice is hereby given that The Drovers Solar Farm Limited (the Applicant) (Company Number 14684480), whose registered office is at Unit 25.7 Coda Studios 189 Munster Road, London, England, SW6 6AW has produced a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008.

The Scheme

The Applicant is proposing a new solar project located on land north of Swaffham and south of Castle Acre, West Norfolk. The Drovers Solar Farm could supply approximately 500MWac of renewable energy to the National Grid and would support regional and national targets for reducing carbon emissions to net zero, contribute to improvements to local ecology and biodiversity and deliver affordable, subsidy-free energy. The Applicant will work closely with stakeholders and the local community to develop The Drovers Solar Farm proposals, having regard to the feedback received during public consultation.

The Drovers Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 as it has a proposed generation capacity of over 50MW. As a NSIP the Applicant must submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.

The Applicant is a subsidiary of Island Green Power Group Limited (IGP).

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

The Applicant has a duty to consult the local community under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. The Applicant has therefore prepared a SoCC that explains how people living in the vicinity of proposed Scheme boundary will be consulted throughout the pre-application process and how it intends to consult on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which will inform the final Environmental Statement (ES). The consultation process is designed to provide information about The Drovers Solar Farm and give the opportunity for local communities to have their say and help develop the final design.

This notice provides formal notification of the publication of the SoCC which can be viewed, free of charge, on the document library at: www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk. A hard copy of the SoCC is also available to inspect at the information point detailed below.

The Consultation Process

The Applicant will be holding its statutory consultation between 21 May and 9 July 2025. The Applicant will host a series of consultation activities, which will be available and accessible to all interested members of the local community. All consultation materials will be available to view, free of charge, during the statutory consultation period on the Scheme website: www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk.

Hard copies of the SoCC will be available for inspection from 23 April 2025 until 9 July 2025 at the information point listed below.

Hard copies of the PEIR and Non-Technical Summary will be available for inspection from 21 May until 9 July 2025 at the information point listed below.

Hard copies of the Consultation Information Booklet and the Consultation Feedback Form will be available at the information point listed below to take away free of charge from 21 May until 9 July 2025.

Electronic copies of the SoCC, PEIR and Non-Technical Summary can also be viewed on the library's computer. While access to the computer at the library is free, a membership for the library may be required. We recommend contacting the library to check the opening times prior to visiting.

Venue	Address	Opening times	Contact details
Swaffham Library	Swaffham Library, The Pightle, Swaffham, PE37 7DF	<p>During staffed hours, a membership is not required to access the library.</p> <p>Staffed hours:</p> <p>Tuesday and Thursday 10am-7pm</p> <p>Friday 1pm-7pm</p> <p>Saturday 10am-4pm</p> <p>During open access hours, a membership is required to access the library.</p> <p>Open access hours:</p> <p>Monday: 8am to 7pm - Open Library access</p> <p>Tuesday: 8am to 10am - Open Library access</p> <p>Wednesday: 8am to 7pm - Open Library access</p> <p>Thursday: 8am to 10am - Open Library access</p> <p>Friday: 8am to 1pm - Open Library access</p> <p>Saturday: 8am to 10am - Open Library access</p> <p>Sunday: 10am to 4pm - Open Library access</p> <p>Please note: Membership is free, and we recommend getting in touch with the library for more details.</p>	<p>Email: libraries@norfolk.gov.uk</p> <p>Phone: 01760 721513</p>

A hard copy of the PEIR can be provided on request, though there will be a cost associated with this. The cost of printing and delivering the PEIR will be confirmed prior to the start of the consultation period.

The SoCC, Consultation Information Booklet, Consultation Feedback Form, Consultation Newsletter, and Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR can be made available in hard copy, large print, audio or braille format, free of charge upon request to the Applicant on 0800 0129 154 (free of charge) or by email at info@drovesolarfarm.co.uk.

Requests for translated documents will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Requests for multiple copies of these documents will be considered on a case-by-case basis and a reasonable charge may apply to cover printing and postage costs.

Feedback can be provided through the Consultation Feedback Form on the Applicant's website between 21 May and 9 July 2025 www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk. Hard copy Consultation Feedback Forms will also be available at the information point detailed above between 21 May and 9 July 2025 and at the in-person consultation events listed below.

The Consultation Feedback Form, responses to the consultation or other representation in respect of The Drovers Solar Farm can also be sent to the Applicant by email to info@drovesolarfarm.co.uk or by post to FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required).

Any response or representation in respect of the proposed DCO must be received by the Applicant on or before **11.59PM on Wednesday 9th July 2025**.

Information Events

The Applicant will be hosting public information events to provide further opportunities to view the consultation materials as well as speak with members of the project team. The details of the events are as follows:

Venue	Date and Time
Spore Community Centre, 78 The Street, Spore, King's Lynn, PE32 2DR	Saturday 31 May 2025 11:00 - 17:00
Narborough Community Centre, Chalk Lane, Narborough, PE32 1SR	Monday 2 June 2025 10:00 - 14:00
Swaffham Assembly Rooms, 1 Market Place, Swaffham, PE37 7AB	Wednesday 11 June 2025 12:00 - 19:00
Westacre Theatre, River Road, West Acre, King's Lynn, PE32 1UA	Friday 20 June 2025 10:00 - 14:00

Webinars

The Applicant will also be hosting two webinars for stakeholders to join via telephone or online via Livestorm, an online web conferencing platform for webinars and virtual meeting.

Date	Time
Thursday 5 June 2025	12:30 - 13:30
Wednesday 25 June 2025	18:30 - 19:30

We will require attendees to register for these online events in advance via the automated registration form on the Livestorm website. The link to the registration form for the webinars will be available on the Scheme website. Instructions on how to register and attend the webinars will also be provided on the Scheme website.

Get in Touch

Emailing: info@drovesolarfarm.co.uk

Calling our Freephone: 0800 0129 154

Writing to us at: FREEPOST THE DROVES SOLAR FARM (no stamp or further details required)

Visiting our website at: www.drovesolarfarm.co.uk

3 Responses to Consultation on AoCM

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc:
Subject: RE: The Drovers Solar Farm EN0110013 - Adequacy of Consultation Report
Date: 02 September 2025 08:35:05
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[The Drovers Solar Farm Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report.pdf](#)

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 Lindsay

I am writing in relation to the Adequacy of Consultation Report provided to us by email on 21st August 2025.

I would like to draw attention to a couple of errors:

- Page 4 – [REDACTED] is and Executive Director at Breckland, not a Councillor
- Page 6 – I don't believe [REDACTED] attended the 1st October 2024 meeting.

I would also ask if you are able to clarify the April and May briefings identified on Page 12 of the report.

In general, the Council is concerned and disappointed by the speed of this process. This has meant that it has been difficult for Members to engage properly, and my recollection is that sessions have been virtual rather than in person. In-person sessions would have given Members more opportunity to question the process and been a more two-way process which would have benefitted all parties. A more formal non-statutory process would have been beneficial and would have allowed Members and communities to engage more fully.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Director of Planning and Building Control
Breckland Council

[REDACTED]

Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 1EE

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 2-8-25- The Drovers Solar Farm EN0110013 - Adequacy of Consultation Report
Date: 02 September 2025 09:28:23
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

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.

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 21 August regarding your Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) Report.

Given the tight time constraints to respond our assessment has largely been limited to a simple fact-checking exercise.

To this extent it is noted that on page 7 of the Report (Summary of online technical workshops) it states that [REDACTED] (Norfolk County Council); [REDACTED] (Norfolk County Council) and [REDACTED] (Breckland District Council) as attending the opposite Water and Flood Workshop (24/9/24). This is incorrect and it was in fact [REDACTED] from the County Council's Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) Team who attended. The Report should be amended accordingly.

The Planning, Community Benefit and Socio-economic workshop on 24 September was attended by: [REDACTED] (NCC); [REDACTED] (NCC); and [REDACTED] (Breckland DC); and not by [REDACTED] from the LLFA team at Norfolk County Council. The Report should be amended accordingly.

On a more general matter, there have been issues raised by the County Council concerning the accelerated timetable in which the Project has been taken forward, with the County Council first being made aware of the project in July 2024 (Inception Meeting 24 July 2024); and with the submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) expected later in 2025 (inception to submission in less than 18 months).

While there has been a series of workshops organised by the Applicant, which have been welcomed and attended were possible by officers from the County Council, there has not been a wider formal non-statutory consultation undertaken as is typically seen with other recent Solar Farm Projects (NSIP-scale) in Norfolk.

Therefore, the County Council does have some issues concerning the timetable in which the project has been taken forward to date; and has been disappointed by the lack of a more structured / formal non-statutory consultation being undertaken prior to the publication and consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (S42 of the 2008 Planning Act).

Kind regards

Stephen

[REDACTED]
Principal Planner – National Infrastructure Co-lead
Strategy and Transformation
[REDACTED]



THE DROVES
SOLAR FARM