



East Pye Solar Consultation Report

**Revision 1
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1 Executive summary

1.1 Glossary

Table 1-1 Table of terms and acronyms

Term or Acronym	Definition
AC	Alternating Current
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Load
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AoCM	Adequacy of Consultation Milestone
APFP Regulations	The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BMV	Best and Most Versatile
CAP	Community Access Point
CCZ	Core Consultation Zone
CRC	Cable Route Corridor. An area of land identified for the proposed underground cables between the Sites, Sub-Sites and the BESS.
DCO	Development Consent Order
DESNZ	Department of Energy Security and Net Zero
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIA Regulations	The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017
ES	Environmental Statement
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
Guidance	Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (published 30 April 2024)
GW	Gigawatt
Ha	Hectares
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
IGP	Island Green Power
KV	Kilovolts
LPA	Local Planning Authority

Term or Acronym	Definition
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MP	Member of Parliament
MW	Megawatt
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
OBSMP	Outline Battery Safety Management Plan
OCEMP	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan
OCTMP	Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan
ODEMP	Outline Decommissioning Management Plan
OEMP	Operational Environmental Management Plan
OLEMP	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
PA2008	Planning Act 2008
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
Phase One Consultation	The first phase of community consultation that ran from 23 October to 6 December 2024. This was a non-statutory phase of consultation.
Phase Two Consultation	The second phase of consultation that ran from 18 June to 6 August 2025. This was a statutory phase of consultation.
POC	Point of Connection
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
PV	Solar photovoltaic
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation, published on 4 June 2025
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SoS	Secretary of State
Targeted Consultation	An additional phase of consultation on a series of specific changes and updates to the Scheme that ran from 22 October to 26 November 2025.
The Applicant	East Pye Solar Limited

Term or Acronym	Definition
The Scheme	East Pye Solar

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 East Pye Solar (the Scheme) comprises the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station with a total capacity exceeding 100 megawatts (MW) and associated development including a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), up to three 132 kV Project Substations and up to three 400kV Project Substations, Grid Connection Infrastructure and a new National Grid Substation. A description of the Scheme can be found in **Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 1, Chapter 4 – The Scheme [EN0110014/APP/6.1.4]**.
- 1.2.2 The Scheme would be located within the Order Limits (shown on the **Location Plan [EN0110014/APP/2.1]** and **Works Plan [EN0110014/APP/2.3]** submitted as part of the DCO Application and secured by Article 3 of the **draft DCO [EN0110014/APP/3.1]**). The Order Limits contain all elements of the Scheme comprising the Solar PV Arrays, 132kV and 400kV Project Substations, the National Grid Substation, the BESS, Grid Connection Infrastructure, interconnecting cables within the Cable Route Corridor (CRC), Mitigation and Enhancement Areas and Highway Works.
- 1.2.3 The Solar PV electricity generating stations would be located across Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the Scheme. Site 6 does not contain electricity generation station, instead being retained as a Mitigation and Enhancement Area.

1.3 Pre-application consultation overview

- 1.3.1 This Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with S37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) (Ref 1). This report demonstrates how the Applicant has complied with s42, s44, s47, s48 and s49 of the PA2008 and associated legislation and guidance. The report also sets out the extensive non-statutory community involvement and consultation undertaken for the Scheme.
- 1.3.2 The Applicant undertook pre-application consultation on the Scheme with the following consultees:
- Prescribed bodies (in accordance with s42(1)(a)), including with local authorities in accordance with s42(1)(b) and as set out in s43(1);
 - Those with an interest in the land (in accordance with s42(1)(d) and as set out in s44);

- Community and other organisations in the “vicinity” of the Scheme who may be affected both directly and indirectly by the Scheme (in accordance with s47); and
- Wider communities and organisations (local, national and regional) in order to seek their comments on the Scheme proposals (in accordance with s48).

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

- A non-statutory Phase One Consultation on early-stage proposals, held for just over six weeks between 23 October and 6 December 2024;
- Post-phase one communications including publishing a Consultation Summary Report;
- Publication of the Applicant’s Statement of Community Consultation on 4 June 2025;
- Notification to the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, in writing under s46 of the PA2008 on 17 June 2025 that it was intending to commence consultation under s42 of the Planning Act 2008;
- A statutory Phase Two Consultation on more detailed proposals – including a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) – in accordance with sections 42, 47, and 48 of the PA2008, held for seven weeks between 18 June and 6 August 2025;
- A Targeted Consultation on specific changes to the Scheme following the Phase Two consultation, held for five weeks between 22 October to 26 November 2025;
- Published a post-consultation newsletter in January 2026 updating stakeholders on how responses to the Phase Two consultation have resulted in refinements to the Scheme, prior to submission; and
- Submitting a written statement on the adequacy of pre-application consultation undertaken to the Planning Inspectorate in January 2025. As host authorities, Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council, were provided opportunities to comment on this statement.

1.4 Level of response

1.4.1 The Applicant received 356 submissions of feedback in response to the Phase One community consultation. This included 309 feedback form submissions (paper form and online submissions) and 47 submissions of feedback via the Scheme’s communication channels (email and Freepost). During this period,

the Applicant also welcomed 663 attendees across a series of six in-person and one online community information events (webinar).

- 1.4.2 The Applicant received 869 feedback responses from members of the community to the Phase Two consultation (statutory under s47 of the PA2008). During this period, the Applicant welcomed 554 attendees across a series of information events (one online and six in-person). The comments received are summarised in **Chapter 12** of this report and presented in detail in **Consultation Report Appendix 10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.11]**, together with how the Applicant has had regard to the feedback when finalising the DCO application.
- 1.4.3 The Applicant received 36 responses from s42 consultees during this consultation period. An overview of the s42 feedback and the Applicant's response is provided in **Chapter 12** of this report, with a more detailed record of s42 feedback provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 11: Section 42 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.12]**.
- 1.4.4 The Applicant recorded 677 submissions of feedback from community organisations, residents and interested parties considered as s47 feedback to the Targeted Consultation. The Applicant considered these representations alongside all other s47 feedback received at previous consultation. A summary of s47 feedback is provided in **Chapter 12** of this report and presented in more detail alongside the Applicant's consideration of feedback received in **Consultation Report Appendix 10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.11]**.
- 1.4.5 The Applicant recorded 24 submissions of feedback from s42 consultees to the Targeted Consultation. The Applicant considered these representations alongside other s42 feedback received at the previous consultation. A summary of s42 feedback is provided in **Chapter 12** of this report and presented in more detail alongside the Applicant's consideration of feedback received in **Consultation Report Appendix 11: Section 42 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.12]**.

1.5 Consideration of feedback received

- 1.5.1 Throughout the pre-application period, the Applicant has carefully considered comments received during all phases of consultation. The Applicant's consideration of comments provided at Phase One Consultation can be found in **Chapter 5** of this report.
- 1.5.2 The Applicant's consideration of comments provided at Phase Two Consultation is provided in **Chapter 12** of this report and presented in more detail alongside the Applicant's response to feedback received in **Consultation Report Appendix 10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.11]** and **Consultation Report Appendix 11: Section 42 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.12]**.

1.5.3 The feedback received at Phase Two consultation has informed a series of positive refinements to the proposals, as described in **Table 1-2**.

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

Key Topic	Summary of changes to the Scheme
<p>Site selection and removal of panels</p>	<p>As outlined in ES Volume 1, Chapter 5 – Reasonable Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110014/APP/6.1.5], and the Design Approach Document [EN0110014/APP/7.17], since the PEIR stage, the Applicant further refined the Order Limits with key changes made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To remove Sub-Site 3A entirely from the Order Limits, given the numerous constraints relating to it, including its agricultural land quality and ecological constraints. The removal of Sub-Site 3A was preferable given it removed highway access through Spring Wood Ancient Replanted Woodland. • To accommodate additional highway visibility splays as the access strategy was developed. This also included the removal of strips of land owing to the removal of access points, including from Broadgate Lane to Sub-Site 1A, from Lundy Green to Site 3, from The Green to Sub-Site 7F and from one proposed access from Harvey’s Lane to Sub-Site 10C. <p>Additionally, Solar PV Panels have been removed from the following Sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site 6, which is proposed to be used for ecological mitigation and enhancement. • Eastern part of Sub-Site 5B to provide greater offset to residential properties on The Street. This field is now proposed to be retained as agricultural land. • Northern part of Sub-Site 8A owing to elevated topography and the prominence of the landscape on the setting of listed buildings. • Western part of Sub-Site 8B owing to the rising topography and visibility from a nearby residential property on Market Lane. • Western part of Site 8 owing to the Brooke Conservation Area to the north and residential properties bordering the southern Order Limits on Mill Lane.
<p>Cable Route Corridor</p>	<p>The Cable Route Corridor (CRC) has been refined to an approximate width of 50m, with variations in the width to accommodate technical and environmental considerations, for example, the presence of veteran trees, ponds, access requirements and the need for flexibility associated with trenchless crossing solutions.</p> <p>In response to comments received from the Highway Authority, consideration has been given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the route as short and direct as possible • Avoiding existing landscape and ecological features such as woodland, trees, ponds, watercourses and ditches as far as practicable • Utilising existing gaps in the hedgerows as far as practicable to minimise temporary hedgerow loss • Directing the route away from designated ecological sites as far as practicable, including moving away from Roadside Nature Reserves, Ancient Woodland, County Wildlife Sites, and Sites of Special Scientific Interest • Providing a buffer to residential properties • Access requirements to the CRC, including the internalisation of construction traffic to remove it from the local roads as far as practicable.

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose of this document

- 2.1.1 This Consultation Report has been prepared by the Applicant. It forms part of the application (the Application) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) that has been submitted to the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero for the Scheme. The Application is required under s31 of the Planning Act (PA2008).
- 2.1.2 The Applicant recognises the importance of consulting on the Scheme from an early stage and the benefits this can bring in respect of delivering an improved Scheme.
- 2.1.3 Pre-application consultation forms an important part of the planning and development process, and the PA2008 requires developers to publicise their proposals widely. It also requires developers to consult with local communities, local authorities, statutory bodies and persons with an interest in land potentially affected by a proposed Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
- 2.1.4 This report has been prepared by the Applicant in accordance with s37(3)(c) and s37(7) of the PA2008. It details the consultation undertaken under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA2008 and how this consultation has been informed by associated legislation and guidance. This includes guidance on the pre-application stage of the PA2008. It also details how responses to consultation have been taken into account in accordance with Section 49 of the PA2008. **Chapter 3** of this report sets this out in more detail.
- 2.1.5 **Table 2-1** presents the structure of this Consultation Report. The document has been structured through consideration of the chronological order of consultation activities and the relevant sections of the PA2008.

Table 2-1 Structure and explanation of Consultation Report sections

Report chapter	Overview
Executive Summary	Summarises the purpose of the Consultation Report, the context for the Scheme, how communities and stakeholders were engaged throughout the pre-application process, the level of response and key areas where feedback has informed the development of the Scheme's design.
Introduction	Introduces the Scheme, provides an overview of the pre-application consultation undertaken, and sets out the structure and information presented in the Consultation Report.
Legislation, guidance and advice	Sets out the requirements of the PA2008 and accompanying guidance, which the Applicant's consultation has complied with.
Introduction of the Scheme to consultees (August to September 2024)	A summary of how the Applicant undertook engagement with select consultees, landowners and political stakeholders prior to the launch of non-statutory Phase One consultation.

Report chapter	Overview
Non-statutory consultation and engagement (October to December 2024)	A summary of how the Applicant undertook non-statutory engagement, including a non-statutory phase of consultation on early-stage proposals. This includes an overview of the consultation responses received.
Consultation under EIA Regulations	Describes how the Applicant has consulted according to the EIA Regulations.
Preparation for Statutory Consultation (April to June 2025)	Sets out how the Applicant prepared for statutory s47 consultation including the development and publication of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).
Statutory Consultation under s47 of the PA2008 (June to August 2025)	Sets out and describes how the Applicant consulted with the community in accordance with s47 of the Planning Act 2008 and the SoCC.
Statutory Consultation under s42 of the PA2008 (June to August 2025)	Sets out and describes how the Applicant consulted on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) with prescribed consultees, Local Planning Authorities and those with an interest in the land in accordance with s42, s43 and s44 of the PA2008.
Statutory Consultation under Section 48 of the PA2008 (June to August 2025)	Describes the development and publication of the s48 notice and s48 consultation.
Targeted Consultation (October to November 2025)	Describes Targeted Consultation undertaken on a series of specific proposed changes to the Scheme proposals.
Account of feedback and the Applicant's response to Statutory Consultation under Section 49 of the PA2008	A summary of the responses received to the s47 community consultation and s42 consultation, presented by theme or EIA topic. The Applicant details how it has had regard to those responses in accordance with s49 of the PA2008.
Ongoing consultation activities and Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)	Describes ongoing engagement with stakeholders beyond the close of statutory consultation and Targeted Consultation, including details on discussions, meetings, Potential Main Issues for Examination and SoCGs reached.
Conclusion	The Applicant's concluding remarks on the preapplication consultation undertaken.

2.2 Overview of the Scheme

2.2.1 A description of the Scheme can be found in Section 1.2 of this report. The Order limits contain all elements of the Scheme, comprising the Solar PV Arrays, 132kV and 400kV Project Substations, the new National Grid Substation, Grid Connection Infrastructure, Mitigation and Enhancement Areas, and Highway Works. A description of the Sites is provided in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3 – The Scheme [EN0110014/APP/6.1.3]**.

2.3 The Applicant's approach to consultation

2.3.1 The Applicant recognises that consultation is a vital tool in the development of project design. The Applicant is committed to continuing to provide opportunities for interested parties to learn about the Scheme and share their views. The Applicant intends to work collaboratively with local people and organisations to deliver the Scheme sensitively and in cohesion with the local environment.

2.3.2 Throughout the pre-application process, the Applicant has welcomed feedback on the Scheme from a range of stakeholders, including communities, landowners and occupiers. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is explained in **Chapter 12** of this report, and evidence in full in **Consultation Report Appendix 10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.11]** and **Consultation Report Appendix 11: Section 42 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.12]**.

2.4 Pre-application consultation overview

2.4.1 The Applicant has undertaken statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of the PA2008.

2.4.2 In accordance with s42, s47 and s48 of the PA2008, the Applicant has undertaken pre-application consultation on the Scheme ahead of submission of the Application to the Secretary of State with the following consultees:

- Prescribed bodies (in accordance with s42(1)(a));
- Local authorities (in accordance with s42(1)(b) and as set out in section 43(1));
- Those with an interest in the land (in accordance with s42(1)(d) and as set out in s44);
- Community and other organisation in the “vicinity” of the Scheme who may be affected both directly and indirectly by the Scheme (in accordance with s47); and
- Wider communities and organisations (local, national and regional) in order to seek their comments on the Scheme (in accordance with s48 and as set out in Regulation 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (“APFP Regulations”).

2.4.3 The Applicant has undertaken a series of defined phases of consultation during the pre-application period. This has comprised:

- A Phase One consultation on early-stage proposals, held for over six weeks between 23 October and 6 December 2024;
- A Phase Two consultation on more detailed proposals, including the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), held for seven weeks between 18 June and 6 August 2025. This phase of consultation was held in accordance with the SoCC developed pursuant of s47 of the PA2008 and in accordance with s42 and s48 of the PA2008 and the APFP Regulations and the EIA Regulations;

- An additional phase of Targeted Consultation, focusing on a series of specific changes to the Scheme development boundary that was presented in the PEIR. This was held for five weeks between 22 October and 26 November 2025. Details of the Targeted Consultation are set out in **Chapter 11** of this report; and
- Ongoing focused consultation with affected landowners as a result of diligent inquiry. Details of those consulted following and outside of defined consultation periods are detailed in the Section 44 Consultee List in **Consultation Report Appendix 7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**.

2.4.4 The Applicant has also engaged with Local Planning Authorities, local councillors, political stakeholders and local interest groups throughout the pre-application phase. Details of these meetings are set out in **Table 4-1** (before Phase One consultation), **Table 5-3** (during Phase One consultation), **Table 8-3** (during Phase Two consultation) and **Table 13-1** (outside of consultation phases) of this report and chapters of the **ES [EN0110014/APP/6.2]** where relevant.

2.4.5 Responses from the s47 and s42 consultees, including how the Applicant has considered these comments, are described in **Chapter 12** of this report, and provided in greater detail in **Consultation Report Appendix 10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.11]** and **Consultation Report Appendix 11: Section 42 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.12]**. It is worth noting that, where pertinent and relevant to specific environmental topics, key comments and responses to these – including how they informed the Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) – have also been addressed in specific chapters of the **ES [EN0110014/APP/6.1]**.

2.4.6 Prior to submitting its application for a DCO, the Applicant prepared a written statement in response to the Government guidance ‘Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’ (April 2024) regarding an early Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM). A copy of the Scheme’s Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Document is provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance [EN0110014/APP/5.2]**.

2.4.7 The Applicant discussed the preparation of the AoCM with Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council as the host authorities for the Scheme, prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate in January 2025.

2.4.8 **Table 2-2** summarises, in chronological order, the pre-application stages and consultation activities that have taken place up to the point of the Application submission.

Table 2-2 Pre-application consultation activities undertaken

Date	Consultation undertaken
July – October 2024	<p>Scheme introduction with host local authorities (Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council) and early engagement with site landowners</p> <p>The Applicant contacted Local Planning Officers and political leaders at Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council in July 2024.</p> <p>An introductory meeting was held with Norfolk County Council planning officers on 24 July 2024, and an introductory meeting with South Norfolk Council planning authorities took place on 19 August 2024.</p> <p>The purpose of these introductory meetings was to introduce the host authorities to the Scheme. This communication resulted in a number of meetings being held prior to Phase One consultation.</p>
10 September 2024	<p>Scheme introduction to the public and ongoing engagement and consultation with local authorities and political stakeholders</p> <p>Prior to the start of non-statutory Phase One consultation in October 2024, the Applicant launched its website, which provided early-stage information on the Scheme and information about the Scheme communication channels.</p> <p>The Applicant notified properties within the vicinity of the Site of the launch of the Scheme via a community postcard and notified ‘near neighbours’ (properties within 100 metres to the Site) of the launch.</p> <p>A press release was issued to local and trade press on the early-stage proposals, and the next steps for the Scheme.</p> <p>Chapter 4 of this report includes further information regarding the introduction of the Scheme to consultees and the community.</p>
23 October – 6 December 2024	<p>Phase One community consultation (non-statutory)</p> <p>The Applicant held its Phase One Consultation for just over six weeks (43 days) from 23 October to 6 December 2024.</p> <p>The aim of this initial consultation was to introduce the Scheme, present early-stage proposals for the Scheme and give individuals and interested parties the opportunity to share their views.</p> <p>During this non-statutory consultation period, the Applicant held six in-person information events and one online webinar, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 7 November 2024, 15:30-19:30 – Saxlingham Nethergate Village Hall, Steward Close, Saxlingham Nethergate, NR15 1AN • Friday 8 November 2024, 15:30-19:30 – Seething and Mundham Village Hall, Wheelers Lane, Seething, NR15 EJ • Saturday 9 November, 11:30-15:30 – Hempnall Village Hall, Bungay Road, Hempnall, NR15 2NG

Date	Consultation undertaken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 13 November 2024, 15:30-19:30 – Aslacton and Great Moulton Coronation Hall, Carr Lane, Great Moulton, NR15 2LA • Thursday 14 November 2024, 13:30-18:30 – Long Stratton Village Hall, Ipswich Road, Long Stratton, NR15 2TA • Friday 15 November 2024, 14:00-18:30 – Woodton Village Hall, Hempnall Road, Woodton, Bungay, NR35 2NG • Wednesday 20 November 2024, 18:00-19:30 – Community webinar via Zoom <p>The Applicant publicised the events and consultation information by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing a community consultation postcard to over 8,400 properties within the vicinity of the Site; • Advertising the events across local media; • Distributing posters to identified local information points for them to display; • Providing details of the events on the Scheme website; • Wider publicity via a press release, which was sent to local and trade publications; and • Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed.
15 January 2025	<p>Scoping Report submitted</p> <p>The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State on 15 January 2025.</p> <p>Through this report, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate that it intended to provide an ES in respect of the Scheme pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations.</p>
25 February 2025	<p>Scoping Opinion</p> <p>A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 25 February 2025 and included a list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations.</p>
4 March – 18 March 2025	<p>Feedback sought on early working draft of Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)</p> <p>The Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC with host local authorities, Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council, ahead of the formal draft SoCC consultation. The purpose of sharing this early working draft was to receive initial comments on the consultation timescales, methods of engagement and the Applicant’s identification of Community Access Points and seldom heard groups and gateway organisations.</p>
19 March 2025	<p>Phase One Consultation Summary Report published</p> <p>The Applicant published a Phase One Consultation Summary Report to summarise the feedback received during the Phase One consultation and how this feedback was being considered to inform the Scheme.</p> <p>The Phase One Consultation Summary Report was:</p>

Date	Consultation undertaken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared by email with key stakeholders (including MPs, councillors, and parish councils) and individuals who had registered to be kept informed; and Uploaded to the Applicant's website.
4 April – 6 May 2025	<p>Consultation on draft SoCC with local authorities under s47 of the PA2008</p> <p>The Applicant consulted with the s43(1) local authorities on the draft SoCC between 4 April and 6 May 2025.</p>
17 June 2025	<p>Notification to the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, under s46 of the PA2008</p>
18 June – 6 August 2025	<p>Phase Two consultation (statutory) under s42 and s48 of PA2008 and publication of the PEIR and Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR</p> <p>The Applicant published a PEIR on 18 June 2025 to be consulted upon as part of the statutory consultation under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA2008 with prescribed consultees and the community (Phase Two consultation).</p> <p>The Applicant undertook consultation on the PEIR from 18 June to 6 August 2025 (providing a 49-day consultation response period and therefore exceeding the 28-day requirement). S42 consultees were formally notified of the commencement of statutory consultation on or before 18 June 2025 by a written letter and/or email.</p> <p>The consultation documents provided to s42 consultees comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials on the Applicant's website; and A copy of the notice publicising the application under s48 of the PA2008 (including details of the community information events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge). Notices were published in accordance with s48 of the PA2008. <p>The PEIR and PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) were made available to s42 consultees and the community as part of the Phase Two consultation via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Applicant's website; In hard copy form at the community information events; The PEIR NTS was available at the CAPs, which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long Stratton Library; Loddon Library; Poringland Library; and Bungay Community Library. The PEIR was available in hard copy format at Long Stratton Library. <p>Details of how to access the PEIR and PEIR NTS were provided via:</p>

Date	Consultation undertaken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant's website; • The Phase Two Community Consultation Information Leaflet; • The s42 and s44 covering letters; and • The s48 notice. <p>Details of how to obtain hard copies of the consultation documents, including requests for materials in an alternative format such as large print and audio for those with visual impairments or in an alternative language for those who do not speak English as their first language, were also provided.</p> <p>During Phase Two consultation the Applicant held six in-person information events, and one online webinar as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 2 July 2025, 14:30-19:30 – Aslacton and Great Moulton Coronation Hall, Carr Lane, Great Moulton, Norwich, NR15 2LA • Thursday 3 July 2025, 14:30-19:30 – Saxlingham Nethergate Village Hall, Steward Close, Saxlingham Nethergate, Norwich, NR15 1AJ • Thursday 10 July 2025, 14:00-19:00 – Long Stratton Village Hall, Ipswich Road, Long Stratton, Norwich, NR15 2TA • Friday 11 July 2025, 14:30-19:30 – Brooke Village Hall, Norwich Road, Brooke, Norwich, NR15 1AB • Saturday 12 July 2025, 11:00-15:00 – Hempnall Village Hall, Bungay Road, Norwich, NR15 2NG • Tuesday 15 July 2025, 14:30-19:30 – Seething and Mundham Village Hall, Wheelers Lane, Seething, Norwich, NR15 1EJ • Monday 21 July 2025, 18:30-20:00 – Community webinar via Zoom. <p>The Applicant publicised the events and consultation information by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing a community consultation postcard to over 8,400 properties within the vicinity of the Site; • Distributing a press release containing details of the consultation to local and trade media publications (as listed in the SoCC); • Distributing posters to over 70 identified local information points for them to display; • Distributing hard copies of consultation materials to the four CAPs (the libraries listed above); • Providing details of the community information events on the Applicant's website; and • Contacting identified key stakeholders (including MPs, councillors and parish councils) and individuals who had registered to be kept informed. <p>The Applicant invited feedback from the community via a paper Feedback Form, an online Feedback Form and feedback to the Scheme communication channels over a stated 49-day response period.</p>

Date	Consultation undertaken
22 October – 26 November 2025	<p>Targeted Consultation (non-statutory) on a series of specific changes to the Scheme proposals</p> <p>The Applicant carried out a further round of Targeted Consultation for the Scheme, focusing on a series of specific changes to the development boundary area compared to the boundary presented in the PEIR for Phase Two statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant published an Information Change Note and accompanying maps and plans to inform this consultation. These materials were made available from the Applicant’s website, and in hard copy by request.</p> <p>The Applicant notified s42 consultees by letter and email.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised the Targeted Consultation by a letter distributed to the Core Consultation Zone (as presented in the SoCC), erecting site notices and through media publicity (advertisement and press release).</p>

2.5 Covering letter and completed s55 Checklist

2.5.1 As well as preparing the Consultation Report, the Applicant has set out how it has complied with guidance and advice on consultation in the Cover Letter and **the Applicant’s Section 55 Checklist [EN0110014/APP/1.4]** that is also part of the DCO application.

3 Legislation, guidance and advice

3.1 Consultation Report

3.1.1 This Consultation Report is submitted with the Application in accordance with s37(3)(c) of the PA2008.

3.1.2 Relevant responses are defined in s49(3) of the PA2008 as responses received to the consultation under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA2008 by the deadline published. The Applicant has also taken account of late responses received after the consultation period ended.

3.1.3 Pre-application consultation under s42 of the PA2008 has taken place with:

- Prescribed bodies (statutory consultees), being those listed in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP 2009) (Ref 2) and those specified by PINS in the list of consultation bodies notified by PINS under Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations (Ref 3);
- Additional bodies in line with updated guidance from PINS and the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024, published May 2024 (Ref 4);
- Non-statutory bodies treated as prescribed by the Applicant, including local representative groups, representatives of community-based initiatives and member organisations;
- Local authorities, in accordance with s42(1)(b) and s43(1) of the PA2008; and
- Persons with an interest in land or persons who would or might be eligible to make a relevant claim, in accordance with s42(1)(d) and s44 of the PA2008.

3.1.4 Pre-application consultation under s47 has taken place with:

- The local community i.e. those living within the vicinity of the Scheme. Any interested members of the community were welcome to take part in consultation activities. To proactively promote consultation activities, the Application defined a Core Consultation Zone (as described in **Chapter 7** of this report);
- Local elected representatives including parish councils and members of Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council; and
- Members of Parliament (MPs) for South Norfolk and Waveney Valley.

3.1.5 Pre-application consultation has taken place in accordance with s48 of the PA2008 through publicity of the Scheme, as described in **Chapter 10** of this report.

3.2 Relevant legislation and guidance

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

- The Planning Act 2008;
- The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations) Regulations 2017;
- The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP 2009);
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (updated May 2025) (Ref 5);
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (updated March 2025) (Ref 6);
- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (January 2024) (Ref 7);
- The Introduction to National Infrastructure Planning Guidance (April 2024) (Ref 8);
- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 1 (the guidance) (published 30 April 2024) (Ref 9);
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus (updated May 2025) (Ref 10)
- The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 (Ref 4); and
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation (updated March 2025) (Ref 11).

3.2.2 A table setting out how the Applicant has complied with the following relevant legislation and guidance is presented in **Consultation Report Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance [EN0110014/APP/5.2]** of this Consultation Report:

- The PA2008 (Table 1-1 in the Statement of Compliance);
- The APFP Regulations (Table 1-2 in the Statement of Compliance);

- The EIA Regs (Table 1-3 in the Statement of Compliance); and
- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024) (Table 1-4 in the Statement of Compliance).

4 Introduction of the Scheme to consultees (August – September 2024)

4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 Between August and September 2024, the Applicant publicised information about the Scheme in the public domain for the first time, to key stakeholders and subsequently the local community.
- 4.1.2 The introduction of the Scheme marked the start of ongoing engagement with key stakeholders (both statutory consultees and identified representative stakeholders) and the local community, leading up the statutory s42, s47 and s48 consultation in June 2025.
- 4.1.3 Ongoing non-statutory engagement with consultees has enabled two-way dialogue between the Applicant and consultees on the Scheme and allowed the Applicant to continuously consider consultee feedback in the iterative design of the Scheme.

4.2 Stakeholder introduction to the Scheme (August – October 2024)

- 4.2.1 The Applicant contacted Local Planning Officers and political leaders at Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council as the host authorities on the administrative boundaries for the Scheme in July 2024.
- 4.2.2 The purpose of this initial contact was to introduce the host authorities to the Scheme and arrange introductory meetings between themselves and the Applicant. This communication resulted in a number of meetings being held prior to Phase One consultation as detailed below.
- 4.2.3 The Applicant contacted the Members of Parliament for whom the Scheme would be sited in their constituency, that being the MPs for South Norfolk and Waveney Valley, by email on 10 September 2024. This communication introduced the Scheme, the Applicant's intention to shortly hold a phase of community consultation with their constituents, and to invite the MPs to meet with the Applicant to discuss the Scheme in more detail.
- 4.2.4 On 1 October 2024, the Applicant hosted an introductory meeting with Ben Goldsborough MP.
- 4.2.5 **Table 4-1** sets out details of the meetings held by the Applicant before or during Phase One consultation.
- 4.2.6 Further meetings held during and beyond the Phase One consultation can be found in **Chapter 13** and **Table 13-1** of this report.

Table 4-1 Stakeholder meetings held by the Applicant before or during Phase One consultation

Stakeholder	Date/Location	Meeting details
Norfolk County Council Planning Officers (Stephen Faulkner - Principal Planner, National Infrastructure Co-lead) (Joint meeting with The Drovers Solar Farm project team)	24 July 2024, online	Meetings were held by the Applicant with stakeholders to introduce the Scheme and the approach to consultation and engagement.
Site Landowners	14 August 2024, online	
South Norfolk Council Planning Officers (Claire Curtis, Area Planning Manager and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects) Tracy Lincoln - Development Manager Lola Poole - Planner	19 August 2024, online	
Ben Goldsborough MP (South Norfolk)	1 October 2024, online	
Norfolk County Council Planning Officers (Stephen Faulkner - Principal Planner, National Infrastructure Co-lead and Alice Craske, Project Manager, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects)	2 October 2024, online	Meeting to discuss the Applicant's approach to Phase One non-statutory consultation.
South Norfolk Council Planning Officers (Claire Curtis, Area Planning Manager and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects)	9 October 2024, online	
Norfolk County Council Transport Officer (John Curtis and Martin Dixon)	15 October 2024, online	Meeting to introduce the Scheme and the Applicant.

4.3 Scheme launch

4.3.1 On 10 September, the Scheme was launched. The launch included communication with stakeholders, introducing the proposals as well as publicising the Applicant's website (www.eastpyesolar.co.uk) and the communications channels that had been launched, including a phonenumber, freepost and email address. The Applicant also publicised the opportunity to be kept informed via a registration facility on the Applicant's website. Communications directly sent out to publicise the launch of the Scheme included instructions on how to register an interest to be kept informed.

4.3.2 To publicise the launch of the Scheme, the Applicant:

- Distributed a community postcard to over 7,000 properties that were in the vicinity of the land of the Scheme. This draft distribution zone included properties that were approximately 2km from the Site boundary. The postcard included a high-level description of the Scheme, as well as the Scheme's communication channels. The community postcard can be found in **Consultation Report Appendix 2: Introduction to the Scheme Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.3]**;

- Notified properties that were located within 100 metres of the Site with letters alongside the community postcard. This outreach was undertaken to ensure that those living within close proximity to the Site were made aware of the proposals and were given the opportunity to get in touch should they have any questions about the Scheme. The identification of these properties was made using available data. A copy of this letter can be found in **Consultation Report Appendix 2: Introduction to the Scheme Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.3]**.
- Issued a press release to regional and local publications which provided an overview of the Scheme, the need for solar, information on the DCO process, timescales for the Scheme and contact details for the Applicant. A copy of the press release can be found in **Consultation Report Appendix 2: Introduction to the Scheme Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.3]**.

5 Non-statutory consultation and engagement (October – December 2024)

5.1 Background

- 5.1.1 Following the introduction to the Scheme to consultees, the local community and interested parties (as described in **Chapter 4** of this report), the Applicant proactively publicised the proposals to the wider community and invited feedback by undertaking a phase of non-statutory consultation at an early stage of the Scheme process.
- 5.1.2 This non-statutory phase was held for over six weeks (43 days) between 23 October and 6 December 2024, preceding the publication of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and subsequent statutory consultation.
- 5.1.3 The feedback received through early engagement and non-statutory consultation helped refine the Scheme proposals and approach to consultation, ahead of publicising the SoCC, and undertaking statutory consultation.

5.2 Publicity, information and opportunities to engage during non-statutory phase of consultation

- 5.2.1 The Applicant established a range of free-to-use communication channels for community enquiries and comments at the launch of the Scheme to the general public, and spanning all stages of consultation. The Scheme communication channels included a Freephone number (0808 281 3175), a Freepost address (FREEPOST East Pye Solar) and an email address (info@eastpyesolar.co.uk). These channels have been in operation Monday-Friday (excluding bank holidays), 9am-5pm, throughout the pre-application period.
- 5.2.2 To publicise the consultation and encourage responses, the Applicant distributed a community consultation postcard to over 8,400 residential and business properties in the vicinity of the Scheme. This zone was initially defined by including properties within a minimum 2km from the proposed Solar PV Sites, and a minimum of 500km from the cable route search area (as presented at the time of consultation).
- 5.2.3 This zone was further extended to include additional properties, where proportionate and reasonable, based on existing boundaries to avoid inappropriate 'severance' of communities. The community consultation postcard was printed and distributed to arrive at properties on or before 23 October 2024.

- 5.2.4 The Phase One community consultation postcard presented information on the Scheme at an early stage in the design process and publicised how to find out more information and respond to the consultation.
- 5.2.5 A copy of the Phase One community consultation postcard is included in **Consultation Report Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.4]**.
- 5.2.6 Information regarding the Scheme was published on the Applicant’s dedicated website on 23 October 2024 (www.eastpyesolar.co.uk). This included details of the Scheme and Phase One consultation through text, images, and documents to view and download from an online document library.
- 5.2.7 An interactive map of the Site Location Boundary was available to view on the Applicant’s website from the start of Phase One consultation. The purpose of this was to show the latest plans for the Scheme in relation to individual properties that consultees input into the interactive map. However, consultees could not provide comments on the map itself as it was an additional tool to the main consultation materials.
- 5.2.8 Information regarding the Scheme, Phase One consultation opportunities, and the availability of the website and communication channels was publicised through the issue of a media release to identified regional and industry publications. The release was issued to publications listed in **Table 5-1** alongside plans showing the Site Location Boundary.

Table 5-1 Phase One consultation media distribution list

Category	Publication
Local	BBC Look East
	BBC Radio Norfolk
	Beccles and Bungay Journal
	Bury Mercury
	Cambridgeshire Live
	Dereham Times
	Diss Express
	Diss Mercury
	East Anglia Bylines
	East Anglian Daily Times
	Eastern Daily Press
	Fakenham and Wells Times

Category	Publication
	Greatest Hits Radio (Norfolk and North Suffolk)
	Inside Out East
	ITV Anglia
	Lynn News
	Norfolk News
	Norwich Evening News
	South Norfolk Life
	Village People (South Norfolk)
	Wymondham & Attleborough Mercury
Trade	Solar Energy UK
	Solar Power Portal
	ReNews.Biz

5.2.9 Subsequent coverage included articles in reNews.Biz and Renewables Now (23 October 2024), Solar Power Portal (28 October 2024), Diss Express (1 November 2024), ITV News Anglia, Diss Mercury, Eastern Daily Press and BBC News (7 November 2024).

5.2.10 In addition to the media releases, the Applicant placed advertisements in two local newspapers – the Eastern Daily Press on 23 October 2024 and 6 November 2024, and the Diss Express on 1 November 2024 – to publicise the Scheme and Phase One consultation opportunities. A copy of this newspaper advertisement is provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.4]**.

5.2.11 A Phase One community consultation Feedback Form was published to encourage responses. This form was available online, by request to the communication channels, and to complete or take away from the Applicant’s series of information events. The feedback form could be submitted to the Applicant by a Freepost address (FREEPOST East Pye Solar), by email, or by attending an in-person information event. The same questions could also be responded to online via a feedback form linked the Scheme website. A copy of this feedback form is provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.4]**.

5.2.12 Consultation materials were uploaded to the document library section of the website. The following documents were uploaded on the first day of the consultation period (23 October 2024):

- Phase One Consultation Leaflet
- Phase One Feedback Form
- Phase One Consultation Postcard
- Phase One Consultation Poster
- Phase One Consultation Exhibition Boards
- Phase One Consultation Overview Map Indicative Concept Plan
- Phase One Consultation Sections Maps 1 to 4
- Phase One Consultation Section Maps 5 to 8
- Phase One Consultation Section Maps 9 and 10
- Phase One Consultation BESS, Point of Connection (POC) and National Grid Substation Development Area
- Phase One Consultation Indicative Masterplan
- Community webinar slides (these slides were uploaded to the website on 21 November 2024 after the Webinar took place on 20 November 2024).

5.2.13 Copies of these materials are provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.3]**.

5.2.14 Following a request from South Norfolk Council, the Applicant distributed a consultation materials package to all host parish councils (see section 7.5 for the full list). This consultation materials package included the following:

- 20 copies of the Phase One Consultation Leaflet, provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.3]**;
- A selection of Phase One Consultation Section Maps (including all Sites from 1 to 10, the BESS, POC and National Grid Substation Development Area), provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.3]**; and
- One copy of the Phase One Consultation Overview Indicative Concept Masterplan, provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.3]**.

5.2.15 During the Phase One Consultation period, the Applicant held six in-person events and one community webinar for members of the local community to attend. The contents of the community webinar directly replicated information presented at the information events.

5.2.16 These events provided an opportunity to discuss the Scheme with the Applicant and members of their team. Large scale maps and a series of information boards were displayed at the events. Copies of the consultation leaflet and feedback form were available in hard copy to view and take away. Details of these events are provided in **Table 5-2** below.

Table 5-2 Phase One community consultation information events

Venue	Date and time	Number of attendees
Saxlingham Nethergate Village Hall, Steward Close, Saxlingham Nethergate, NR15 1AN	Thursday 7 November 2024, 15:30-19:30	125
Seething and Mundham Village Hall, Wheelers Lane, Seething, NR15 1EJ	Friday 8 November 2024, 15:30-19:30	70
Hempnall Village Hall, Bungay Road, Hempnall, NR15 2NG	Saturday 9 November 2024, 11:30-15:30	140
Aslacton and Great Moulton Coronation Hall, Carr Lane, Great Moulton, NR15 2LA	Wednesday 13 November 2024, 15:30-19:30	92
Long Stratton Village Hall, Ipswich Road, Long Stratton, NR15 2TA	Thursday 14 November 2024, 13:30-18:30	82
Woodton Village Hall, Hempnall Road, Woodton, Bungay, NR35 2NG	Friday 15 November 2024, 14:00-18:30	133
Community Webinar, via Zoom	Wednesday 20 November 2024, 18:00-19:30	21
Total attendees		663

5.3 Phase One consultation engagement

5.3.1 As a result of engagement from the introduction of the Scheme to consultees (as described in **Chapter 4** of this report) the Applicant continued engaged with a number of stakeholders during the Phase One consultation period.

5.3.2 The Applicant held additional meetings with stakeholders during Phase One consultation, details of which are set out below in **Table 5-3**.

Table 5-3 Engagement undertaken with stakeholders during Phase One consultation

Stakeholder/Location	Date and summary of meeting(s)
Online meeting with Norfolk County Council Planning Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ██████████ - Principal Planner, National Infrastructure Co-lead ██████████ – Project Manager, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 	6 November 2024 Meeting held with Planning Officers to introduce the Phase One consultation proposals and provide a summary of engagement so far, as well as to discuss wider opportunities, including economic and community benefits.
Online meeting with Norfolk Wildlife Trust	14 November 2024 Meeting to introduce the Scheme and the Applicant.

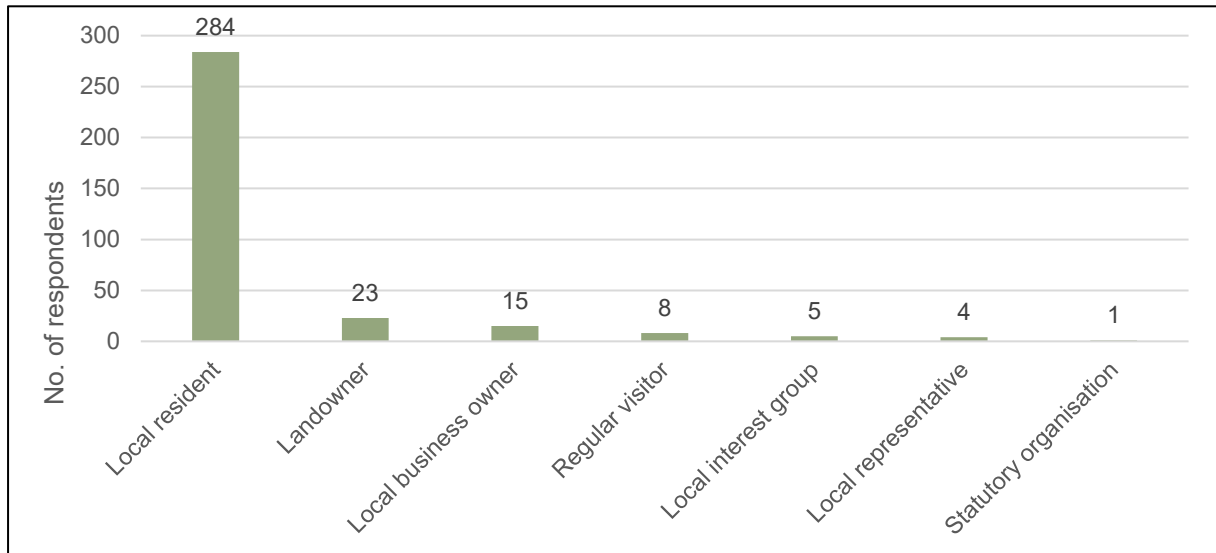
Stakeholder/Location	Date and summary of meeting(s)
<p>Online briefing with Norfolk County Council Cabinet Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Kay Mason Billig (██████████, Loddon, Leader of the Council) • Cllr Andrew Jamieson (██████████ North Coast, Deputy Leader of the Council) • Cllr Alison Thomas (██████████, Long Stratton) • Cllr Fabian Eagle (██████████, The Brecks) • ██████████ • ██████████ • ██████████, Project Manager – Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 	<p>19 November 2024</p> <p>Briefing with Norfolk County Council Cabinet members to introduce the proposals and Phase One consultation.</p>
<p>Online meeting with South Norfolk Council Technical Specialists, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ██████████ – Area Planning Manager and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects • ██████████ – Contact Officer • ██████████ – Principal Ecologist and Biodiversity Officer • ██████████ – Environmental Management Officer • ██████████ – Landscape Architect • ██████████ – Senior Conservation and Design Officer 	<p>27 November 2024</p> <p>Meeting held with South Norfolk Council technical officers to discuss environmental topics such as ecology, landscape and visual, noise, land contamination, air quality, and heritage.</p>
<p>Online meeting with Norfolk County Council Planning Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ██████████ - Principal Planner, National Infrastructure Co-lead • ██████████ - Project Manager, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 	<p>4 December 2024</p> <p>Project update meeting to provide information about Phase One consultation and feedback received.</p>

5.4 Phase One consultation Feedback

- 5.4.1 The Applicant invited feedback to be submitted in writing or online via the free-to-use communication channels.
- 5.4.2 In total, the Applicant received 356 submissions of feedback in response to the Phase One community consultation. This included 309 feedback form submissions (paper form and online submissions) and 47 submissions of feedback via the Scheme’s communication channels (email and Freepost).
- 5.4.3 The phase one feedback form (both the online version and paper copy) included a combination of closed and open-ended questions to encourage responses regarding the respondent’s interest in the Scheme, the early-stage proposals, potential opportunities to explore, and the consultation process. The following figures (**Figure 5-1** to **Figure 5-4**) present the results of the closed questions from the 309 submitted Phase One Feedback Forms.

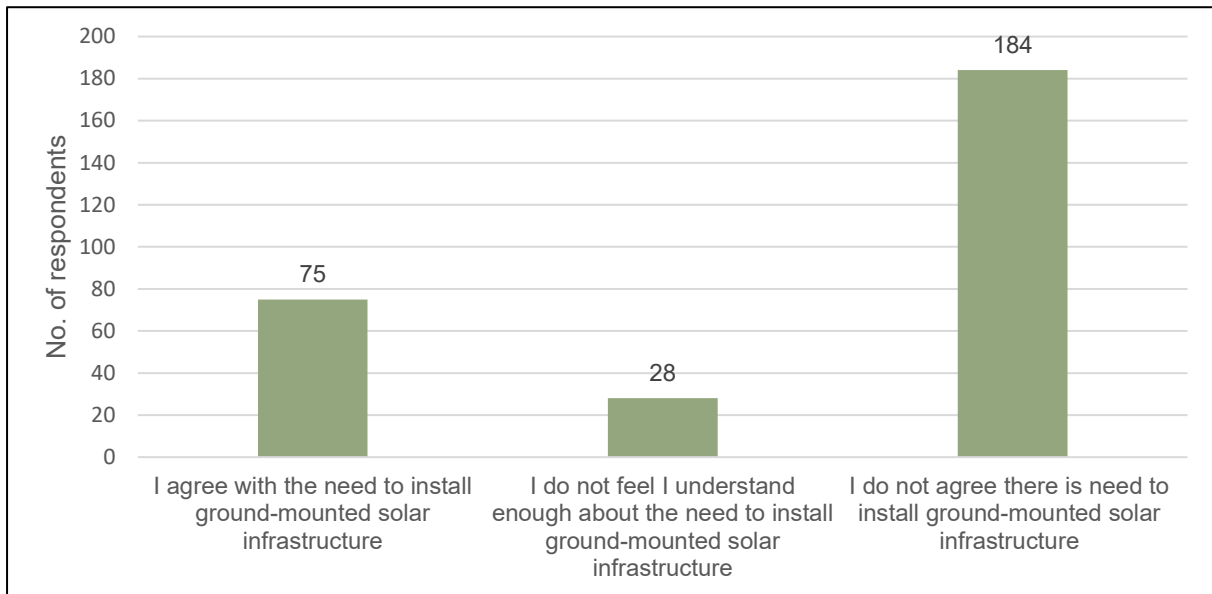
5.4.4 The Applicant was keen to understand who had taken part in the consultation activities. The results showed 284 respondents identified as being a local resident (83%), as shown in **Figure 5-1**. For this question, respondents were allowed to select multiple options.

Figure 5-1 How would you describe your interest in the Scheme?



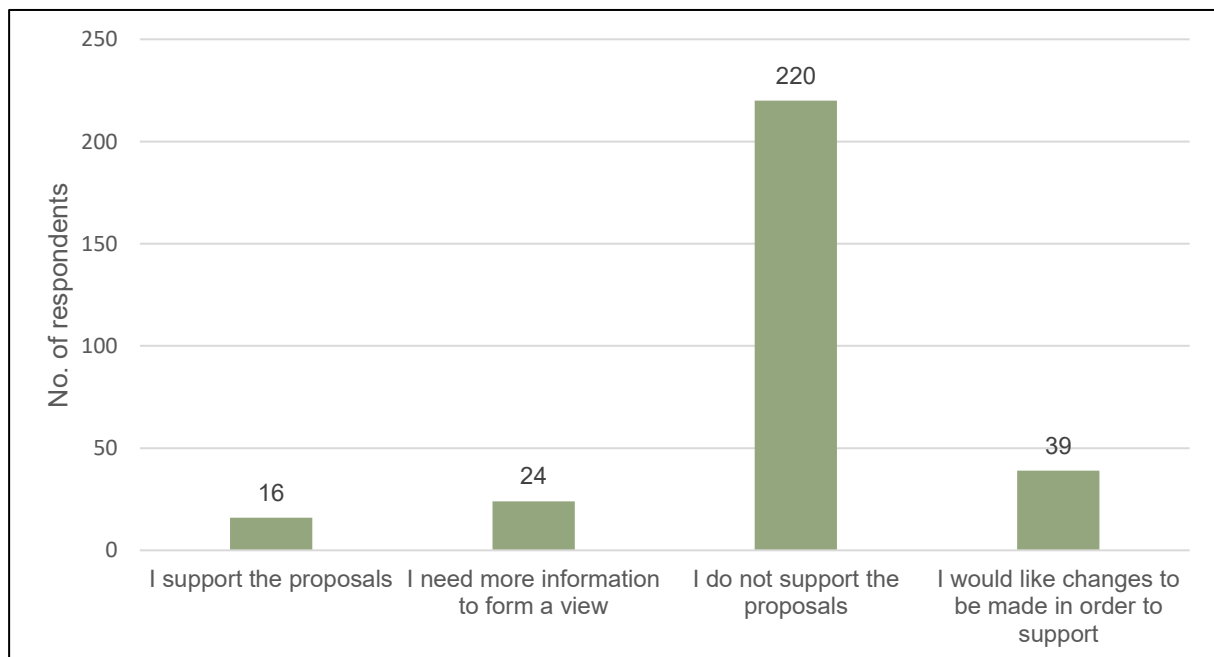
5.4.5 The Applicant was keen to understand opinions towards ground-mounted solar more generally, in addition to specific views on the Scheme. When asked about the principle of ground-mounted solar, 75 respondents (26.1%) agreed with the need to install ground-mounted solar, 184 respondents (64.1%) did not agree, and 28 (9.4%) felt they did not understand enough about the need to install ground-mounter solar, as shown in **Figure 5-2**.

Figure 5-2 As a principle, what is your view of installing ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK?



5.4.6 In addition to providing specific comments, respondents could indicate general support for or opposition to the proposals, with 16 respondents (5.3%) stating that they support the proposals while 220 respondents (73.3%) indicated opposition, 39 (13%) would like to see changes to be made to support the proposals, and 24 respondents (8%) needed more information to form a view, as shown in **Figure 5-3**.

Figure 5-3 Based on our early-stage proposals, what are your views on East Pye Solar?

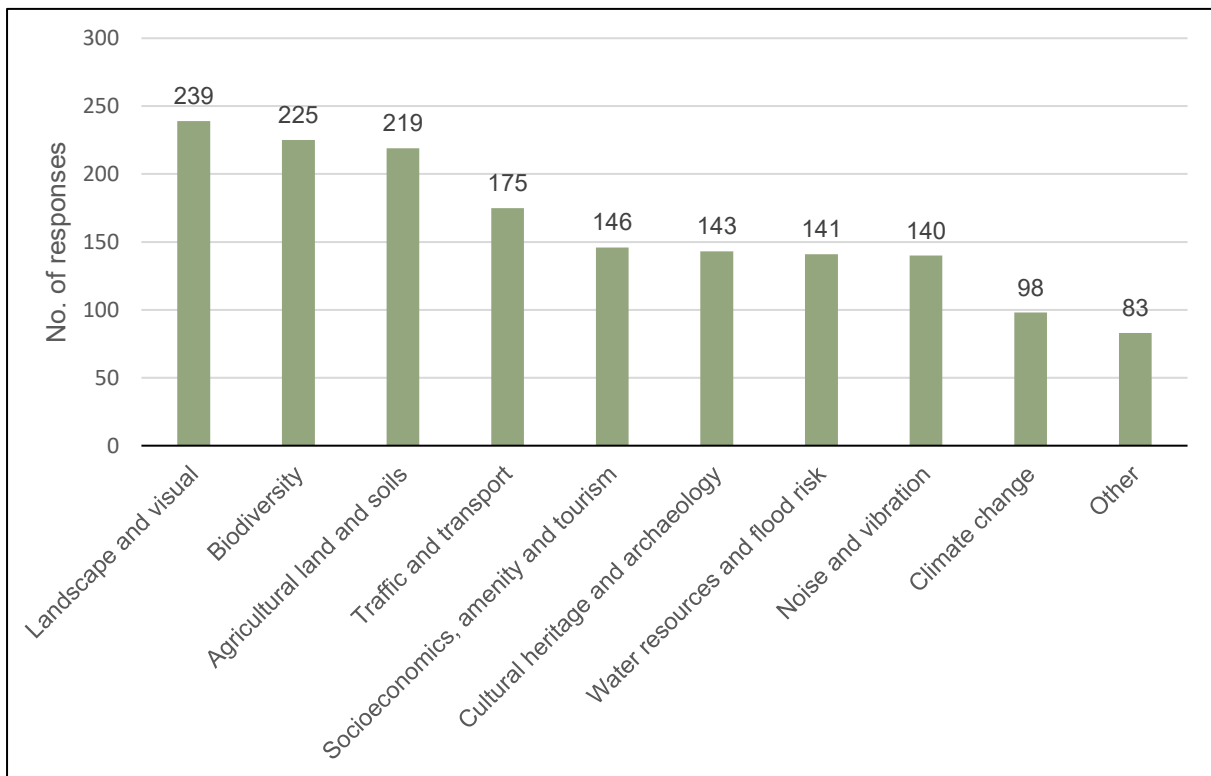


5.4.7 Respondents were presented with a list of environmental topics and invited to select those they considered the most important for the Applicant to consider. Respondents also had the opportunity to suggest other topics they consider to be important.

5.4.8 There was a reasonably even spread across most suggested topics, all of which have been considered in the EIA and design of the Scheme. 'Landscape and visual', 'Biodiversity' and 'Agricultural land and soils' were cited by respondents as being the most important issues to consider, as seen in **Figure 5-4**.

5.4.9 Respondents could select more than one field on this question and were guided to expand on their answers in Question 5 'Please provide comments on our early-stage proposals for East Pye Solar'. A summary of the comments received and how the Applicant considered these is provided in **Table 5-4**.

Figure 5-4 Which aspects of the Scheme are most important to you?



5.4.10 The Applicant recognises the importance of understanding the context and explanation that accompany these statistics. The Applicant considered qualitative analysis of the written feedback received.

5.4.11 A summary of these comments is presented in **Table 5-4**.

Table 5-4 Applicant's consideration of Phase One consultation feedback

Phase One consultation feedback	Applicant response
Landscape and visual	
<p>A common theme within the comments received was the proposed size of the Scheme. Concerns were raised that this could result in the loss of visual amenity of countryside views, which are valued by the community and visitors.</p> <p>Respondents raised concerns about how the Sites will impact the views and overall character of the local landscape, in particular around the areas of Hempnall and Brooke.</p> <p>Many respondents raised concerns about the size of buffer zones in relation to residential areas, property boundaries and recreational spaces.</p> <p>Respondents highlighted the potential impact of the Scheme of the setting of the Boudicca Way.</p> <p>Concerns were also raised about the potential visual impact of the proposed BESS site on the villages of Great Moulton and Tivetshall.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that developments of this scale are requirement to meet UK Government solar PV targeted.</p> <p>The Applicant has taken into consideration this feedback in the design process, which has informed the location, orientation and siting of the various components of the Scheme, such as to seek to minimise impacts.</p> <p>The Applicant used a selection of viewpoints across the Scheme area to inform the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) (provided in ES Volume, 1 Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual [EN0110014/APP/6.1.7]). Photomontages have been produced to show what the Scheme could look like from these viewpoints. A full suite of photomontages has been produced for the ES [EN0110014/APP/6.3.7.5].</p> <p>The LVIA has specifically assessed the impacts on the Boudicca Way as well as the character of the landscape and visual amenity of identified receptors within the Study Area, including from specific villages, such as Brooke and Hempnall. The list of viewpoints in which the Applicant has assessed the LVIA can be found in ES Volume 2, Figure 7.7 [EN0110014/APP/6.2.7.7]. This list was developed in consultation with landscape officers at the Local Planning Authority.</p> <p>Where relevant, offsets from buildings and residential properties have been incorporated into the design. These offsets were shown in the Indicative Masterplan presented in the Applicant's Phase Two consultation materials (provided in Consultation Report Appendix 6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.7]).</p> <p>Since Phase Two consultation, the Applicant has considered and made further offset allowances, which are presented in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan (OLEMP) [EN0110014/APP/7.4].</p>
Soils and agriculture	
<p>Respondents stated concern regarding the loss of productive agricultural land and suggested that farmland is not appropriate for large-scale solar farms.</p> <p>Respondents expressed concerns regarding the Scheme's impact on the UK's food security.</p> <p>There was also concern about ground contamination potential near the River Tas.</p>	<p>The quality of agricultural land used by the Scheme was established through soil and Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys which have been carried out across all the Solar Array Sites. The ALC survey is included in ES Volume 3, Appendix 15.1 Agricultural Land Classification Report [EN0110014/APP/6.3.15.1].</p> <p>The assessment considered the impacts of losing agricultural land and how the Scheme might damage or affect soil resources on Solar Array Sites is set out in ES Volume 1, Chapter 15 – Soils and Agricultural Land [EN0110014/APP/6.1.15].</p> <p>Construction on the Scheme will be carried out in accordance with a number of management plans</p>

Phase One consultation feedback	Applicant response
	<p>including an Outline Soil Resource and Management Plan [EN0110014/APP/7.9], which will include measures to minimise soil compaction and other negative impacts on soil quality.</p> <p>Under the Outline Decommissioning Plan (ODEMP) [EN0110014/APP/7.3], the Applicant will restore the Solar Array Sites to agricultural use, with soils expected to be in an improved condition after decades of minimal disturbance and no permanent impact from solar infrastructure.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges concerns about food production. The UK Food Security Report 2024 notes that climate change and nature loss pose major long-term risks to global food supply, and the Scheme can help address these pressures by generating clean energy and delivering biodiversity net gain.</p>
Ecology and biodiversity	
<p>Respondents expressed concern that the proposals could negatively impact existing local ecology and diverse ecosystems. Local habitats highlighted as being particularly sensitive included ancient woodland, hedgerows and watercourses. Respondents wanted to be provided with more information on how these would be protected.</p> <p>A range of protected and conservation priority species in the area were noted as being of concern. In particular, respondents emphasised the importance of the area for bats, farmland birds, owls, small mammals, amphibians, pollinating invertebrates, deer and rare plants.</p> <p>Some respondents expressed scepticism for the Scheme's ability to deliver an increase in biodiversity, while other respondents recognised the potential benefits for biodiversity and expressed their support.</p> <p>Some respondents expressed concern for the destruction of hedges and wildlife habitats on Site 9 and the potential disturbance of deer on Site 5 as well as the use of animal deterrence measures.</p>	<p>The Scheme is being developed with full consideration of its surrounding. The environmentally led design approach and the application of good practice construction techniques and mitigation measures will ensure the natural environment is carefully managed during construction and operation to avoid harmful impacts as far as possible, and to promote a net gain in biodiversity.</p> <p>The Scheme layout incorporates suitable offsets to ecology and biodiversity constraints including woodland habitat, designated assets and protected species as shown within the Indicative Masterplan (ES Volume 2, Figure 4.1 [EN0110014/APP/6.2.4.1]).</p> <p>A variety of habitats suited to the local landscape and appropriate for local ecology will be provided within the Site. The details regarding the amounts of habitat provision, including trees and hedgerows, has been reported within ES Volume 1, Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual [EN0110014/APP/6.1.7]. Indication of proposed measures and locations will be shared in the Indicative Masterplan (ES Volume 2, Figure 4.1 [EN0110014/APP/6.2.4.1]).</p> <p>Further detail on the potential impact on birds and mitigation measures committed to is set out in ES Volume 1, Chapter 8 – Ecology and Biodiversity [EN0110014/APP/6.1.8].</p>
Hydrology, flood risk and drainage	
<p>Respondents expressed general concern for flooding within the location of the Scheme.</p> <p>Some respondents expressed concern of an increase in perceived flood risk due to water runoff from solar PV panels and battery storage.</p> <p>Other respondents expressed concern about waterway contamination in the River Tas, as well as within the personal water supply. Further concern was raised about potential impacts to</p>	<p>The Applicant notes the concern that many respondents have made regarding flood risk. Solar projects, however, are typically water-compatible and are designed so that they do not increase flood risk.</p> <p>A Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (ES Volume 3, Appendix 9.1 [EN0110014/APP/6.3.9.1]) has been produced and included within the DCO Application for the Scheme. this has been informed by Site-specific flood modelling and identifies mitigation measures, including the use of</p>

Phase One consultation feedback	Applicant response
<p>protected water drinking supplies in several areas around the Site, including Site 3.</p> <p>Other concerns were raised about water drainage issues in Hempnall, Hedenham, and Ditchingham.</p>	<p>flood-compatible solar panels and the provision of a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan.</p> <p>The OCEMP [EN0110014/APP/7.1] outlines pollution and contamination measures pertaining to watercourses.</p> <p>Parts of the Scheme that lie within Drinking Water Protection Zones or Drinking Water Safeguard Zones have been appropriate assessed in ES Volume 1, Chapter 9 – Water Environment [EN0110014/APP/6.1.9].</p>
Noise and vibration	
<p>Respondents expressed concerns about noise pollution and vibration during the construction phase of the Scheme, both from construction traffic and construction activity on site.</p> <p>Respondents raised concerns about noise pollution and vibration during the operation of the Scheme. Particular concern was raised for properties near the proposed battery site.</p>	<p>The Applicant carried out surveys to ensure that the noise from the onsite equipment stays within acceptable levels. Offsets from potential noise sensitive receptors, including residential properties, have been incorporate into the design of the Scheme. All information pertaining to noise and vibration, mitigation and best practice methods is detailed in ES Volume 1, Chapter 12 – Noise and Vibration [EN0110014/APP/6.1.12].</p> <p>A Baseline Sound Survey Report (ES Volume 3, Appendix 12.1 [EN0110014/APP/6.3.12.1]) was undertaken to establish the baseline levels of noise across the Site. Following this, a noise impact assessment was undertaken and has been included in the DCO Application, as detailed in ES Volume 1, Chapter 12 – Noise and Vibration [EN0110014/APP/6.1.12].</p> <p>The OCEMP [EN0110014/APP/7.1] sets out the commitments for the construction operator when carrying out noisy works and to implement measures to minimise potential noise impacts at sensitive receptors. The OCEMP also secures mitigation measures regarding construction traffic noise, such as all vehicles.</p>
Socio-economics, tourism and recreation	
<p>Respondents raised concerns over the potential impact on tourism and recreation due to loss of visual amenity.</p> <p>Some respondents expressed concern for potential loss of access to or use of recreational routes for footpath users, cyclists and equestrian users. Some respondents specified Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) near Sites 7, 8 and 9.</p> <p>Some respondents noted concern about potential impacts on Abingdon holiday retreat, camping sites, holiday homes and other hospitality businesses in the area.</p> <p>There was concern for the Scheme’s impact on aircraft and military exercises in the area, especially around Tibbenham Airfield.</p> <p>Respondents expressed concern for a decrease in property values due to the Scheme.</p>	<p>The Applicant has assessed the visibility of the Scheme in relation to PRoWs and recreational facilities, as well as amenity impacts. This is presented in ES Volume 1, Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual [EN0110014/APP/6.1.7].</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to keeping PRoWs in place and open to the public, and where there is opportunity to do, improve existing PRoWs.</p> <p>Any temporary closures or diversions to PRoWs as a result of construction activities will be controlled and minimised to reduce impacts on users through the Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [EN0110014/APP/7.8].</p> <p>Landscaping proposals will also support the design of the Scheme to limit outward views of the Sites, as detailed in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN0110014/APP/7.4].</p> <p>To date, there has been no Government research into (both short and long term) effects of solar and BESS</p>

Phase One consultation feedback	Applicant response
	<p>schemes on house prices in the UK and only one academic study for solar. The Applicant's first principle is to ensure that the Scheme is designed with as little impact as possible on nearby residential properties, including appropriate screening as well as buffer zones/offsets between proposed equipment and residential properties.</p>
Cultural heritage	
<p>Respondents highlighted the importance of local heritage and the need for undertake sufficient assessment works and consultation with appropriate heritage bodies.</p> <p>Respondents expressed concern about the potential impacts on historic Fritton Church. Some respondents expressed concern for Grove Farm being a moated heritage site.</p>	<p>The impact of the Scheme on cultural heritage, including impacts incurred through changes in settings, is fully considered within ES Volume 1, Chapter 10 – Cultural Heritage [EN0110014/APP/6.1.10]. The Applicant has undertaken extensive surveys including geophysical surveys and trial trenching to identify potential impacts. Where impacts are identified, a Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy will accompany the submission.</p> <p>Effects on listed buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas have been assessed are reported in ES Volume 1, Chapter 10 – Cultural Heritage [EN0110014/APP/6.1.8]. This Chapter also reports on studies and mitigation measures regarding the impact on and mitigation for heritage assets.</p>
Transport and access	
<p>Respondents have raised concerns regarding construction traffic and Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) increasing congestion on roads which were noted as being currently unsuitable.</p> <p>Some respondents expressed concern for the closure of roads due to construction, with some specifying the single carriageway in Great Moulton.</p> <p>Specific roads mentioned include the A140, Market Lane, Firth Way and Fairstead Lane.</p> <p>Respondents have concerns regarding the damage that construction traffic will cause in the local area, including damage to roads.</p> <p>Some respondents suggested traffic claiming measures, specifically around Mill Road, Bungay Road and Broaden Lane.</p>	<p>The Applicant has carried out a traffic and transport assessment which looks at the impact of construction impacts on traffic and considers the safety of other users. This is presented in ES Volume 3, Appendix 11.1 [EN0110014/APP/6.3.11.1].</p> <p>The Applicant has and will continue to engage with the local highways authority to ensure that suitable controls are agreed to reduce any traffic and transport effects and ensure safety is maintained. Information relating to accidents and safety has been considered as part of ES Volume 1, Chapter 11 – Transport and Access [EN0110014/APP/6.1.11].</p> <p>An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN0110014/APP/7.6] has been produced and will provide a framework for the management of construction vehicle movements, to ensure that the effects of the construction phase are controlled and mitigated.</p> <p>Other measures within the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN0110014/APP/7.6] will include restricting HGV movements to avoid network peak hours (08:00-09:00 and 17:00-18:00) and the use of vehicle planning management measures to avoid known constraints on the local road network.</p> <p>The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN0110014/APP/7/1] will seek to minimise construction impacts and relates to all construction activity both on and off site that impacts on the wider environment.</p> <p>ES Volume 1, Chapters Transport and Access [EN0110014/APP/6.1.11], Air Quality</p>

Phase One consultation feedback	Applicant response
	<p>[EN0110014/APP/6.1.13] and Noise and Vibration [EN0110014/APP/6.1.12] have been prepared to include separate mitigation measures to ensure that the local environment, including roads and settlements, are protected.</p>
Battery safety	
<p>Respondents expressed particular concern for the fire risk of the battery storage, including the potential for this to result in contamination of nearby watercourses in the event of a fire.</p>	<p>In the Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan [EN0110014/APP/7.5] the Applicant has assessed the potential impacts of a BESS fire during the operational phase and identified measures to avoid and reduce the risk of fire, as well as how to effectively manage a fire should this occur.</p> <p>The Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan [EN0110014/APP/7.5] will be produced in collaboration with Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service.</p>
Decommissioning and construction	
<p>Respondents expressed concern about the decommissioning of the site and returning the land to agricultural use.</p> <p>Some respondents expressed concern about the construction of cable routes and the return of land use.</p> <p>Many respondents expressed concern about the lifespan of the Scheme in contract with a much shorter lifespan of individual panels.</p>	<p>The operational phase of the Scheme is expected to be approximately 60 years. The Applicant is expecting to replace the solar panels up to twice during the operation of the Scheme. Further details of the operation of the Scheme can be found in the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN0110014/APP/7.2].</p> <p>The Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN0110014/APP/7.3] details the decommissioning plan for the removal of infrastructure and restoration of the Site to its original use.</p> <p>At the end of the operational life of the Scheme, the land will be returned to agricultural use. Decommissioning is expected to take between 12 and 24 months and would be carried out in phases.</p> <p>The underground ducting along the CRC will also be decommissioned in accordance with the latest regulations and good practice prevailing at that time but are anticipated to be left in-situ to minimise adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>The Applicant expects that most of the solar equipment – including panels, cabling, inverters and BESS – to be recycled and disposed of, in line with industry practice.</p> <p>The National Grid Substation will remain as it will form part of the transmission network.</p>
Glint and glare	
<p>Respondents expressed concern for light emitted from the Scheme.</p> <p>Some respondents expressed particular concern for Site 7 having south facing panels, creating glint and glare issues for nearby properties.</p> <p>Some respondents expressed concern for glint and glare impacts from Sites 1, 2 and 5 affecting nearby airfields and air traffic.</p>	<p>A glint and glare assessment has been undertaken to identify impacts and mitigation measures required. This is presented in ES Volume 3, Appendix 18.1 Glint and Glare Assessment [EN0110014/APP/6.3.18.1].</p> <p>The Assessments includes impacts to aviation receptors in the area, including Tibbenham Airfield and Seething Airfield. The Applicant continues to engage with Norfolk Gliding Club and Seething Airfield</p>

Phase One consultation feedback	Applicant response
	regarding the Scheme's potential impact on their activities.
Health, wellbeing and community benefits	
Some respondents expressed concern around the impact on respondent's quality of life, wellbeing and any potential health issues such as construction emissions and electromagnetic fields (EMF).	<p>Solar power is one of the safest sources of energy and no significant long term negative health impacts from the Scheme are anticipated.</p> <p>The Applicant has produced a High-Level Electromagnetic Field Assessment (ES Volume 3, Appendix 17.1 [EN0110014/APP/6.3.17.1]) which shows that no significant effects of EMF are anticipated.</p> <p>The Applicant has assessed the impacts on health-related matters, which is presented in ES Volume 1, Chapter 18 – Other Environmental Matters [EN0110014/APP/6.1.18]. This sets out mitigation measures to reduce impacts on mental and physical health, including the retention of access to recreational space, providing targeted information to help alleviate anxiety, and identifying options for the provision of community benefits.</p>

5.5 Ongoing engagement and interim reporting

- 5.5.1 The Applicant's Scheme communication channels remained open following the close of the Phase One consultation period. Through these channels, the Applicant continued to receive and respond to enquiries regarding the Scheme.
- 5.5.2 The Applicant's dedicated website continued to be available for any interested parties to access the Scheme's information, including responses to FAQs, which were updated to respond to topics and themes arising from the Phase One consultation.
- 5.5.3 Following the review and consideration of feedback received, the Applicant prepared a Consultation Summary Report to share details of the level of engagement, themes of responses received, and updates regarding the Applicant's consideration of feedback and next steps for the Scheme. A copy of the Phase One Consultation Summary Report is provided in **Appendix 5.1.3: Phase One Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.4]**.
- 5.5.4 The Applicant notified key stakeholders of the publication of the Consultation Summary Report on 19 March 2025 by issuing direct communications via email informing stakeholders of the publication of this document and an attached pdf filed of the Consultation Summary Report. Stakeholders were further informed that this would be available to view on the Scheme website.
- 5.5.5 Stakeholders notified for this purpose, included:

- Host MPs:
 - Ben Goldsborough MP (South Norfolk)
 - Adrian Ramsay MP (Waveney Valley)
- Lead officers, elected members and parish councils representing the immediate and neighbouring wards and parishes to the Site and CRC; and
- Anyone who had registered to receive updates about the Scheme by email and/or post.

5.6 Conclusion

5.6.1 In summary, the Applicant undertook extensive non-statutory consultation on the Scheme.

5.6.2 Non-statutory consultation activities comprised:

- Pre-consultation engagement with political stakeholders and relevant local authorities. This engagement was designed to help inform the consultation process.
- Phase One Non-Statutory Consultation period (23 October to Friday 6 December 2024) involving:
 - Communities and stakeholder organisation in the vicinity of the Scheme who may be affected directly or indirectly;
 - Wider communities and stakeholders;
 - Local MPS, local councils and parish councils;
 - Other relevant stakeholders; and
 - Technical engagement with relevant stakeholders to inform the EIA process.

6 Consultation under EIA Regulations

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process by which information about environmental effects of a proposed development is collected, assessed and used to inform decision making. The Scheme requires an EIA under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) (Ref 3), and as such is defined as a 'EIA development'.

6.1.2 Consultation is integral to the preparation of DCO applications and to the EIA process. The views of consultation bodies, the local community and other relevant stakeholders serve to inform the environmental studies as part of the EIA and to identify specific issues that require further investigation, as well as to inform aspects of the design of the Scheme. Consultation is an ongoing process, which enables mitigation measures to be identified and, where appropriate, incorporated into the Scheme design thereby limiting adverse effects. Consultation also provides a platform for exploring and, where possible, incorporating environmental enhancements and benefits.

6.1.3 Guidance from the Planning Inspectorate set out in 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advise on the Consultation Report' (March 2025) states that:

'Consultation undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process under The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 is separate to that required under the Planning Act. For example, statutory consultation on a scoping report following a scoping request to the Secretary of State is consultation under the EIA regulations. The applicant may wish to draw attention to consultation responses received under the EIA process, but any reference to the EIA consultation should be addressed separately from the non-statutory and statutory consultation carried out under the Planning Act.'

6.1.4 The submission of the findings of the EIA are presented in the ES, allowing the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) deciding on the application to fully understand the environmental impact of a proposal when it comes its decision.

6.1.5 This section provides a brief summary of the EIA consultation that has taken place during the pre-application process. This is covered in more detail within the **ES [EN0110014/APP/6.1]**.

6.1.6 Throughout the pre-application process, the Applicant has engaged with technical officers at South Norfolk Council and Norfolk County Council, and other bodies (for example, Norfolk Wildlife Trust). This includes meetings that took place before the Scoping Report submission (as detailed in **Table 4-1**),

before Phase Two statutory consultation and between phases of consultation, in the run up to the DCO Application submission (as detailed in **Table 13-1**).

6.2 EIA Scoping phase

- 6.2.1 The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report for the Scheme to the Secretary of State for DESNZ on 15 January 2025, and in this request notified the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that the Applicant would provide an ES in respect of the Scheme.
- 6.2.2 The Applicant notified identified stakeholders and individuals of the submission of the Scoping Report via digital notifications on 15 January 2025. This notification can be found in **Consultation Report Appendix 4: Consultation under EIA Regulations [EN0110014/APP/5.5]**.
- 6.2.3 A news update was also published on the Applicant's website (www.eastpyesolar.co.uk) to provide an update on the Scoping Submission and further information on this stage in the development process. This news update is provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 4: Consultation Under EIA Regulations [EN0110014/APP/5.5]**.
- 6.2.4 The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, consulted with the relevant competent authorities and key statutory stakeholders to seek comments on the scope of the proposed EIA. A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, on 25 February 2025.
- 6.2.5 Appended to the Scoping Opinion, the Planning Inspectorate provided an updated list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) and (1)(c) of the EIA Regulations.
- 6.2.6 The response received to the Scoping Opinion and how the Applicant responded are detailed in relevant chapters of the **ES [EN0110014/APP/6.1]**.

6.3 Pre-application consultation under the EIA Regulations

- 6.3.1 Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations states that a SoCC needs to state whether the proposal is EIA development and how preliminary environmental information will be consulted on. This was explained in the SoCC in section 10 (see **Consultation Report Appendix 5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.6]**).
- 6.3.2 In accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, a copy of the notice under s48(1) of the PA2008 was sent to consultation bodies on or before 18 June 2025. The consultation documents provided to all consultation bodies are comprised of:

- A covering letter (provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**), which publicised the consultation opportunities, including an offer of a USB device containing the full PEIR and associated consultation documents, as well as a link to where these documents were available on the Applicant's website;
- A site plan showing the location of the Scheme (provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**); and
- A hard copy of the notice publicised in accordance with s48 of the PA2008 (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge) (provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 8: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.9]**).

6.3.3 In addition, both the PEIR and the Non-Technical Summary (NTS), which is a summary of the EIA matters reported on in the PEIR, were available to all attendees at the Phase Two consultation information events and on the Applicant's website, as detailed in the SoCC.

7 Preparation for Statutory Section 47 Consultation

7.1 Background

7.1.1 The consultation held in the Summer of 2025 was statutory under Sections 42, 44, and 47 of the PA2008.

7.2 Statutory requirements and guidance

7.2.1 S47(1) of the PA2008 requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult on a proposed application with people living in the 'vicinity' of the land to which the Scheme relates.

7.2.2 S47(2) requires that the Applicant must consult relevant local authorities on the content of this statement, known as the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

7.2.3 In accordance with s47(3) of the PA2008, the deadline given for the receipt of local authority responses to consultation on the content of the SoCC should be no less than the 28-day period (commencing on the day after the day on which the local authority received the request for comments).

7.2.4 In developing the SoCC, regard must be had to the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance relating to pre-application procedure. Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations stipulates that the SoCC must set out whether the proposal is an EIA development, and if so, how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on its PEIR.

7.2.5 The PEIR was published as part of the Phase Two consultation between 18 June and 6 August 2025.

7.2.6 Details of the requirements regarding the SoCC from the legislation and guidance and how the Scheme complied with these requirements are set out in the Statement of Compliance, provided at **Consultation Report Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance [EN0110014/APP/5.2]**.

7.3 Development of Statement of Community Consultation

7.3.1 S47(2) of the PA2008 states that before preparing the SoCC, the Applicant must consult each local authority that is within s43 (1) in regard to the content of the SoCC. At the time of preparing the SoCC the relevant authorities under s43(1) were Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council, so the Applicant consulted both of these authorities.

7.3.2 The SoCC was consulted on and published prior to Phase Two consultation. The approach and principles set out in the SoCC applied to the subsequent Phase Two consultation. The principles set out in the SoCC informed the development of the approach to Targeted Consultation which is explained further in **Chapter 11** of this report.

7.4 Preparation of the SoCC

7.4.1 As described by s47(1) of the PA2008, the Applicant prepared a SoCC setting out how consultation would be undertaken with people living within the vicinity of the land affected by the Scheme.

7.4.2 In preparing the draft SoCC, the Applicant considered best practice and guidance from PINS, early and ongoing engagement with host authorities, experience of, feedback to and lessons learned from its first phase of consultation (see Chapter 4) and its knowledge of the area of the Scheme. The team also reviewed published SoCCs for other solar NSIPs as well as other NSIPs more broadly.

7.4.3 The Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC with host authorities on 4 March 2025 for any initial comments. A meeting was held with both host authorities on 5 March 2025 to discuss the contents of the early working draft and the Applicant’s approach to consultation.

7.4.4 The early working draft of the SoCC was shared with the host authorities on 4 March 2025 and asked for any initial comments on this by 18 March 2025. Norfolk County Council provided comments initial comments on 18 March 2025. South Norfolk Council did not provide comments to the early working draft of the SoCC.

7.4.5 The Applicant’s consideration of Norfolk County Council’s initial comments on the early working draft can be found in **Table 7-1** of this report. The Applicant’s response to these initial comments were shared with Norfolk County Council ahead of the formal draft SoCC consultation. The responses are presented as the point of publication.

7.4.6 The early working draft of the SoCC can be found in **Consultation Report Appendix 5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.6]**.

Table 7-1 The Applicant’s consideration of Norfolk County Council’s initial comments on the early working draft SoCC, received on 18 March 2025

Feedback on the early working draft SoCC	Applicant response and amendments to final SoCC
Section 8: When we will consult	
Consultation period – where possible, the County Council would ask this is extended to 8-10 weeks to allow adequate time for the County Council to fully	The Applicant is committed to holding a statutory consultation that exceeds the statutory requirement

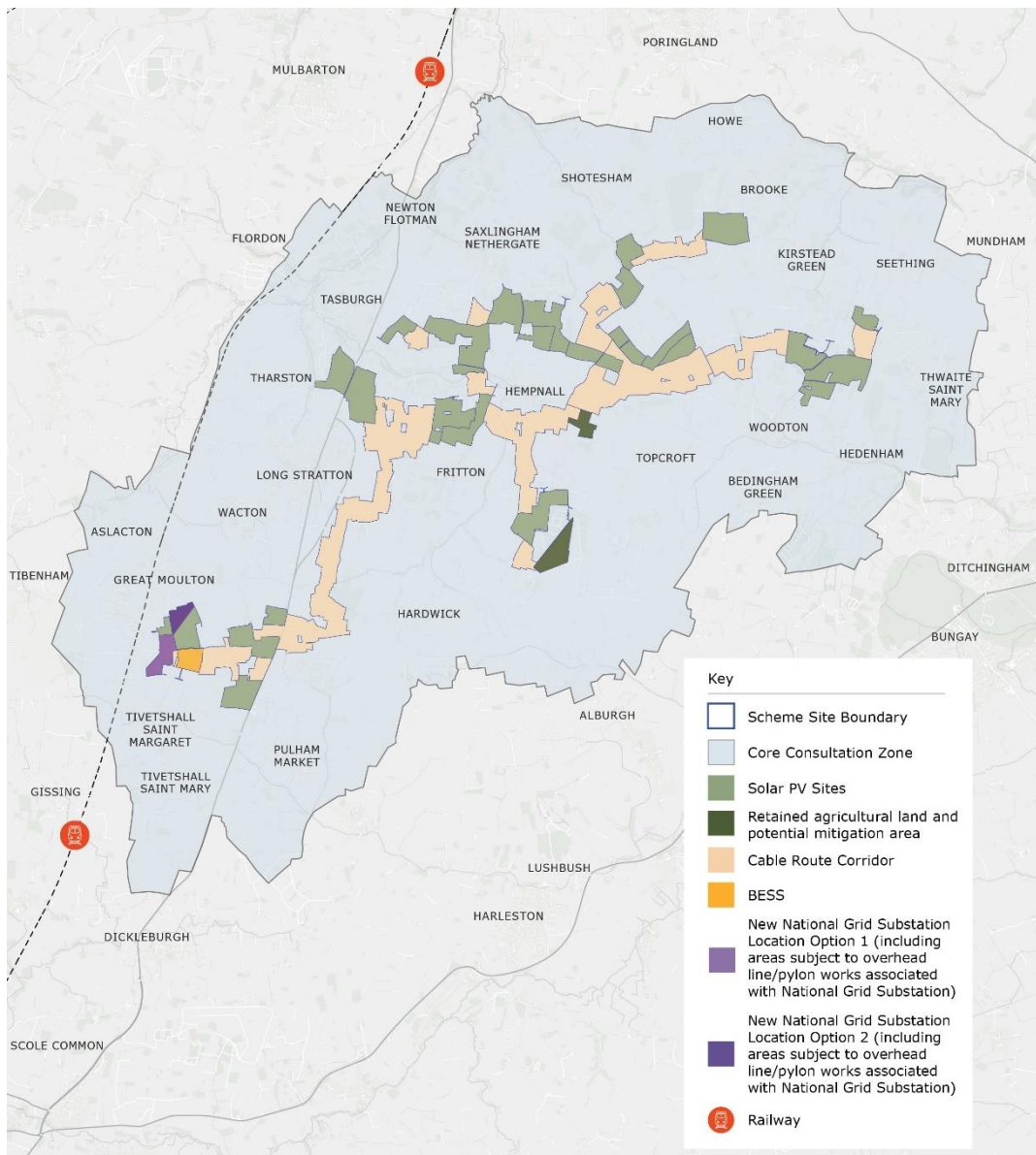
Feedback on the early working draft SoCC	Applicant response and amendments to final SoCC
<p>assess its statutory functions as the Highway Authority, Lead Local Flood Authority, Public Health, Mineral and Waste Planning, Economic Development, Historic Environment, etc.</p>	<p>(under PA2008) – as is considered best practice as deployed on other similar solar NSIP projects.</p> <p>In response to the request to consider a longer consultation period, the Applicant has extended the statutory consultation period from six (as reflected in the draft SoCC) to seven weeks – meaning that the consultation will run from Wednesday 18 June to Wednesday 6 August 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant will work with Norfolk County Council to determine whether any specific extensions would be required for the host authority to fully assess its statutory functions.</p> <p>The Applicant is also committed to continuing to engage with Norfolk County Council, such as through the monthly meetings with the Applicant project team, to discuss any comments on the ongoing design process and opportunities for local engagement (beyond the close of statutory consultation).</p>
<p>Section 9: What we will consult on</p>	
<p>Where possible the County Council requests early sight of consultation materials 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 a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) where appropriate.</p>	<p>The Applicant will provide Norfolk County Council with early sight of the Scheme's PEIR and PEIR NTS ahead of the start of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>Where the full text of the PEIR and PEIR NTS is not available, the Applicant will work with the County Council to determine which chapters would be of interest, such as those necessary for the Highway Authority, Lead Local Flood Authority, Public Health, Mineral and Waste Planning, Economic Health and Planning officers.</p>
<p>Section 10: How we will consult</p>	
<p>Member briefing – this should be arranged and booked in ahead of the formal public consultation to ensure availability. The invitee list will be the same as the member briefing session for the non-statutory consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant is committed to engaging with members of Norfolk County Council before and during the statutory consultation. The Applicant has continued to work with Norfolk County Council, through the approved invitee list, to arrange a briefing and was available for a meeting with council members before, during and after statutory consultation. The Applicant did not receive a response after several invitations and follow-ups to the host authority regarding a meeting before, during or after statutory consultation. The Applicant is still available to meet with members to discuss the proposals.</p>

7.5 Section 47 community consultation area

7.5.1 S47(1) of the PA2008 requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposed to consult on the proposed application with people living in the ‘vicinity’ of the land to which the Scheme relates.

7.5.2 A Core Consultation Zone (CCZ) was identified for the Scheme and established prior to the Phase One Consultation; the same methodology was used at this stage based on refined Order Limits and described in the draft SoCC for the local authorities to comment on. We welcomed additional suggestions to the already refined CCZ. The Core Consultation Zone, as presented in the final SoCC, is included as **Figure 7-1**.

Figure 7-1 East Pye Solar Core Consultation Zone, as presented in the SoCC



7.5.3 The Core Consultation Zone for the Scheme was identified by extending a minimum distance of two kilometres from the boundaries of the Solar PV Sites and 500 metres from the edge of the Cable Route Corridor and other proposed infrastructure as were to be presented at Phase Two consultation.

7.5.4 Where proportionate and reasonable, the zone was extended further subject to consideration of:

- Existing natural and human geographical boundaries, for example, railway lines, A-roads and/or motorways such as the Great Eastern Main Line between Diss and Norwich, and the A146.
- Avoiding splitting communities.
- Full coverage of the host parishes that host any of the Scheme, including:
 - Brooke Parish Council
 - Great Moulton Parish Council
 - Hedenham Parish Meeting
 - Hempnall Parish Council
 - Howe Parish Meeting
 - Kirstead Parish Meeting
 - Long Stratton Town Council
 - Morningthorpe and Fritton Parish Council
 - Pulham Market Parish Council
 - Saxlingham Nethergate Parish Council
 - Seething Parish Council
 - Shelton and Hardwick Parish Council
 - Shotesham Parish Council
 - Tasburgh Parish Council
 - Tharston and Hapton Parish Council
 - Tivetshall Parish Council
 - Wacton Parish Council

- Woodton Parish Council.

7.6 Content of the draft SoCC

7.6.1 The draft SoCC included the following information and proposals for consulting with the local community:

- An introduction;
- An overview of the Applicant;
- An overview of the Scheme;
- Proposed dates for the Phase Two Statutory Consultation to be held;
- An overview of the DCO application process and where to find out more information, as well as a summary of the pre-application consultation process relating to the Scheme;
- Confirmation that the scheme is an EIA development, and the statutory requirements as set out in s47 and s42 of the PA2008 in respect of consultation on the PEIR;
- The objectives of the consultation being undertaken in accordance with s47;
- An overview of non-statutory consultation already carried out and key information relating to the Phase Two statutory consultation, including the proposed consultation period starting on 18 June and closing on 6 August 2025;
- Details of the scope of what is being consulted on including the proposed Scheme, the potential impacts of the Scheme during construction, operation and decommissioning, and the PEIR;
- A definition of consultees under s47 of the PA2008 including the Core Consultation Zone identifying consultees in the vicinity of the Scheme, as well as wider consideration of consultation with people who have a potential interest in the Scheme who live outside the core consultation and/pr approach to identifying under-represented groups;
- Details of the methodology the Applicant proposed to engage with the local community, including:
 - Publishing consultation information on the Applicant's website;
 - Sending a community consultation postcard by direct mail to all addresses within the Core Consultation Zone to confirm the consultation dates (including the deadline for submissions), details of

the in-person and online information events taking place, how to find out more about what was being consulted on, and how to take part;

- Details of community consultation literature and technical documents available and where they can be accessed;
 - Anticipated or proposed details of in-person and online information events taking place including dates, times, venues and format;
 - List of CAP sites in relation to public deposit sites;
 - Publicising the consultation online and through local media; and
 - Scheme information services available, including details of how the community relations team can be contacted to request information, ask questions or request copies in alternative formats.
- An overview of how the Applicant will have regard to comments received and how it will progress the DCO application following statutory consultation, including approach to how further Targeted Consultation will be carried out should it be deemed necessary.

7.6.2 A copy of the draft SoCC issued to host authorities for consultation is included in **Consultation Report Appendix 5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.6]**.

7.7 Consultation on the SoCC with host authorities

7.7.1 The Applicant formally provided a draft SoCC to South Norfolk Council and Norfolk County Council for consultation on 4 April 2025. This was provided alongside a covering email and letter to explain the purpose of the draft SoCC, the response process and deadline for comments.

7.7.2 The Applicant stated a response deadline of 6 May 2025. This provided a consultation period of 32 days therefore exceeding the requirement set out in s47(3) to provide a period of 28 days.

7.7.3 South Norfolk Council and Norfolk County Council provided comments in response to the consultation on the draft SoCC. The responses received from South Norfolk County and Norfolk County Council to this consultation on the draft SoCC were considered by the Applicant when finalising the SoCC prior to publication.

7.7.4 Feedback submitted to the consultation on the draft SoCC and how this was considered by the Applicant is described in **Table 7-2** and **Table 7-3** of this report.

7.7.5 In summary, the Applicant made the following changes to the SoCC having had regard to comments from host authorities it consulted:

- The Applicant extended the duration of Phase Two statutory consultation, so it took place over a period of seven weeks (49 days) instead of six weeks and 2 days (44 days) which was initially proposed (starting 18 June and running until 6 August 2025).
- Upon request, the Applicant confirmed Norfolk County Council will have early sight of the PEIR chapters and PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) ahead of the start of the statutory consultation; and
- The plan presented in the draft SoCC was the Scoping Report Figure 1: Site Location Plan, which was used as a placeholder. This was updated ahead of the publication of the SoCC, after comments from Norfolk County Council regarding the black dashed lines across each of the Sites on the Map. All Phase Two consultation materials included updates maps of the Scheme.

Table 7-2 Norfolk County Council's feedback on draft SoCC and Applicant response, received 6 May 2025

Feedback on the draft SoCC	Applicant response and amendments to final SoCC
Section 3: The Scheme	
<p>The Scheme overview in section 2 does not adequately identify the location of both the proposed solar farm project and the communities affected. The scheme centres around a number of villages such as Hempnall, Woodton, and Brooke, yet they are not mentioned as location references; the scheme is described in section 2.1 as being south of Norwich and north of Harleston, which covers an area of over 32km. While the communities are identified later in the document, section 2 is not consistent with the rest of the document and the County Council would suggest a better description of the scheme location is provided.</p>	<p>Noted. The Scheme description used in the draft SoCC has been updated to include the villages and parishes that the Site covers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“3.2 The Scheme (including the Sites, sub-Sites and the CRC [Cable Route Corridor] covers approximately 2,232 Hectares (‘ha’) of land south of Norwich and north of Harleston. The total area of the Sites and sub-Sites is approximately 1,097 ha. The Site covers the following areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hempnall</i> • <i>Morningthorpe and Fritton</i> • <i>Woodton</i> • <i>Saxlingham Nethergate</i> • <i>Brooke</i> • <i>Kirstead</i> • <i>Seething</i> • <i>Hedenham</i> • <i>Tasburgh</i> • <i>Tivetshall</i> • <i>Great Moulton</i> • <i>Shelton and Hardwick</i> • <i>Wacton</i> • <i>Long Stratton</i> • <i>Tharston and Hapton</i> • <i>Pulham Market”</i>

Feedback on the draft SoCC	Applicant response and amendments to final SoCC
<p>It would be really helpful if an extra key could be added to the figure 1 site location plan to indicate the reasoning for grouping together the different solar farm parcels, as indicated on the map by black dashed lines.</p>	<p>Noted. The plan presented in the draft SoCC was the Scoping Report Figure 1: Site Location Plan, which was used as a placeholder while the Site was updated ahead of the publication of the SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant has removed the black dashed lines across each of the Sites on the map in our finalised SoCC, Phase Two consultation materials, and in the figures accompanying the PEIR. The reason the Sites were grouped at Phase One consultation and Scoping was to show the sub-Sites.</p> <p>In the PEIR, the 'Site' is defined as;</p> <p><i>“The Site comprises approximately 2,232 Hectares of land located to the east of Long Stratton in Norfolk. The Site includes 10 individual Sites, which are further sub-divided into sub-Sites (which host the generating stations; including Solar PV and other Associated Development, Substations, Mitigation and Enhancement Areas, Highway Works and Ancillary Infrastructure); the National Grid Substation Site (including Grid Connection Infrastructure); Battery Energy Storage System Sitel and Cable Route Corridor (CRC).”</i></p> <p>Sub-sites are defined as:</p> <p><i>“The Scheme includes a number of Sites, number 1 to 10 which host the generating stations: including Ground Mounted PV modules and other Associated Development, Conversion Units, Substations (where necessary), Mitigation and Enhancement Areas, Highway Works and Ancillary Infrastructure. Within these Sites, there are a number of separate sub-Sites which have been sub-numbered e.g. 2A, 2B, 2C.</i></p>
<p>Section 6: Method of consultation</p>	
<p>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 are planning to take to engage with local communities across Norfolk.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Section 8: When we will consult</p>	
<p>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 the PEIR documentation in terms of its statutory functions covering: the Highway Authority; Lead Local Flood Authority; Public Health; Minerals and Waste Planning; Economic Development; Environment and Historic Environment.</p>	<p>Noted. The Applicant has now defined its consultation period for Phase Two consultation, which has been updated with the final wording for SoCC to state:</p> <p><i>“8.1 The Applicant will hold its Phase Two consultation for a period of just over six weeks seven weeks (49 days) from Wednesday 18 June to Wednesday 6 August 2025. This consultation period</i></p>

Feedback on the draft SoCC	Applicant response and amendments to final SoCC
	<p><i>exceeds the minimum period of 28 days required by the PA2008.</i></p> <p><i>“8.2 This is consistent with the approach taken to the non-statutory Phase One consultation and exceeds the statutory requirements of 28 days.”</i></p>
Section 9: How we will consult	
<p>The County Council is pleased a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will be provided.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Where possible, the County Council requests early sight of consultation materials, such as the PEIR and NTS ahead of the formal consultation, to allow as much time as possible to assess the application, prepare its response and go through the County Council’s reporting mechanisms with elected members. The County Council would be willing to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) where appropriate.</p>	<p>The Applicant will aim to provide Norfolk County Council with early sight of the Scheme’s Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS).</p> <p>Where the full text of the PEIR and PEIR NTS is not available, the Applicant will aim to provide chapters of the consultation documents relevant to Norfolk County Council, such as those necessary for the Highway Authority, Local Flood Authority, Public Health, Mineral and Waste Planning, Economic Health and Planning officers.</p> <p>The Applicant does not believe the use of a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) is appropriate and aims to share PEIR chapters and PEIR NTS with the County Council before the start of statutory consultation on 18 June 2025.</p>

Table 7-3 South Norfolk Council's feedback on the draft SoCC and Applicant response, received 24 April 2025

Feedback on the draft SoCC	Applicant response and amendments to final SoCC
Section 8: When we will consult	
<p>Only comment I would make is to highlight the timings of the consultation June – August, during summer holiday period, harvest time and when many Parish Councils do not formally meet, which will make it difficult for our residents, businesses and Parish Councils to engage and submit formal comments with their views regarding the project.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes the timings of the consultation may conflict with events, such as recognised school and public holidays.</p> <p>The Applicant has amended Section 8: When we will consult of the SoCC in response to this feedback. The Phase Two (statutory) consultation period now been extended to seven weeks from the initial period (as set out in the draft SoCC) of six weeks and two days.</p> <p>The Applicant has now defined its consultation period for Phase Two consultation, and will update the wording of the SoCC to state:</p> <p><i>“8.1 The Applicant will hold its Phase Two consultation for a period of just over six weeks seven weeks (49 days) from Wednesday 18 June to Wednesday 6 August 2025. This consultation period</i></p>

Feedback on the draft SoCC	Applicant response and amendments to final SoCC
	<p><i>exceeds the minimum period of 28 days required by the PA2008.</i></p> <p><i>“8.2 This is consistent with the approach taken to the non-statutory Phase One consultation and exceeds the statutory requirements of 28 days.”</i></p> <p>The Applicant is also seeking to raise awareness of the consultation in advance of the consultation period, including the publication and issue of communications regarding the SoCC – which is being issued to parish council and wider stakeholders, including those who have registered to receive updates.</p> <p>The Applicant will also consider requests for extensions to the consultation period, which may allow additional time for consultees to provide their feedback.</p>

7.8 Publicity under s47 of the PA2008

7.8.1 The SoCC was published on 4 June 2025. Printed copies of the document were lodged and available at CAP sites (see **Table 8-1**) and a digital version was available on the Applicant’s website. A copy of the published SoCC can be found in **Consultation Report Appendix 5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.6]**.

7.8.2 As prescribed by s47(6) of the PA2008, the Applicant also publicised details of the locations of where and when the SoCC could be viewed in newspapers circulated in the vicinity of the Scheme. Details of the publication of the Section 47 notices are included in **Table 7-4**.

7.8.3 The S47 notice was uploaded to the documents page of the Applicant’s website (www.eastpyesolar.co.uk/documents) on 4 June 2025.

Table 7-4 Section 47 Notice newspaper publication schedule

Date published	Newspaper
4 June 2025	Eastern Daily Press
6 June 2025	Diss Express

7.8.4 On 4 June 2025, the Applicant also notified host MPs, host authorities, parish councils, those that had registered to be kept informed as well as gateway organisations and local groups of the SoCC publication. This communication included details of the confirmed statutory consultation dates, information events programme, and where consultation information could be accessed when the consultation period began.

7.9 Adherence to the contents of the SoCC

7.9.1 **Table 7-5** sets out the commitments the Applicant made for its statutory consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land in accordance with s47 of the PA2008 and summarises how the Applicant fulfilled these commitments.

Table 7-5 SoCC commitments and Applicant compliance

Section	Commitment	Compliance
1. Introduction	1.6. This SoCC has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 'Duty to consult local community' of the PA2008; its purpose being to set out how we intend to consult people living in the vicinity of the land that is needed for the Scheme; including explanation of the consultation we will carry out before submission of our DCO application. It includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of the consenting process we must follow • What we will be consulting on • Who we will be consulting • How people can respond to the consultation 	<p>The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47(6) of the PA2008 on 4 June 2025, two weeks before the launch of statutory consultation on 18 June 2025.</p> <p>The SoCC included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of the consenting process (Section 4: The DCO consenting process) • What we will be consulting on (Section 5: Our public consultation process and Section 10: Environmental information) • Who we will be consulting (Section 6: Method of consultation and Section 7: Who we will consult) • How people can respond to the consultation (Section 9: How we will consult) • How we will use feedback to the consultation (Section 12: Next steps and contact details) <p>Notices were published in the and Eastern Daily Press on 4 June 2025 and the Diss Express on 6 June 2025 to publicise the SoCC and its availability.</p> <p>Phase Two consultation took place for seven weeks (49 days) between Wednesday 18 June and Wednesday 6 August 2025.</p> <p>The SoCC was uploaded to the document library on the Scheme's website and printed reference copies were made available to view from the four CAP sites listed in the document as well as the accompanying Section 47 Notice. Printed reference copies were also available to view at the in-person information events held during statutory consultation.</p>
	1.7 The SoCC will be published on Wednesday 4 June 2025 ahead of the start of Phase Two consultation.	
	1.8. As required by Section 47(6) of the 2008 Act we will publish a Section 47 Notice in local newspapers for one week to advertise that the SoCC has been published as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Daily Press – Wednesday 4 June 2025 • Diss Express – Friday 6 June 2025 	
	1.9. Phase Two consultation is taking place over a period of seven weeks from Wednesday 18 June and running until Wednesday 6 August 2025. This would see the statutory period exceed the minimum period of 28 days as required by the 2008 Act. The deadline for receipt of feedback to the Phase Two consultation is 23:59 on Wednesday 6 August 2025.	
	1.10. The SoCC is available to view and download from the Applicant's website, and printed reference copies will be made available from Community Access Points (CAPs) (see Table 3). Printed reference copies will also be available to view at in-person consultation events	

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	being held during statutory consultation (see Table 2).	
4. The DCO consenting process	4.6 South Norfolk District Council and Norfolk County Council, as host local authorities, have been consulted on the contents of this SoCC as required by Section 47 (2) of the PA2008. We have had regard to feedback provided by both authorities, with it having been considered and used to inform this final version.	<p>The Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC for Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council to review on 4 March 2025 prior to commencing formal consultation on the draft SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant received comments from Norfolk County Council on the early working draft SoCC, which were considered by the Applicant. South Norfolk Council did not provide comments on the early working draft SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant formally provided a draft SoCC for review to both councils on 4 April 2024. Tables 4 and 5 of this document shows how the Applicant considered comments from local authorities in preparing the final SoCC for publication.</p>
5. Our public consultation process	<p>5.4. Phase Two consultation will be held for seven weeks between Wednesday 18 June and Wednesday 6 August 2025 to provide further information on:</p> <p>5.4.1 Our proposals for the Scheme, including a Site Location Plan indicating the proposed layout.</p> <p>5.4.2. Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), which sets out a preliminary assessment of likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme.</p> <p>5.4.3. Potential opportunities for community benefits associated with the Scheme.</p> <p>5.4.4. Anything else consultees and communities would like us to consider as part of our proposals for the Scheme.</p> <p>5.8 The Applicant published a Phase One Consultation Summary Report ('CSR') in March 2025. The purpose of the CSR is to present the feedback received at Phase One consultation and explain how this is being considered by the project team. The CSR is available to view on</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook consultation with local communities, local authorities, statutory bodies and persons with an interest in land potentially affected by the Scheme under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA2008 for seven weeks between Wednesday 18 June and Wednesday 6 August 2025.</p> <p>The Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet provided information on what the Applicant was consulting on, including the proposals for the Scheme, the PEIR, and opportunities for benefits associated with the Scheme. The Phase Two Consultation Feedback Form included questions on these areas and asked for any general comments respondents had on the Scheme.</p> <p>The PEIR was published on Wednesday 18 June 2025 and provided a preliminary assessment of likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme.</p> <p>A suite of consultation materials was published on 18 June 2025 to provide appropriately detailed information that is clear and accessible. Materials were published online and also available in printed format (to inspect and/or take away) at the four CAP sites, as stated in the SoCC.</p> <p>Materials also clearly signposted how people could get involved in the Phase Two consultation, including a series of in-person and online information events and different methods to provide feedback.</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<p>our website via the Document Library: www.eastpyesolar.co.uk/documents and its availability was publicised through notifying key stakeholders and community members. The information gathered during the first phase of consultation has also informed the preparation of this SoCC and Phase Two consultation, which is being held for seven weeks between Wednesday 18 June and Wednesday 6 August 2025.</p>	<p>Materials included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PEIR and accompanying Non-Technical Summary, including technical maps and plans; • A Consultation Postcard (distributed to local homes and businesses); • A Consultation Information Leaflet, including illustrative plans showing the nature of the Scheme; • Event Displays; and • A paper and online Feedback Form to encourage responses.
<p>7. Who we will consult</p>	<p>7.6 Information about the Scheme will be communicated directly to properties within the Core Consultation Zone including residents, local businesses and community organisations (including parish councils) to raise awareness and encourage participation in the consultation through a range of communication channels (see Section 9).</p>	<p>The Applicant issued a Community Consultation Postcard to all properties identified (around 8,486) within the defined Core Consultation Zone to publicise and encourage responses to the Phase Two consultation.</p> <p>The postcard notified consultees of the consultation dates and provided information relating to the consultation process and where information about how to take part and what was being consulted on could be found using a range of communication methods. A copy of this postcard was available to view and download from the Applicant's website.</p> <p>A wider audience was notified of the launch of the consultation via email. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals who had registered to be kept informed (328 registrants at the time of SoCC publication); • Host MPs – Ben Goldsborough MP (South Norfolk) and Adrian Ramsay MP (Waveney Valley); • Norfolk County Council Local Planning Officers and Members; • South Norfolk Council Local Planning Officers and Members; • Host and neighbouring parish councils; • Community interest groups; and • Seldom heard groups and gateway organisations. <p>The Applicant wrote to over 300 identified properties within 100m to the Site's Red Line Boundary (known as 'near neighbours'), notifying them of the launch of statutory consultation and how they can provide feedback on the updated proposals.</p> <p>The Applicant updated its website on 18 June 2025 to include information regarding</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
		the updated proposals, consultation timescales, the information event programme, as well as all necessary consultation materials which were available to view and download from the website's Documents page.
	7.10 To give those individuals and organisations the opportunity to participate in the Phase Two consultation, we will raise awareness in the following ways:	Detailed under sections 7.10.1 – 7.10.5.
	7.10.1 Directly notify any individual who has registered to receive information about the Scheme.	The Applicant sent digital notifications to individuals who had registered to receive updates on the Scheme. This notification – via email – was sent to 328 registrants on Wednesday 18 June.
	7.10.2 Advertise the consultation in local media outlets reaching audiences.	The Applicant placed advertisements in the Diss Express on Friday 27 June and Friday 4 July to publicise the consultation.
	7.10.4 Publish consultation materials so they are available to view online.	The Applicant hosted all consultation materials on its website (www.eastpyesolar.co.uk) from 18 June 2025. The materials were hosted on the Document's page of the Scheme's website, and were available to view, download and print.
	7.10.5 Fulfil requests for copies of the consultation materials through the Scheme communication channels.	The Applicant received and fulfilled two requests to send hard copies of the consultation materials through the Scheme communication channels.
	<p>7.11 In addition to publicising a Section 48 Notice in the local and national press and London Gazette, as stated under Section 48 of the PA2008, we will also engage those parties representing the interests of those communities which lie beyond the Core Consultation Zone including:</p> <p>7.11.1 Members of Parliament representing the host constituencies: Ben Goldsborough MP (South Norfolk) and Adrian Ramsay MP (Waveney Valley)</p> <p>7.11.2 Norfolk County Council electoral division members (councillors)</p> <p>7.11.3 South Norfolk Council ward members (councillors)</p> <p>7.11.4 Parish councils that are within the Scheme Boundary (see Section 7.2)</p>	<p>The Applicant publicised the consultation by publishing a Section 48 Notice in the local and national press and London Gazette. The notice was published in the following publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diss Express - 6 June 2025 and 13 June 2025; • Eastern Daily Press - 11 June 2025 and 18 June 2025; • The Guardian - 16 June 2025; and • London Gazette - 18 June 2025. <p>Phase Two consultation via email on 18 June 2025. The notification included an invitation for a briefing, and the Applicant met with Ben Goldsborough MP on 1 July 2025. Representatives of Adrian Ramsay met with the Applicant at the Great Moulton information event on 2 July 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant also notified Norfolk County Council Local Planning Officers and electoral division members on the launch of consultation on 18 June 2025.</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<p>7.11.5 Gateway organisations and community groups (see Appendix 1)</p>	<p>South Norfolk Council Local Planning Officers and members were also notified on 18 June 2025. A briefing with members took place ahead of the launch of Phase Two consultation on 27 May 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant notified 18 host parish councils and eight neighbouring parish councils of the launch of Phase Two consultation via email on 18 June 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant issued email communications to community interest groups and gateway organisations on 18 June 2025 to provide notice of the statutory consultation period an overview of the proposals and overall approach to consultation</p>
	<p>7.15 The Applicant's consultation methodology (see Section 9) has been developed to communicate effectively as possible with these groups (seldom heard and hard to reach groups) so that they can have their say. Requests for specific consultation activity to cater for these groups will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This will then be agreed and planned with the requesting organisations.</p>	<p>The Applicant developed a list of gateway organisations and bodies representing the interests of under-represented or seldom heard groups, which was included as Appendix 1 of the SoCC.</p> <p>On 18 June 2025, the Applicant issued email communication to the gateway organisations and bodies identified to share details of the consultation (including dates), to offer direct engagement and invite suggestions on alternative ways of engaging with the groups/interests they represented.</p> <p>No responses or requests were received from the gateway organisations and bodies contacted for additional information and/or delivery of specific consultation activity to best meet the needs of the groups they represented.</p> <p>The Applicant also issued digital communications to these organisations on 6 August 2025, to confirm the statutory consultation period had come to an end and provide information on next steps.</p>
<p>8. When we will consult</p>	<p>8.1 The Applicant will hold its Phase Two consultation for a period of seven weeks (49 days) from Wednesday 18 June to Wednesday 6 August 2025. This consultation period exceeds the minimum period of 28 days as required by PA2008.</p> <p>8.2 Please see section 9.26 for a list of public information events. While the proposed consultation period overlaps with the start of the summer holiday period for schools, all information events will be held before the school holidays begin on 22 July 2025.</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook a seven-week consultation period, beginning Wednesday 18 June to Wednesday 6 August 2025. This exceeded the 28 days as required by PA2008.</p> <p>The Applicant held six in-person information events and one online webinar; all of which were outside of the school holidays.</p>
	<p>9.2 Scheme website</p>	<p>The Scheme website was updated on 18 June 2025 to provide full information about</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
9. How we will consult	9.3 A dedicated Scheme website (www.eastpyesolar.co.uk) was launched in September 2024 to host Scheme information and will be updated to include the latest information regarding the Phase Two consultation.	Phase Two consultation. All materials were also hosted on the website from this date: www.eastpyesolar.co.uk/documents All consultation materials were available to view and download, free of charge, from the Applicant's website.
	9.4 All of the consultation materials will be available to view and download, free of charge, from Wednesday 18 June 2025 on the Scheme website via the Documents page: www.eastpyesolar.co.uk/documents	
	9.5 It will be possible to submit a response to the consultation via the website using a dedicated online feedback form during the consultation period.	The Applicant hosted an online feedback form on the Scheme website, which replicated the contents of the paper feedback form. The online form was accessible until 23:59 on 6 August 2025.
	9.6 The website will also allow people to register their contact details with the Scheme so they can receive future updates after the consultation period.	The Scheme website continues to remain active and host the latest Scheme information. This includes a 'Register for updates' page: https://www.eastpyesolar.co.uk/register-for-updates
	9.7 Direct communications	The Applicant issued a Community Consultation Postcard to all properties identified (8,486) within the defined Core Consultation Zone to publicise and encourage response to the Phase Two consultation.
	9.8 Direction communications – via a community consultation postcard – will be issued to all properties within the Core Consultation Zone (see Figure 2) and to any other parties who registered to be kept informed about the Scheme by post.	The postcard provided full information about the Scheme and Phase Two consultation. It was printed and posted prior to the Phase Two consultation period commencing.
	9.9 This community consultation postcard will notify local residents and businesses of the consultation period, opportunities to find out more information (including details of public information events), how to provide feedback, and the response deadline for comments to be submitted.	The Applicant sent digital notifications (emails) to identified key stakeholders and 328 registrants to the Applicant's 'keep informed list'. This email contained information about the consultation period, opportunities to find out more information, how to provide feedback and the response deadline for comments to be submitted.
	9.10. It will be printed and posted prior to the Phase Two consultation period commencing.	
	9.11. Identified key stakeholders and those that have registered to be kept informed with the Scheme will also be notified on the day of the Phase Two consultation launch via email. The email will include information about the consultation period, opportunities to find out more information, how to provide feedback and the response deadline for comments to be submitted.	The Applicant also wrote to over 300 identified properties that are within 100m of the Site's Red Line Boundary to notifying them about the upcoming consultation.
	9.12 Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet	A Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet was published on the Scheme website and in printed format to take away at the in-person information events and at the four CAP sites from 18 June 2025.
	9.13 A Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet will be published on the Scheme website at the start of the	

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	<p>Phase Two consultation. This will provide a summary of the proposals we are consulting on, details of how people can take part in the consultation, how feedback will be considered and used to inform proposals, and how we will provide information on the outcome of the consultation.</p> <p>9.14 Printed copies of this document will be available to take away at in-person information events and Community Access Points (CAPs). Copies will also be made available on request in digital or hard copy format, free of charge.</p> <p>9.15 Feedback Form</p> <p>9.16 A feedback form will be made available to enable people to provide feedback on the proposals. Specific questions will be included on particular areas on which we are seeking comment; however, no questions will be mandatory, and all comments made on the form will be accepted.</p> <p>9.17 An online version of the feedback form will be hosted on the Scheme website so that feedback can be provided electronically.</p> <p>9.18 Hard copy forms will be available at in-person public information events and at CAPs. An online PDF version of the feedback form will also be available to download from the Scheme website from the start of the consultation period. Copies of the feedback form will also be made available on request in digital or hard copy format, free of charge.</p> <p>9.19 While the feedback form is intended to encourage and support the provision of feedback, we recognise some people may prefer to provide written comments outside of set questions. All written comments will be accepted and can be submitted during the Phase Two consultation period by email to info@eastpyesolar.co.uk or by post to FREEPOST EAST PYE SOLAR (no stamp or further address details required).</p> <p>9.20 Feedback submitted to the consultation by email must be received by 23:59 on Wednesday 6 August 2025. Written feedback sent to the freepost address which is received after this deadline will be accepted subject to the postmark date being no later than the prescribed deadline of 6 August 2025.</p> <p>9.21 Technical documents, maps and plans</p>	<p>A feedback form was produced and made available for the Phase Two consultation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In printed format at the four CAP sites, at in-person information events and on request from the project team from 18 June 2025; • Online via the Scheme website (as a downloadable PDF) from 18 June 2025; and • As an online form on the Scheme website, which could be access from 18 June until at least 23:59 on 6 August 2025. • Completed forms and freeform feedback could be returned by post (FREEPOST East Pye Solar), in-person at information events, or by email to the project team. • The Applicant also provided digital and/or hard copy versions feedback form when requested. This was a free of charge service. <p>All technical documents – including the PEIR and accompanying NTS and maps and plans</p>

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	<p>9.22 We will publish all the technical documents we have produced which describe and evaluate our proposals for the Scheme on the Scheme website when consultation launches on 18 June 2025. These comprise of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PEIR. Please see Section 10 of this SoCC for further details. • A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR. • Maps and plans at appropriate scales. <p>9.23 The full PEIR will be available to view and download, free of charge, on the Scheme website and will be available to view in printed format at public information events and at the Long Stratton Library (see section 9.35 for further details).</p> <p>9.24 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 will be confirmed on the Scheme website prior to the start of consultation period.</p> <p>9.25 The SoCC, Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet, Feedback Form and PEIR NTS can be made available in hard copy, large print, audio or braille format, free of charge, on request using the dedicated communication channels (please see the back page of this SoCC).</p> <p>9.26 Information events</p> <p>9.27 During our Phase Two consultation, we will hold seven public information events – six in-person and one online. These events will be held towards the start of the consultation period and will be held prior to the start of the school summer holidays, in line with Norfolk County Council’s term times⁴. It also allows time for the events to be effectively publicised and for consultees to access and consider consultation information before attending, while allowing time after events for attendees to prepare and submit feedback ahead of the response deadline.</p>	<p>– were made available on the Scheme website from 18 June 2025. Printed copies of these documents were also available to inspect (but not take away) from this date at CAP sites.</p> <p>All consultation documents were made available as stated in the SoCC. Stock levels (at CAP sites and in-person information events) were monitored on a regular basis and replenished as necessary.</p> <p>A hard copy of the PEIR was available on request for a charge of £750 (to cover the cost of printing and delivery). This cost was confirmed in the Section 48 Notice and was included in text on the ‘Consultation Overview’ page on the Applicant’s website.</p> <p>No requests were received for hard copy, large print, audio or braille formats of the SoCC, Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet, Feedback Form or PEIR NTS. The Applicant will still fulfil requests for these documents.</p> <p>The Applicant held a total of six in-person information events and one online webinar across the consultation period (as listed in Table 2). Events were held on a range of dates and times throughout the week, including in the afternoon, evening and at weekends to encourage attendance from all consultees.</p> <p>The information events were held prior to the start of the summer holidays (which started on Tuesday 22 July 2025. The Applicant’s last event was held Monday 21 July 2025). The first information event was held on Wednesday 2 July 2025, two weeks after the launch of statutory consultation on Wednesday 18 June 2025, providing time for attendees to view information about the consultation before attending the events.</p> <p>The last information event was held on Monday 21 July 2025, providing over two weeks for attendees to prepare and submit feedback ahead of the response deadline on Wednesday 6 August 2025.</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<p>9.28 Events will be held across different days of the week and cover a range of times to accommodate different working hours to promote accessibility and attendance. This will include holding an event on a Saturday and events running into the evening. In-person events will be 'drop-in' style events, where attendees can attend at any time within the advertised hours.</p>	<p>Information event locations and timings were advertised in advance, including an opening and closing time. The Applicant invited interested parties to attend at any point between these times.</p>
	<p>9.29 The full programme of events being held is set out in Table 2 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 2 July 2025, 14:30-19:30 – Great Moulton and Aslacton Coronation Hall, Carr Lane, Great Moulton, Norwich, NR15 2LA • Thursday 3 July 2025, 14:30-19:30 – Saxlingham Nethergate Village Hall, Steward Close, Saxlingham Nethergate, Norwich, NR15 1AJ • Thursday 10 July 2025, 14:00-19:00 – Long Stratton Village Hall, Ipswich Road, Long Stratton, Norwich, NR15 2TA • Saturday 12 July 2025, 11:00-15:00, Hempnall Village Hall, Bungay Road, Hempnall, Norwich, NR15 2NG • Tuesday 15 July 2025, 14:30-19:30, Seething and Mundham Village Hall, Seething, Norwich, NR15 1EJ • Monday 21 July 2025, 18:30-20:00 – Community Webinar via Zoom 	
	<p>9.30 At events, attendees will be able to find out information about the Scheme and what we are consulting on. Members of the project team will be present to discuss the proposals and answer questions.</p>	<p>Several members of the project team were in attendance at the information events, including representatives from IGP and a wide range of planning, land, technical and environmental impact assessment disciplines.</p>
	<p>9.31 In-person information events will be held at venues within the Core Consultation Zone (see Section 7) that are publicly accessible and accommodate the needs of individuals with limited mobility.</p>	<p>All venues were located within the Scheme's Core Consultation Zone and were selected based on their accessibility (to affected communities) and health and safety/capacity requirements. All venues had disabled access.</p>
	<p>9.32 Information available at these events will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This SoCC (for reference only) • Event display panels and boards (for viewing only) • Maps of the Scheme (for viewing only) 	<p>All consultation documents were made available as stated in the SoCC. Stock levels at in-person information events were monitored on a regular basis and replenished as necessary.</p>

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet (for reference and to take away) Feedback Form (for reference and to take away) The PEIR and accompanying NTS (for reference only) 	
	<p>9.33 The Applicant will also hold one online information event (webinar) via Zoom. The webinar will be held for anyone to join via telephone or the internet. Attendees will be required to register for the online information event in advance via the automated registration form on the Zoom website. A link to the registration form for the webinar will be available on the Scheme website.</p>	<p>The Applicant held one online webinar via Zoom. Details were publicised in the consultation materials and wider publicity. Consultees could sign up to attend via a link on the Scheme website or by getting in touch with the project team.</p>
	<p>9.34 The format of this webinar will involve the presentation of information consistent with that made available at in-person events by representatives from the project team, followed by a moderated questions and answer session. Participants will be invited to submit questions during the webinar. A recorded version of the webinar will be made available on the Scheme website after the session.</p>	<p>Webinars included a live presentation, which covered information consistent with materials presented at the in-person information events, and a Q&A with the project team. Questions could be submitted and answered live via a 'Q&A' box.</p> <p>A webinar recording was uploaded to the Scheme website after the event and both webinar and project team registrants were issued digital notification on the day of publication. Responses to questions that remained outstanding following each session were published in writing via the Scheme website and the Applicant issued notifications to both webinar and project team registrants following publication.</p>
	<p>9.35 Community Access Points</p>	<p>Hard copies of the SoCC and relevant Phase Two consultation materials were distributed ahead of the start of statutory consultation to the following local information points:</p>
	<p>9.36 Community Access Points (CAPs) are deposit locations where we will make hard copies of the SoCC, and relevant Phase Two consultation materials will be made available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bungay Community Library Poringland Library Long Stratton Library Loddon Library
	<p>9.38 The materials include: 9.38.1 Copies of this SoCC for reference only. This will be available at CAPs before the Phase Two consultation commences; 9.38.2 Copies of the Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet for reference and for taking away; 9.39.3 Copies of the Feedback Form for reference and taking away; and 9.38.4 A copy of the PEIR Non-Technical Summary for reference only.</p>	<p>A hard copy of the PEIR was available to view at Long Stratton Library for the duration of the consultation period.</p> <p>All documents were available online via a computer at each library. While access to computers at the libraries is free, a membership for the library may be required.</p>
	<p>9.39 A copy of the PEIR will be available at Long Stratton Library for reference only.</p>	

Section	Commitment	Compliance
	9.40 All CAPs host computers with internet access to enable access to the full PEIR via the Scheme website. While access to computers at the libraries is free, a membership for the library may be required.	
	9.43 Availability of materials	All Phase Two consultation materials were available for download via the Scheme website and signposted under the 'Documents' section of the website: www.eastpyesolar.co.uk/documents
	9.44 Table 4 below summarises the availability of consultation materials during the Phase Two consultation period.	
	9.45 Providing feedback	<p>A feedback form was produced and made available for the Phase Two consultation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In printed format at the four CAP sites, at in-person information events and on request from the project team from 18 June 2025; • Online via the Scheme website (as a downloadable PDF) from 18 June 2025; • As an online form on the Scheme website, which could be accessed from 18 June 2025 until at least 23:59 on 6 August 2025; and • Completed forms and freeform feedback could be returned by post (FREEPOST East Pye Solar), in-person at information events, or by email to the project team. <p>Written feedback was also accepted via the email, sent to the Scheme's email address (info@eastpyesolar.co.uk) and via letter (to FREEPOST EAST PYE SOLAR).</p>
	9.46 The Scheme communication channels will remain open throughout the pre-application stage. Outside the Phase Two consultation period, stakeholders may speak to a member of our Scheme community relations team.	
	<p>9.47 During the consultation period, written feedback can be provided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitting an online feedback form through the Scheme website; • Completing a PDF version of the hard copy feedback form and submitting via email: info@eastpyesolar.co.uk; • Completing a printed copy of the feedback form and submitting it at an in-person information event or returning it to FREEPOST EAST PYE SOLAR (no stamp required); • Sending an email to: info@eastpyesolar.co.uk; and • Providing comments in writing and posting them to FREEPOST EAST PYE SOLAR (no stamp required). 	
	9.48 Feedback must be received by 23:59 on Wednesday 6 August 2025. Responses received after that date may not be considered.	
	9.49 Questions and requests for information can be made using the communication channels above and by calling the Scheme's freephone line 0808 281 3175 (open 09:00 – 17:00 Monday to Friday, with a voice message service operating outside of these hours so a callback can be made if requested).	<p>The Applicant accepted questions and requests for information during the Phase Two consultation period and beyond.</p> <p>The Scheme's freephone line (0808 281 3175) remained open (from 09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday) and was managed during these hours, with a voicemail service operating outside of these hours.</p>
	9.50 By appointment with the project team, it will be possible to make a verbal representation over the Scheme's	By exception (to the stated feedback methods), the Applicant accepted verbal feedback via the Scheme freephone. No

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	<p>freephone 0808 281 3175. Feedback provided will be transcribed and agreed verbally prior to submission. Appointments to provide verbal feedback should be made by contacting the team via Scheme-dedicated freepost, email address or telephone number described above.</p>	<p>representations were received via this method.</p>
	<p>9.51 Section 47 Notice</p>	<p>The Section 47 Notice was published in the following publications:</p>
	<p>9.52 Alongside the publication of the SoCC on the Scheme website, the Phase Two consultation will be publicised through a Section 47 Notice in local newspapers in the vicinity of the Scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Daily Press – Wednesday 4 June 2025 • Diss Express – Friday 6 June 2025
	<p>9.53 The Section 47 Notice will appear in the Eastern Daily Press on 4 June 2025 and the Diss Express on 6 June 2025.</p>	
	<p>9.54 Section 48 Notice</p>	<p>The Section 48 Notice was published in the following publications:</p>
	<p>9.55 As required by Section 48 of the PA2008, we will publish a Section 48 Notice advertising our intention to submit a DCO application and the Phase Two consultation in local newspapers in the vicinity of the Scheme for two consecutive weeks, and a national newspaper and the London Gazette for one week.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diss Express - 6 June 2025 and 13 June 2025 • Eastern Daily Press - 11 June 2025 and 18 June 2025 • The Guardian - 16 June 2025 • London Gazette - 18 June 2025
	<p>9.56 A list of the newspaper outlets and dates when the Section 48 Notice will appear is set out in Table 5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diss Express - 6 June 2025 and 13 June 2025 • Eastern Daily Press - 11 June 2025 and 18 June 2025 • The Guardian - 16 June 2025 • London Gazette - 18 June 2025 	
	<p>9.57 Media, advertising and publicity</p>	<p>The Applicant issued a series of media releases to local/regional publications at the start and after the close of the Phase Two consultation, including:</p>
	<p>9.58 To raise awareness about the Scheme and consultation within and beyond the Core Consultation Zone, we will issue a media release to local and trade press at the start of the consultation to provide an overview of the Scheme, why we are consulting and how people can access information about the Scheme, including dates of information events (online and in-person) and the deadline for receipt of responses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A press release on 18 June 2025, announcing the start of Phase Two consultation, a list of in-person and online information events and where people could view more information; and • A press release on 6 August 2025, announcing the close of the consultation, a summary of consultation activities undertaken and thanking stakeholders for their engagement.
	<p>9.59 A further media release will be issued at the close of consultation.</p>	

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	<p>9.60 In addition to publishing a formal Section 48 Notice in local and national newspapers, we will place advertisements in local media to publicise the consultation and information events taking place (online and in-person).</p>	<p>The Applicant placed an additional advertisement in the Diss Express on 27 June 2025 and 4 July 2025. Press releases were also issued to 22 local and regional media outlets as set out in Table 6 of the SoCC.</p>
	<p>9.61 A list of local and regional media outlets to whom media releases will be issued, and at least one round of advertising place with, is set out in Table 6.</p>	
	<p>9.62 Posters publicising the consultation will be issued to information event venues, and the clerks of parish councils for display on local parish notice boards. They will also be made available to other community venues and local information points within the Core Consultation Zone. The posters will be displayed at the discretion of the community venue or local information point.</p>	<p>The Applicant issued posters to 71 community venues, local information points, as noted in Appendix 3 of the SoCC to advertise the Phase Two consultation from 18 June 2025. Posters included a list of in-person and online information events. Host parish councils were included in this list of 71 community venues.</p>
	<p>9.63 Changes to consultation activities</p>	<p>No changes to consultation activities were required.</p>
	<p>9.64 Should any change to our consultation activities be required due to circumstances outside our control, details will be publicised in line with the methods set out in this SoCC to the extent it is reasonable and proportionate to do so.</p>	
	<p>9.65 Coordination with other NSIP developers</p>	<p>The Applicant has and will continue to work closely with The Drovers Solar Farm development team, another IGP solar and BESS project in Norfolk. The Applicant will continue to engage with other developers in South Norfolk and Norfolk.</p>
	<p>9.66 The Applicant recognises that there are a number of other NSIPs in the South Norfolk District and Norfolk County. Ahead of the Phase Two consultation, the Applicant will seek to engage with third-party developers to determine the timing of any defined consultation periods and activities, including when in-person events will be taking place. Where practicable, the Applicant will try to ensure that in-person events do not take place on the same days to ensure all stakeholders can take part in the consultations for all projects.</p>	<p>No other in-person information events for solar NSIP projects took place at the same time as the Applicant's in-person events. RWE's High Grove Solar (located within Breckland District, Norfolk) in-person information events ended on Friday 30 May 2025 and IGP's The Drovers Solar Farm in-person information events ended on Friday 20 June 2025. The Applicant's in-person events took place between Wednesday 2 July and Tuesday 15 July 2025.</p>
<p>10. Environmental Information</p>	<p>10.3 We will consult on the PEIR, which will allow consultees to consider and provide feedback on preliminary EIA information.</p>	<p>The PEIR and accompanying NTS were made available on the Scheme website and in hard copy (for inspection only) as CAP sites from 18 June 2025. Hard copies were also available at the in-person information events, and at Long Stratton Library. The feedback form was designed to include questions targeted at specified areas of the scheme, including requesting comments on the contents of the PEIR and NTS.</p>
	<p>12.1 Consultation responses</p>	<p>Respondents received an automated acknowledgement to confirm receipt of</p>

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12. Next steps and contact details	12.2 Consultation responses must be submitted in writing or online by 23:59 on Wednesday 6 August 2025, unless agreed otherwise with us directly. Responses received after that date may not be considered.	feedback via the online feedback form. If submitted by email, respondents would receive an automated reply, noting that the email had been received by the project team.
	12.3 When a respondent submits feedback to the consultation (via the online feedback form or via email) an automated acknowledgement to confirm receipt will be issued.	
	12.4 Any person submitting feedback online who is concerned that they have not received acknowledgement of receipt is advised to contact the community relations team using the communication channels.	
	12.5 Information services	The communications channels were accessible for stakeholders throughout the consultation period and remained open throughout the pre-application stage.
	12.6 The community relations team is available to provide people with assistance in finding out about the Scheme and our Phase Two consultation.	
	12.7 You can get in touch with the Scheme community relations team using any of the communication channels listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email: info@eastpyesolar.co.uk • Freephone: 0808 281 3175 (09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays, with a voicemail service to take messages outside of these hours) • Post: FREEPOST EAST PYE SOLAR (no stamp required) 	
	12.8 These communication channels will remain open throughout the pre-application stage. This is to enable engagement between consultees, communities and the project team to continue outside of the consultation period. The Scheme website may also be updated with relevant information as it becomes available.	
	12.9 Ongoing engagement and potential further consultation	
12.10 If, as a result of feedback, our proposals change to the extent we consider it necessary to undertake further Targeted Consultation, this will be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.	Any Targeted Consultation will take place, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.	

8 Phase Two (Statutory) Consultation

8.1 Background

- 8.1.1 This chapter of the Consultation Report sets out the consultation activities carried out by the Applicant with the people living in the vicinity of the land ('the community') to which the Scheme relates under s47 of the PA2008.
- 8.1.2 As required under s47 (7) of the PA2008, the Applicant carried out the Statutory Consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the SoCC.
- 8.1.3 Phase Two consultation commenced on Wednesday 18 June 2025 and closed on Wednesday 6 August 2025. This was a period of 49 days, thereby exceeding the 28-day minimum requirement. The Applicant held six Phase Two consultation in-person information events and one online information event between 2 July and 21 July 2025.

8.2 Community Access Points (CAPs)

- 8.2.1 As set out in the SoCC, the Applicant had identified and liaised with four publicly accessible venues across the Core Consultation Zone to act as CAPs.
- 8.2.2 The details of these four CAPs are presented in **Table 8-1**.

Table 8-1 Community Access Points

Venue	Opening Hours
Long Stratton Library The Street, Long Stratton, NR15 2XJ	Monday - Friday: 08:00-19:00 Saturday and Sunday: 10:00-16:00
Loddon Library 31 Church Plain, Loddon, NR14 6EX	Monday - Friday: 08:00-19:00 Saturday: 08:00-16:00 Sunday: 10:00-16:00
Bungay Community Centre Wharton Street, Bungay, NR35 1EL	Monday: 09:00-14:30 Tuesday to Saturday: 09:00-17:00 Sunday: Closed
Poringland Library Overtons Way, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7WB	Monday - Friday: 08:00-19:00 Saturday and Sunday: 10:00-16:00

- 8.2.3 The following hard copy Scheme information was available to access at CAPs during the Phase Two consultation, these were available for reference only:
- Scheme PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS); and
 - Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).
- 8.2.4 In addition, the following information was available to be taken away by stakeholders at CAPs during the Phase Two consultation:

- Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet;
- Phase Two Feedback Form; and
- BESS Fact Sheet.

8.2.5 A hard copy of the PEIR was available to view at Long Stratton Library throughout the s47 consultation period.

8.2.6 The Applicant also confirmed that each of the CAPs had access to computers where all consultation documents could be accessed online, free of charge.

8.3 Section 47 information events

8.3.1 During the statutory consultation period, the Applicant held a series of information events, both in-person and online. These events took place during the consultation period across a range of times, days and venues between Wednesday 2 July and Monday 21 July 2025.

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

8.3.3 The details of these events, including attendance numbers recorded by the Applicant, are presented in **Table 8-2**.

Table 8-2 Attendance recorded for Phase Two consultation information events

Venue	Date and time	Number of attendees
Aslacton and Great Moulton Coronation Hall Carr Lane, Great Moulton, Norwich, NR15 2LA	Wednesday 2 July 2025, 14:30-19:30	125
Saxlingham Nethergate Village Hall Steward Close, Saxlingham Nethergate, Norwich, NR15 1AJ	Thursday 3 July 2025, 14:30-19:30	101
Long Stratton Village Hall Ipswich Road, Long Stratton, Norwich, NR15 2TA	Thursday 10 July 2025, 14:00-19:00	71
Brooke Village Hall Norwich Road, Brooke, Norwich, NR15 1AB	Friday 11 July 2025, 14:30-19:30	85
Hempnall Village Hall Bungay Road, Hempnall, Norwich, NR15 2NG	Saturday 12 July 2025, 11:00-15:00	83
Seething and Mundham Village Hall Whealers Lane, Seething, Norwich, NR15 1EJ	Tuesday 15 July 2025, 14:30-19:30	68
Community Webinar Via Zoom	Monday 21 July 2025, 18:30-20:00	21
Total attendees		554

Figure 8-1 Phase Two Information Event at Long Stratton Village Hall



8.3.4 The following Scheme information was available at the in-person information events, (included in **Consultation Report Appendix 6 Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.7]**),

For members of the public to takeaway:

- Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet;
- Phase Two Consultation Feedback Form;
- Phase Two Consultation BESS Factsheet; and
- Site Location Overview Plan and Section Maps.

For members of the public to read (but not take away):

- Maps, diagrams and visualisations submitted as part of the PEIR;
- Phase Two Consultation Event Display Materials;
- The SoCC (included in **Consultation Report Appendix 5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.6]**);

- Scheme PEIR and associated appendices and figures; and
- Scheme PEIR NTS.

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

8.3.6 The Applicant held an online community information event (webinar) to take place on Monday 21 July 2025 and published a recording of the webinar on the Applicant's website to account for different consultees' availability.

8.3.7 Individuals wishing to attend the webinar were able to register in advance via the Applicant's website from 4 June 2025, with this information being included in all material providing details of the events being held, as well as the SoCC.

8.3.8 The webinar included a presentation by the Applicant and the Applicant team covering a variety of topics, followed by a question-and-answer session. Information presented during the community webinar replicated the information that was shared with stakeholders at in-person information events. A copy of the presentation slide deck can be found in (included in **Consultation Report Appendix 6 Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.7]**).

8.4 The Applicant's website

8.4.1 The Applicant updated its website at the start of the statutory s47 consultation. this update was to ensure that the website presented clear information about the statutory consultation, what was being consulted on and the development process.

8.4.2 The website provided people with access to all consultation materials and technical documents produced to inform the consultation, an online Feedback Form and access to register to attend the webinar.

8.4.3 The following materials were free to view and download from the Applicant's website from the start of the Phase Two consultation and are provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.6]**, **Consultation Report Appendix 6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.7]**, **Consultation Report Appendix 8: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.9]**. The materials available were as following:

- SoCC;
- Phase Two Community Postcard;
- Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet;
- Phase Two Consultation Feedback Form;

- Phase Two Consultation Event Display Boards;
- Phase Two Consultation Indicative Masterplan (PEIR Figure 5.1);
- Phase Two Consultation Poster;
- East Pye Solar BESS Fact Sheet;
- Phase Two Consultation Concept Masterplan and Section Maps;
- Section 47 Notice;
- Section 48 Notice;
- PEIR chapters, figures and appendices; and
- PEIR NTS.

8.5 Consultation publicity

8.5.1 In line with the SoCC, information about the statutory consultation, including details of the public information events, website, communication channels, CAPs and the response deadline were publicised in the following ways:

- A Phase Two Community Consultation Postcard, which was issued to properties within the Core Consultation Zone and available on the applicant's website (a copy of the Phase Two Community Consultation Postcard is provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN0110014/App/5.7]**);
- A Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet, which was available to take away at in-person information events, at CAPs and viewed or downloaded from the Applicant's website (a copy of the Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet is provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN0110014/App/5.7]**);
- Posters publicising the consultation opportunities were issued to 71 identified local information points to be displayed and in the vicinity of the Core Consultation Zone (a copy of the poster is provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN0110014/App/5.7]**);
- Section 48 notices were placed in regional newspapers on successive weeks and in national newspapers once, as listed in Table 10.1 (a copy of the Section 48 notice is provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 8: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.9]**);
- Advertisements placed in the Diss Express on Friday 27 June and Friday 4 July to publicise consultation opportunities (a copy of the

advertisement is provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN0110014/App/5.7]**;

- The Applicant's website, which was updated to publicise the consultation opportunities and make available consultation materials, including the Section 48 notice and Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet; and
- A press release was issued to the regional and trade media (a copy of the press release and publications issued to is included in **Consultation Report Appendix 6: Phase Two Consultation Materials [EN0110014/App/5.7]**).

8.6 Consultation response

8.6.1 The Applicant received 870 feedback responses from Section 47 consultees. All comments were taken into consideration by the Applicant. The comments received are summarised in **Chapter 12** of this report and presented in detail in **Consultation Report Appendix 10: Section 47 Applicant Response Tables [EN0110014/APP/5.11]**, together with responses setting out how the Applicant has had regard to the feedback in finalising the DCO application.

8.7 Stakeholder briefings and engagement

8.7.1 In addition to formal notifications, as described in **Chapter 10** of this report, local authorities contacts, councillors, MPs, parish councils and identified community organisations and seldom heard groups were notified by email of the start of the statutory consultation period on 18 June 2025.

8.7.2 The Applicant included an invitation for a briefing in the emails sent to local authorities, councillors, MPs and parish councils. The Applicant held a number of meetings with stakeholders.

8.7.3 The Applicant also held a number of meetings with near neighbours and members of the community, organised separately to the emails being sent to the stakeholders above.

8.7.4 A list of seldom heard groups was produced by the Applicant using available data, these groups were notified on 18 June 2025 to the launch of Phase Two consultation, sharing details about the consultation period and associated materials, how and where information was being made public, as well as mechanisms on providing feedback as well as offering direct engagement with the groups/interests they represent. No requests were received from seldom heard groups to conduct additional engagement and/or provide more information

8.7.5 A list of seldom heard groups identified for the purposes of Phase Two Consultation can be found in the published SoCC, provided in **Consultation**

Report Appendix 5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.6].

8.7.6 **Table 8-3** sets out the meetings that were held, during and following Phase Two consultation with stakeholders and near neighbours.

Table 8-3 Stakeholder meetings held during Phase Two consultation

Stakeholder/Location	Date	Notes
Online meeting with Ben Goldsborough MP (South Norfolk)	1 July 2025	The Applicant met with Ben Goldsborough MP to discuss the Phase Two consultation, as well as the letters sent to landowners across the Site.
In-person meeting with resident at Clay Cottage NR15 2QU (Site 5)	3 July 2025	The Applicant met with this resident to discuss landscaping concerns and location of the Project Substation in Site 5. The Applicant used conversations to help inform the ongoing design of ahead of the Phase Two statutory consultation and used each meeting as an opportunity to discuss additional stakeholder concerns, including opportunities for landscaping and screening.
In-person meeting with residents near Site 8	12 July 2025 12 August 2025	The Applicant met with residents near to Site 8 to discuss screening measures and transport access.
Online meeting with Norfolk County Council Transport Officers: • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED]	22 July 2025	The Applicant met with the Transport Officers to discuss Site access and routing, trip generation and distribution, cable routing and Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs), traffic management measures and panel replacement.

8.8 Statement of compliance with consultation under Section 47 of the PA2008

8.8.1 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with s47 of the PA2008 through the following activities:

- The Applicant consulted on the SoCC with relevant local authorities as defined in s43 (1) of the PA2008, giving them each at least 28 days to respond (as described in **Chapter 7** of this report);
- The Applicant advertised the SoCC in the publications described in **Chapter 7** of this report;
- The Applicant consulted with the community by reference to a Core Consultation Zone;
- The Applicant notified and offered briefing meetings to elected representatives and key stakeholders;

- The Applicant welcomed over 550 members of the public across a series of six in-person events and one online information events;
- A total response period of 49 days was provided for the statutory s47 consultation, in excess of the minimum period of 28 days as stipulated by the PA2008.

9 Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the PA2008

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 This chapter of the Consultation Report details the Applicant's compliance with s42 of the PA2008 in respect of the Statutory Consultation.

9.2 Statutory requirements and guidance

9.2.1 S42 of the PA2008 requires that the Applicant must consult the following groups of stakeholders about the proposed Application:

- (a) such persons as may be prescribed;
- (b) each local authority that is within s43; and
- (d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in s44.

9.2.2 In relation to s42 (1)(a), the Applicant consulted with all persons listed as prescribed consultees for the purposes of s42 (1)(a) and Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations, that were notified to the Applicant by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS under Regulation 11 (1)(a) of the EIA Regulations in the Scoping Opinion (being also the 'consultation bodies' for the purposes of the EIA Regulations), as well as through its own investigations (including in respect of statutory undertakers). These persons are listed in **Consultation Report Appendix 7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**.

9.2.3 Under s42 (1)(b), the local authorities under the definitions set out in s42 of the PA2008 were consulted. **Table 9-1** includes a list of relevant local authorities and their classification, as defined by the PA2008.

9.2.4 For the purposes of s42 (1)(d), a person is within s44 of the PA2008 if the Applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that person is an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land; is interested in the land or has power to sell or convey the land; or is entitled to make a relevant claim if the order sought by the proposed Applicant were to be made and fully implemented.

9.2.5 The relevant persons defined under s44 of the PA2008 were consulted as part of the s42 consultation between Wednesday 18 June and Wednesday 6 August 2025. The list of land interests consulted is provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**.

9.2.6 S45 (1) of the PA2008 states that the Applicant, when consulting a stakeholder under s42, must provide notification of the deadline for responses to the consultation. S45 (2) states that such a deadline must not be less than 28 days. The Applicant provided s42 consultees a period of 49 days (from 18 June to 6 August 2025) for consultation responses. This deadline for responses was communicated in a s42 covering letter (provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 7: S42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**) and the Section 48 Notice (provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 8: S48 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.9]**).

9.3 Preliminary Environmental Information Report

9.3.1 The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) were produced and published as part of the Statutory Consultation.

9.3.2 The PEIR comprised the information that was compiled by the Applicant to enable the prescribed consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the Scheme.

9.3.3 A PEIR NTS was also produced, recognising that some prescribed consultees may wish to view a more concise and less-detailed document.

9.4 Identifying Section 43 consultees

9.4.1 S42 (1)(b) of the PA2008 places a duty for the Applicant to consult each local authority that is within s43.

9.4.2 S43 defines what a local authority is for the purposes of s42, meaning any local authority in whose area the proposed development would be sited and neighbouring authorities sharing a boundary.

9.4.3 Local authorities are placed in four categories – A, B, C and D – under the PA2008. The category depends on two points: where the proposed development sits inside the authority's own area, and the level of authority within the local government structure:

- **Category A:** An upper-tier authority, such as a county council, when the development lies outside its area.
- **Category B:** An upper-tier authority when the development lies within its area.
- **Category C:** A lower-tier authority, such as a district or borough council, when the development lies within its area.
- **Category D:** A lower-tier authority when the development lies outside its area.

9.4.4 The Applicant identified and consulted with local authorities in accordance with s43 of the PA2008. These local authorities are listed in **Table 9-1** and referred to in this Consultation Report as ‘s43 consultees’.

Table 9-1 Relevant local authorities under s43 of the PA2008

Local authority	Classification under s43	Dates of consultation
Breckland District Council	A (neighbouring)	Wednesday 18 June 2025 to Wednesday 6 August 2025
Broadland District Council		
Broads Authority		
East Suffolk Council		
Great Yarmouth Borough Council		
Mid Suffolk District Council		
Norwich City Council		
South Norfolk Council	B (host)	
Norfolk County Council	C (host)	
Cambridgeshire County Council	D (neighbouring)	
Lincolnshire County Council		
Suffolk County Council		

9.5 Identifying Section 44 Consultees

- 9.5.1 S42 (1) (d) of the PA2008 places a duty for the Applicant to consult each person who is within one or more categories set out in s44.
- 9.5.2 The Applicant sought to identify the s42 (1)(d) consultees (hereafter referred to in this Consultation Report as ‘s44 consultees’) by undertaking diligent inquiry before the statutory consultation commenced. This included reviewing publicly available data (for example, at the Land Registry), sending out Land Interest Questionnaires, undertaking site visits and erecting site notices.
- 9.5.3 The Applicant notified 1,800 identified s44 consultees by post on 11 June 2025 and by email on 18 June 2025. These consultees were informed of a response deadline of Wednesday 6 August, exceeding the statutory requirement of 28 days.
- 9.5.4 Any additional consultees identified during Statutory Consultation received an extended deadline ensuring the statutory requirement of 28 days was upheld.

- 9.5.5 All persons listed in the **Book of Reference [EN0110014/APP/4.3]**, which is up to date at the time of submitting the DCO Application, were consulted under s42(1)(d).
- 9.5.6 Where owners, lessees, tenants and occupiers were unknown, the Applicant placed notices detailing the consultation at the relevant locations around the Site.
- 9.5.7 An example of the notice and a map showing locations where the notices were placed is included in in **Consultation Report Appendix 8: S48 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.9]** due to the timings of the notices being placed. During the consultation period, the signs were checked on a weekly basis, with photographs taken on each visit. If a notice was damaged or missing it was replaced during these visits.

9.6 Notifying S42 consultees

- 9.6.1 The Applicant notified s42 consultees of the statutory consultation by issuing the following package of correspondence by tracked post and email. Emails were issued on 18 June 2025 to s42 consultees informing of the launch of consultation, letters were also issued to be received by stakeholders on this date.

The following were issued to s42 consultees:

- A s42 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials (provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 7: S42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**);
 - A site plan showing the location of the Scheme (provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 7: S42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**); and
 - A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the PA2008 (including details of the community information events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge) (provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 8: S48 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.9]**).
- 9.6.2 A list of all s42 consultees that were notified for the statutory phase of consultation can be found in **Consultation Report Appendix 7: S42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**.

9.7 Duty to notify the Planning Inspectorate of the Proposed Application under Section 46 of the PA2008

9.7.1 Prior to commencing s42 consultation, the Applicant notified the SoS of its intention to submit an application for development consent for the Scheme under s46 of the PA2008. The notification was sent to the Planning Inspectorate electronically on 17 June 2025, including the following attachments:

- A s46 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials on the Applicant's website and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB request (included in **Consultation Report Appendix 7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**).
- Examples of copies of the Section 42 and Section 44 covering letters;
- A copy of the Section 48 notice (including the details of the information events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge); and
- A site location plan showing the Scheme (included in **Consultation Report Appendix 7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**).

9.7.2 The Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS acknowledge received of the notification on 26 June 2025. A copy of this acknowledgement is included in **Consultation Report Appendix 7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**.

9.8 Post-statutory consultation activities

9.8.1 The Applicant also issued further letters during the Targeted Consultation to additional identified landowners, with extended close dates for sending feedback in acknowledgement of the delayed receipt. The details, including dates, are included within the Section 44 Consultee List within **Consultation Report Appendix 7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**.

9.8.2 The list of all s44 consultees consulted in presented in **Consultation Report Appendix 7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**. This appendix details the date on which they were notified of consultation and the deadline provided to them for responding.

9.9 Summary

- 9.9.1 In summary, s42 consultees (including those defined under s43 and s44) were notified of the commencement of the Section 42 consultation in writing on or before Wednesday 18 June 2025.
- 9.9.2 The PEIR formed part of the s42 consultation documents under s45(3) of the PA2008. S42 consultees were also directed towards the s47 statutory consultation materials, as described in Chapter 7 of this report.
- 9.9.3 With the s42 consultation period commencing on Wednesday 18 June and ending Wednesday 6 August 2025, this provided a response of 49 days (therefore exceeding the minimum 28-day statutory period set out in s45(2) of the PA2008).

9.10 Statement of compliance with formal consultation under Section 42

9.10.1 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with s42, s44, s45 and s46 of the PA2008 by undertaking the following activity:

- The Applicant consulted with such persons as may be described (s42 (1)(a) – (d)) and relevant to the Scheme, including landowners under s44;
- Notification of the Scheme under s46 was provided to the SoS on 17 June 2025, before the start of the consultation period; and
- The total response periods provided for each part of the s42 consultation were each provided at least the statutory minimum period of 28 days.

9.10.2 Further details of how the Applicant complied with these sections under the PA2008 is set out in **Consultation Report Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance [EN0110014/APP/5.2]**.

10 Notification and Publication under Section 48 of the PA2008

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 This chapter of the Consultation Report details how the Applicant has complied with s48 of the PA2008 (duty to publicise).

10.2 Statutory requirements and guidance

10.2.1 S48 of the PA2008 requires the Applicant to publicise the proposed Application in the prescribed manner. A deadline for the receipt of comments to the publicity must also be provided.

10.2.2 Regulation 4 of APFP 2009 sets out the publicity under s48 of the PA2008 should entail, which requires the publication of a notice given publications, with requirements on the contents of such notice. specifically, Regulation 4 requires an applicant to publish the notice for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers, once in a national newspaper, and once in the London Gazette.

10.2.3 Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations notes that where a proposed application for an order granting development consent is an EIA development, the Applicant must, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under s48(1) of the PA2008, send a copy of that notice to the consultation bodies and to any person identified to the applicant in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations. The Applicant complied with this requirement as can be seen in the Section 42 Notification Letter in **Consultation Report Appendix 7: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.8]**.

10.2.4 The notice contained the required information including a deadline for comments on the proposals which at 49 days, was longer than a statutory period.

10.2.5 Evidence of compliance with the relevant legislation is provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance [EN0110014/APP/5.2]**.

10.3 Publication of Section 48 Notice

10.3.1 The Section 48 Notice (included in **Consultation Report Appendix 8: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.9]**) publicising the Scheme and advertising the intention to apply for a DCO was placed in publications listed in **Table 10-1**.

10.3.2 All consultees identified under s42 of the PA2008 were provided a copy of the Section 48 Notice as required by Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations and described in **Chapter 9** of this report.

10.3.3 Copies of the notices as placed in the newspapers are provided in Consultation Report **Appendix 8: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.9]**.

10.3.4 The Section 48 notice contained the required information under Regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations.

Table 10-1 Publication Schedule of Section 48 Notices

Publication	First insertion	Second insertion
Diss Express	6 June 2025	13 June 2025
Eastern Daily Press	11 June 2025	18 June 2025
The Guardian	16 June 2025	N/A
The London Gazette	18 June 2025	N/A

10.4 Statement of compliance with formal consultation under Section 48

10.4.1 In summary, the Applicant complied with s48 of the PA2008 by undertaking the following activities:

- The Applicant publicised the Statutory Consultation in appropriate newspapers in the prescribed manner, as listed in **Table 10-1**;
- The Applicant publicised Section 48 notices at the start of Phase Two consultation, notifying consultees of the PEIR and where the consultation documents could be reviewed; and
- The Applicant placed Section 48 notices around the Scheme site area (locations shown in **Consultation Report Appendix 8: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.9]**).

11 Targeted consultation (non-statutory)

11.1 Overview

11.1.1 Following the close of Phase Two (statutory s42, s47 and s48) consultation in August 2025, the Applicant continued to refine the Scheme's proposals in preparation for submitting a DCO application. This refinement was informed by further design work and due diligence, consideration of consultee feedback, and responding to the results and data from environmental assessments.

11.1.2 This resulted in a series of specific changes to the Scheme development boundary compared to the development boundary presented in the PEIR and for Phase Two Consultation. The changes focused on a series of changes, including:

- Additional small areas of land adjacent to and to the north-west of Site 1; and to the southwest of Site 1, both of which being associated with the works connecting the new National Grid Substation to the existing transmission electric lines;
- Additional small areas of land throughout the Scheme associated with updates to highway visibility splays;
- Additional small areas of land throughout the Scheme to accommodate Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) that could result in highway works, temporary removal of street furniture (benches, bins, bollards, etc.) and/or vegetation removal;
- Confirmation of the preferred location of the new National Grid Substation, which is proposed to be located within Site 1B; and
- An area within Site 7D where additional solar PV panels have been included.

11.1.3 The applicant undertook a further round of Targeted Consultation on these specific changes to ensure communities and statutory consultees had an opportunity to comment on the full development boundary prior to a DCO application being submitted.

11.2 Preparing for Targeted Consultation

11.2.1 The Applicant prepared a strategy for undertaking this stage of Targeted Consultation.

11.2.2 This strategy was informed by the relevant legislation and guidance, as described in **Chapter 3** of this report and further detailed in **Consultation Report Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance [EN0110014/APP/5.2]**.

- 11.2.3 The Applicant also considered the commitments and principles established in its published SoCC. Paragraph 12.10 of the Applicant's SoCC states: *"If, as a result of feedback, our proposals change to the extent we consider it necessary to undertake a further Targeted Consultation, this will be undertaken, as far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC."*
- 11.2.4 The Applicant was keen to provide an opportunity for the host local authorities to understand and comment on its proposed approach prior to commencing Targeted Consultation activities.
- 11.2.5 The Applicant shared a document, the 'Approach to Targeted Consultation document' for further review and comment with Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council on Wednesday 15 October 2025. A deadline was not provided for comments. A finalised version of this document can be found in **Consultation Report Appendix 9: Targeted Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.10]**.
- 11.2.6 The Applicant did not receive comments on the approach document from Norfolk County Council nor South Norfolk Council.

11.3 Identifying consultees

- 11.3.1 The Targeted Consultation was carried out in accordance with relevant parts of the PA2008, the APFP Regulations 2009 and the EIA Regulations 2017.
- 11.3.2 The Applicant proactively notified the following consultees:
- All 114 prescribed consultees under s42 of the PA2008 were notified via a letter and invited to respond, including 35 parish councils;
 - As part of this, all host and neighbouring local authorities were included in the consultation, aligning with consultation under s43 of the PA2008.
 - Any new land interests were consulted, aligning with consultation under s44 of the PA2008.
 - Parties representing the interests of these localised communities, including relevant ward members, Parish Councils, MPs, community groups and gateway organisations, were notified. This aligns with consultation under the SoCC and involved the same list of non-prescribed groups consulted during the Phase Two consultation.
 - The Core Consultation Zone of over 8,400 properties were notified (via a letter) and invited to response. This zone is consistent with the zone presented in the published SoCC.
 - Any parties that have registered to be kept informed by email and by post.

11.4 Targeted Consultation Period (October - November 2025)

11.4.1 The Applicant carried out a defined stage of Targeted Consultation between Wednesday 22 October and Wednesday 26 November 2025.

11.4.2 As part of this consultation, the Applicant published on its website a Targeted Consultation Information Change Note to provide details of the consultation, present each specific change to the development boundary, and confirm that the changes did not lead to any changes to the environment effects reports in the PEIR. This included a description of every proposed change and the total area of the change.

11.4.3 A copy of the Targeted Consultation Information Change Note is included in **Consultation Report Appendix 9: Targeted Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.10]**.

11.4.4 The following Targeted Consultation Materials were available to access on the Applicant's website and sent to stakeholders in hard-copy format when requested:

- Targeted Consultation Information Change Note;
- Area Maps of each specific change; and
- Targeted Consultation Feedback Form

11.4.5 The following materials were also prepared by the Applicant for the purpose of the Targeted Consultation:

- The Approach to Targeted Consultation document;
- The Section 42 Covering Letter; and
- Copy of the Notice (the Information Poster) erected by the land reference team.

11.4.6 All documents referenced above relating to the Targeted Consultation can be found in **Consultation Report Appendix 9: Targeted Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.10]**.

11.4.7 The Applicant publicised the consultation information and response deadline by:

- Notifying consultees as defined by s42 of the PA2008;
- Writing to properties within the Consultation Core Consultation Zone (as presented in **Figure 7-1** in this report), consistent with the approach set out in the Applicant's SoCC;

- Publishing a consultation advert in the Diss Express on 24 October 2025 (this advertisement can be found in **Consultation Report Appendix 9: Targeted Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.10]**);
- Providing the relevant consultation information documents – including an Information Change Note, feedback form, and enlarged maps of the changes – on the Applicant’s website; and
- Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed.

11.4.8 The Applicant recorded 677 submissions of feedback from community organisations, residents and interested parties considered as s47 feedback to the Targeted Consultation. The Applicant considered these representations alongside all other s47 feedback received at previous consultation. A summary of s47 feedback is provided in **Chapter 12** of this report and presented in more detail alongside the Applicant’s consideration of feedback received in **Consultation Report Appendix 10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.11]**.

11.4.9 The Applicant recorded 24 submissions of feedback from s42 consultees to the Targeted Consultation. The Applicant considered these representations alongside other s42 feedback received at the previous consultation. A summary of s42 feedback is provided in **Chapter 12** of this report and presented in more detail alongside the Applicant’s consideration of feedback received in **Consultation Report Appendix 11: Section 42 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.12]**.

12 Account of feedback and the Applicant's response to the statutory consultation

12.1 Background

12.1.1 This chapter explains the process the Applicant undertook to analyse the feedback received to the statutory consultation under s42 and s47 of the PA2008. The Applicant did not receive any feedback that could be identified as being specifically submitted as a result of the publicity carried out as required by s48.

12.1.2 A definition of who the Applicant consulted, how the Applicant identified these groups and how it consulted with these groups at the statutory phase of the consultation can be found in **Chapter 728** (Section 47) and **Chapter 9** (Section 42). **Chapter 10** sets out the Applicant's approach to publicise the consultation under Section 48.

12.1.3 As detailed in **Table 12-4** and **Table 12-5** in this chapter, the Applicant has addressed responses when changes have been proposed, or objections made and have provided responses to how they have had regard to them.

12.2 Feedback analysis methodology

12.2.1 This section sets out the approach taken to receiving and recording feedback at the statutory phase of consultation. Consultation feedback was received through a range of channels, including:

- Hard copy Feedback Forms – available on request and at information events;
- Online Feedback Form – available on the Applicant's website;
- Email: info@eastpyesolar.co.uk, which was promoted on all consultation promotions and materials; and
- Post – received via the Scheme's Freepost address: FREEPOST EAST PYE SOLAR, which was promoted on all consultation promotion and materials.

12.2.2 Feedback received through these channels was logged and securely recorded by the Applicant.

12.2.3 Details on how feedback could be submitted were included in community consultation materials and on the Applicant's website.

12.2.4 **Table 12-1** details the volume of feedback recorded as being received through each channel.

Table 12-1 Methods of response during the statutory consultation

Type	Number of responses
Online Feedback Form	79
Hard copy Feedback Form	52
Email	362
Letter	376
Total	869

12.2.5 All responses were assigned a unique ID number and their feedback comments logged against this number.

12.2.6 All hard copy Feedback Forms and letters were scanned and recorded against the respondent's unique ID number.

12.2.7 Where a response was received, the Applicant identified who had submitted it and whether that response had been submitted by an individual or organisation under Section 42 or Section 47.

12.2.8 **Table 12-2** details the number of responses identified as being submitted by each category of consultee.

Table 12-2 Responses received in respect of the Planning Act 2008 defined consultee categories

Category in respect of the Planning Act 2008	Number of responses
Prescribed bodies (Section 42 (1) (a))	25
Local authorities (Section 42 (1) (b))	6
Local community (Section 47)	869

12.3 Section 47 Consultation: Responses received, issues raised, and changes made

12.3.1 This section sets out responses received to Phase Two consultation, which was statutory under Section 47 of the PA2008.

12.3.2 This consultation was held over a seven-week period between Wednesday 18 June and Wednesday 6 August 2025.

12.3.3 Responses were collected primarily via emails to the Scheme email address and through the online Feedback Form. Written responses and hard copy

Feedback Forms received to the Applicant’s Freepost address were also collected and their content considered.

12.3.4 Through the Phase Two Feedback Form, the Applicant asked for comments on a range of topics, including views on the overall Scheme proposals, views on the Indicative Masterplan, the Cable Route Corridor, community benefits, and provision to provide any further comments.

12.3.5 The Phase Two Feedback Form (both the hard copy and the online version) included a mix of closed and open-ended questions to encourage responses regarding the respondent’s interest in the Scheme.

12.3.6 Responses received through the Feedback Form (both hard copy and online) therefore included responses to closed (multiple choice) questions and open-ended questions.

12.3.7 The quantitative data from the closed questions is presented in **Table 12-3** of this report. The qualitative data from the open-end responses has been considered alongside written feedback received through email and Freepost and is summarised in **Table 12-4** and presented in full in Consultation Report **Appendix 10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.11]**, alongside the Applicant’s response to this feedback.

12.4 Quantitative analysis of responses received

12.4.1 **Table 12-3** presents a summary of the quantitative data gathered by the Applicant through its Feedback Form. The results are presented visually in **Figures Figure 12-1 to Figure 12-4**.

Table 12-3 Summary of quantitative data from Phase Two Consultation

Feedback form question	Analysis of response data
<p>Q1: How would you describe your interest in East Pye Solar?</p>	<p>132 people answered this question. The vast majority (93.9%) described their interest as being a local resident.</p> <p>Other respondents identified as being landowners (4.5%), regular visitors (4.5%), local representatives (2.3%), local business owners (1.5%), local interest groups (1.5%) and ‘other’ (0.8%). No respondent selected the statutory organisation option for this question.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that respondents could select more than one aspect they find important, and therefore percentages will exceed 100%.</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 12-1.</p>
<p>Q2: As a principle, what is your view of installing ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK?</p>	<p>128 people answered this question.</p> <p>89 respondents (69.5%) did not agree there is a need to install ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK. 33 (25.8%) indicated they agreed with the need to install ground-mounted solar</p>

Feedback form question	Analysis of response data
	<p>infrastructure and 6 (4.7%) felt they do not know enough to have an opinion.</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 12-2.</p>
<p>Q3: Based on our updated proposals, which can be located in our Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet, the PEIR and PEIR NTS, what are your views of East Pye Solar?</p>	<p>132 people answered this question.</p> <p>97 respondents (73.5%) indicated they do not support the proposals, 19 respondents (14.4%) signalled they would like changes to be made to be able to support the proposals.</p> <p>12 respondents (9.1%) indicated they support the proposals, and 4 respondents (3.0%) indicated they would like more information in order to form a view. No respondents chose the 'I have no opinion' option.</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 12-3.</p>
<p>Q4: Which aspects of the Scheme are most important to you?</p>	<p>132 respondents answered this question.</p> <p>The most frequently selected aspect was 'Landscape and visual' (76.5%), followed by 'Ecology and biodiversity' (78.0%), 'Soils and agriculture' (62.9%), 'Transport and access' (59.8%), 'Site selection and consideration of alternatives' (57.6%) and 'Cumulative and in-combination effects' (56.8%).</p> <p>Further, respondents expressed other aspects as being most important including 'Human health' (54.5%), 'Ground conditions' (52.3%), 'Noise and vibration' (50.0%) and 'Socioeconomics, tourism and recreation' (49.2%).</p> <p>Other aspects selected included 'Cultural heritage' (47.0%), 'Glint and glare' (47.0%), 'Hydrology, flood risk and drainage' (40.9%), 'Climate change' (36.4%) and 'Air quality' (30.3%).</p> <p>The Applicant notes that respondents could select more than one aspect they find important, and therefore the percentages will exceed 100%.</p> <p>The results of this question are presented in Figure 12-4.</p>

Figure 12-1 Responses to Q1 “How would you describe your interest in East Pye Solar?”

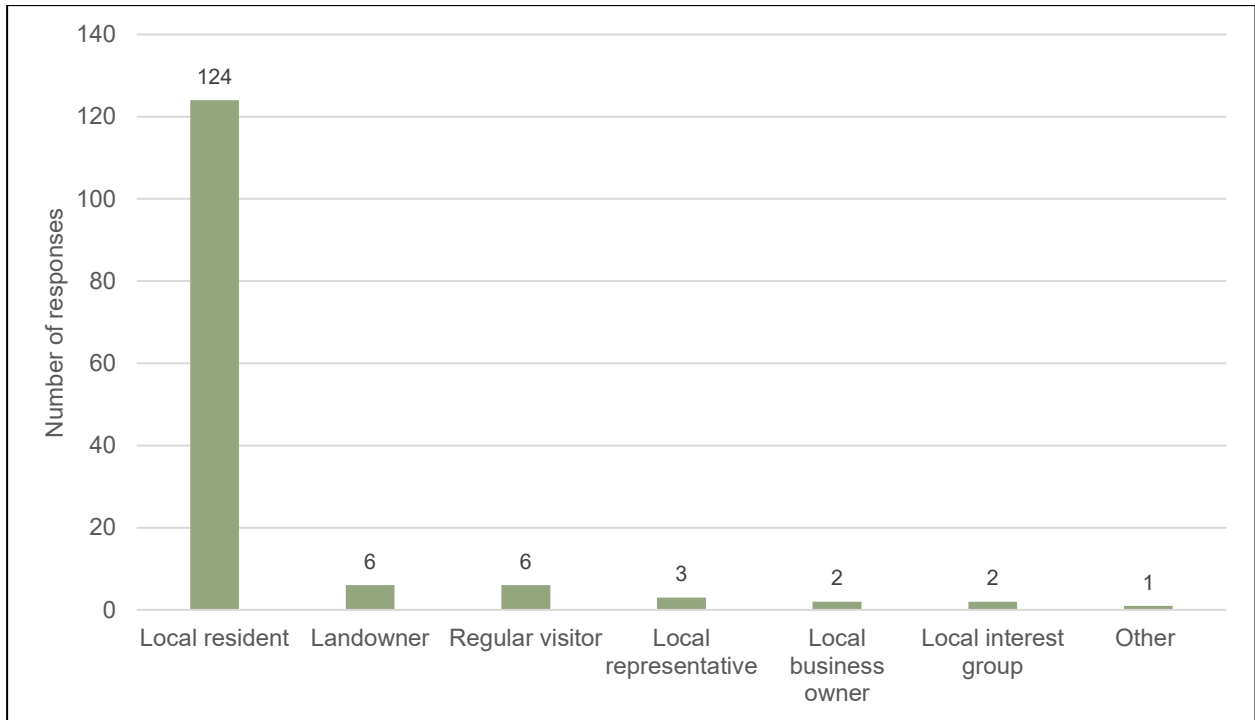


Figure 12-2 Responses to Q2 “As a principle, what is your view of installing ground-mounted solar infrastructure in the UK?”

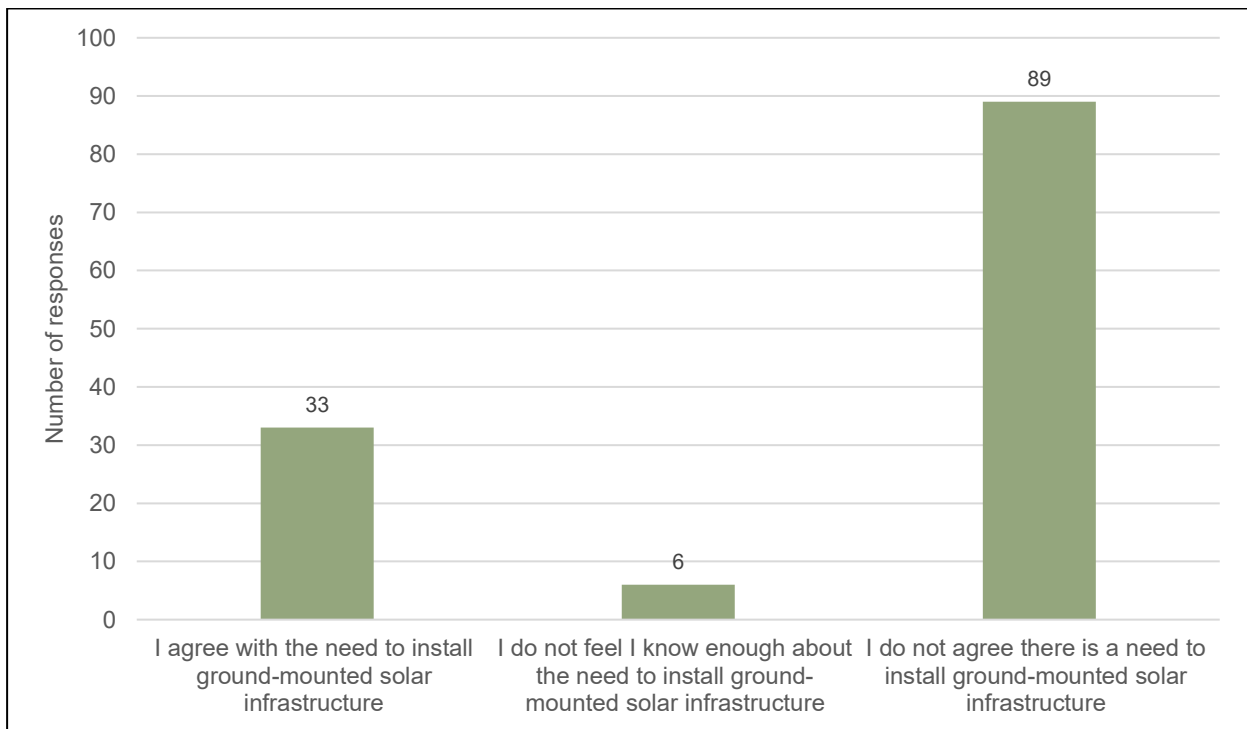


Figure 12-3 Responses to Q3 "Based on our updated proposals, which can be located in our Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet, the PEIR and PEIR NTS, what are your views of East Pye Solar?"

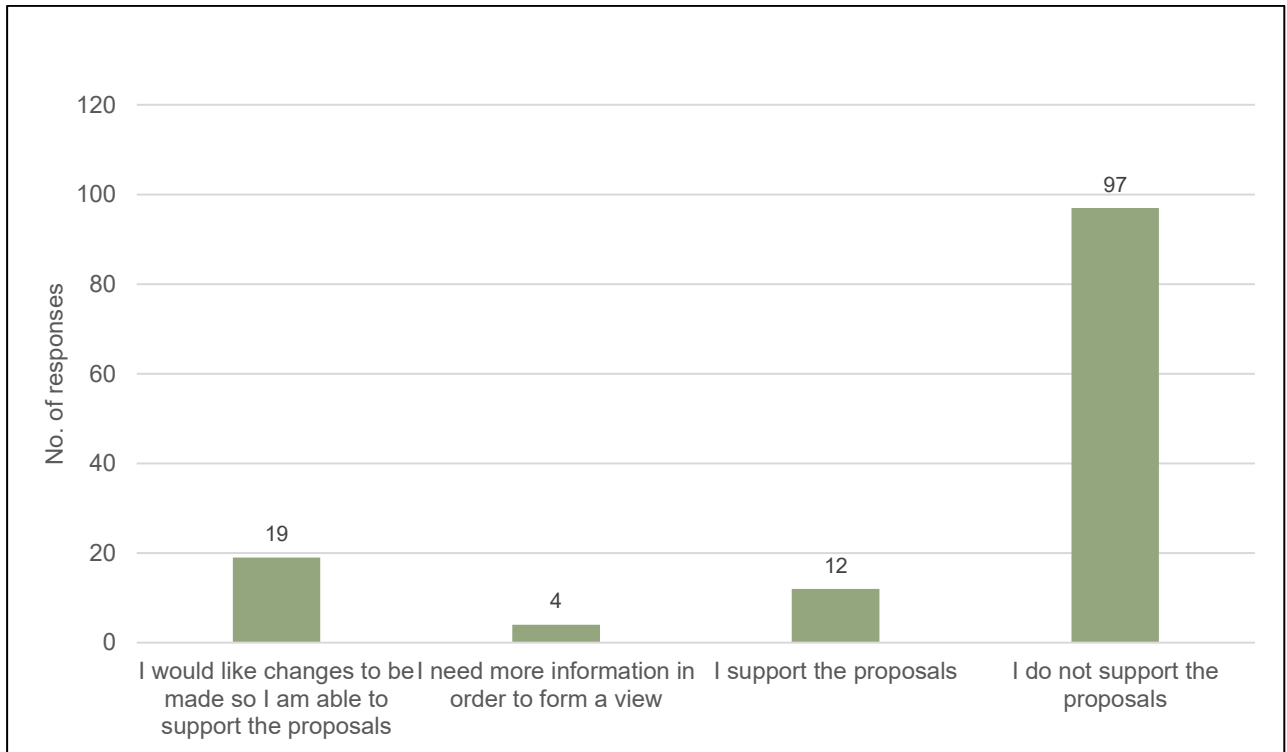
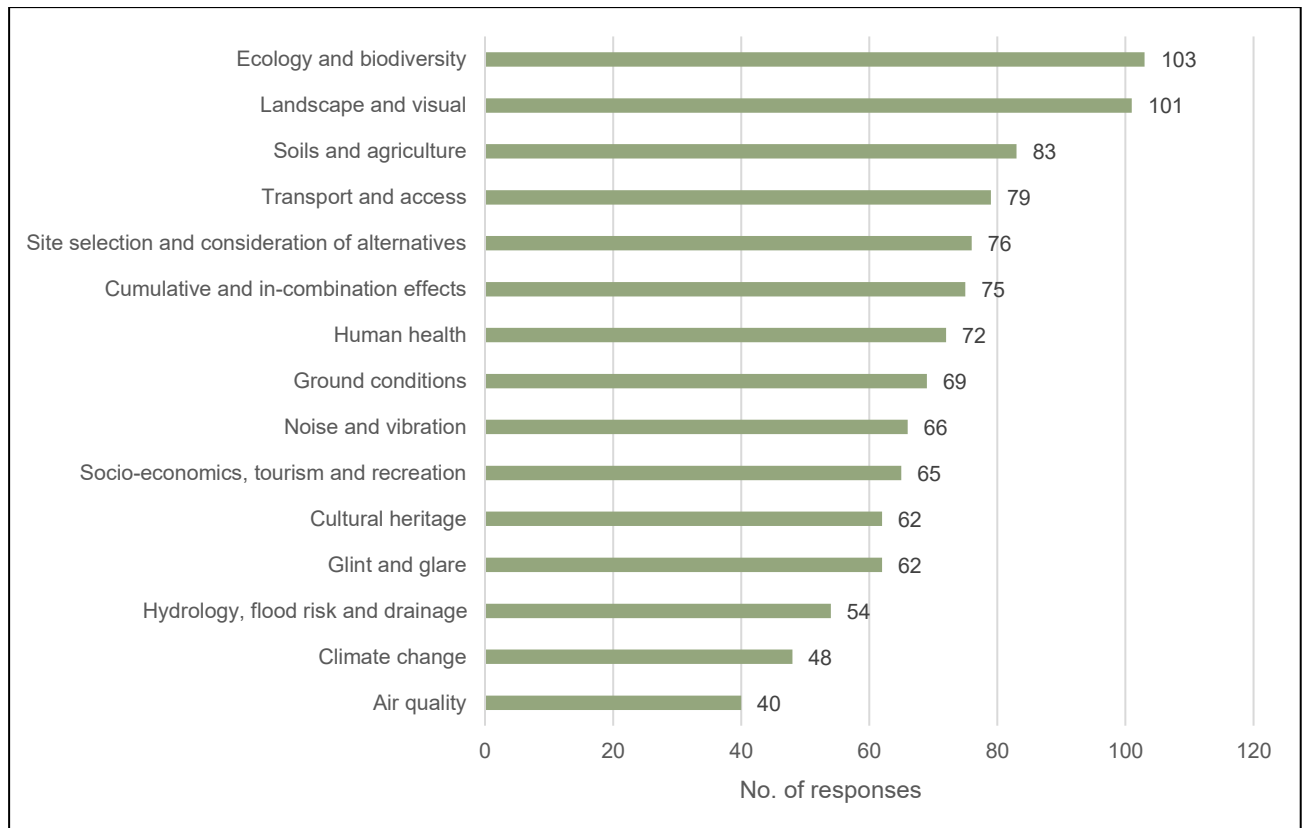


Figure 12-4 Responses to Q4 "Which aspects of the Scheme are most important to you?"



12.5 Qualitative analysis of responses received

12.5.1 **Table 12-4** includes a summary of how the Applicant has considered this feedback in developing the Scheme, consistent with s49 of the PA2008.

12.5.2 A detailed record of all comments received and the Applicant’s response to comments is provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.11]**.

Table 12-4 Summary of qualitative data from the Section 47 consultation, including how the Applicant has considered this feedback

Feedback comments	Applicant response
Environmental information	
<p>Respondents noted that the Preliminary Environmental Information Report for the Phase Two Consultation was inadequate, stating that it did not meet the requirements of the EIA Regulations, the PA2008 and relevant NPS (EN-1 and EN-3).</p>	<p>Pursuant to the EIA Regulations and the PA2008, an Applicant of EIA development must publicise and consult on ‘preliminary environmental information’.</p> <p>What constitutes preliminary environmental information is defined in Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations. Regulation 12 states that preliminary environmental information means information referred to in Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations which “<i>is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely</i></p>

Feedback comments	Applicant response
	<p><i>significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)."</i></p> <p>There is no prescribed format as to what preliminary environmental information should comprise. This is confirmed by the Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Projects Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements (referred to as "Advice Note Seven"). However, a PEIR is the common vehicle used for this purpose.</p> <p>In accordance with Advice Note Seven, the PEIR clearly demonstrated that the information presented at the Phase Two statutory consultation was 'preliminary'.</p> <p>Advice Note Seven also advises that preliminary environmental information is not expected to replicate or be a draft of the ES and acknowledges the level of detail and type of information may vary from project to project.</p> <p>The PEIR, as compiled by the Applicant in accordance with Regulation 12, included sufficient preliminary information to enable the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development). The Applicant has therefore complied with all of the legal tests that apply.</p> <p>The EIA is an ongoing process. The ES [EN0110014/APP/6.1] has had regard to comments received through statutory consultation and Targeted Consultation, to inform the design of the Scheme, where possible. A summary of the main design changes to the Scheme can be found in ES Volume 1, Chapter 5 – Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110014/APP/6.1.5] and the Design Approach Document [EN0110014/APP/7.17]. The ES was undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations and was based upon the Scoping Opinion, as detailed in ES Volume 1, Chapter 2 – EIA Methodology [EN0110014/APP/6.1.2].</p> <p>The Applicant's Section 55 Checklist [EN0110014/APP/5.1] as well as the Planning Statement [EN0110014/APP/7.14] and the Policy Compliance Document [EN0110014/APP/7.15] detail how the Applicant has complied with relevant legislation and guidance throughout the pre-application process.</p>
Size and scale	
<p>Respondents expressed concern for the size and scale of the Scheme, including the length and width of the CRC.</p>	<p>Since the Phase Two statutory consultation, the Applicant has undertaken further refinement of the Scheme design in line with the iterative design process. This has resulted in an overall reduction to the Scheme boundary, as detailed in ES Volume 1, Chapter 5 – Reasonable Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110014/APP/6.1.5] and the Design Approach Document [EN0110014/7.17].</p> <p>The Design Approach Document [EN0110014/7.17] also includes how consultation feedback, environmental</p>

Feedback comments	Applicant response
	<p>assessments and ongoing design work has informed the design of the Scheme since the Scheme was introduced to the consultees in September 2024, and how the Scheme has had regard to the project level Design Principles.</p> <p>The ES [EN0110014/APP/6.1] provides an assessment of the adverse and beneficial effects associated with the Scheme. The Applicant is confident that the proposed mitigation measures set out in the ES are adequate and that the Scheme aligns with national and local planning policy; this is outlined in the Planning Statement [EN011014/APP/7.2].</p> <p>Justification for the length of the grid connection is set out in the Planning Statement [EN0110014/APP/7.2], the Statement of Need [EN0110014/APP/7.1] and the Site Selection Assessment [EN0110014/APP/7.20]. More details on how the CRC has been located and evolved can be found in ES Volume 1, Chapter 5 – Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110014/APP/6.1.4] and the Design Approach Document [EN0110014/7.17].</p>
Ecology and biodiversity	
<p>Respondents provided comments regarding the potential effects of the Scheme on ecology, local wildlife, particularly protected species. Respondents expressed that the Scheme could result in the displacement of wildlife habitats and pose a threat to wildlife corridors and movements.</p> <p>Respondents expressed concern regarding the removal of vegetation for passing places and to accommodate Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) and Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) during construction and operation.</p>	<p>The Scheme's design will include habitat creation and enhancement. ES Volume 1, Chapter 8 – Ecology and Biodiversity [EN0110014/APP/6.1.8] details the ecological assessments undertaken by the Applicant and how survey results have shaped mitigation measures, including maintaining habitat commuting routes by designing fencing around these routes, providing buffers around existing vegetation, and planting new hedgerows and trees.</p> <p>Vegetation management means the potential trimming or removal of vegetation, such as overhanging branches or overgrown hedges, to facilitate the safe movement of construction and operation traffic. This does not imply that long lengths of hedgerows or multiple trees will be removed. No vegetation management will be undertaken until further surveys have been completed to establish whether trees and hedgerows are overgrown at the time of construction.</p> <p>Where it is determined that trees or hedgerows need to be cut back, further surveys and visual inspections would be undertaken to ensure we are not disturbing existing habitats. For any vegetation that is removed, replacement planting as close to the location and species of vegetation as practicable will be undertaken. The Scheme will ensure that local wildlife habitats are left in a measurably better state than before. This is set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) [EN0110014/APP/7.4], and Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (ODEMP) [EN0110014/APP/7.3].</p>
Landscape and visual	
<p>Respondents had concerns about the scale of the Scheme and the potential visual amenity impacts on properties and public rights of way (PRoWs), with many noting the height and look of solar PV panels and substations.</p>	<p>The design of the Scheme identifies many opportunities for landscape restoration and enhancement, by introducing planting which repairs, or enhances, existing vegetation patterns and contributes to biodiversity net gain.</p>

Feedback comments	Applicant response
	<p>An extensive planting scheme is proposed across the Site. This includes planting new hedges, trees and shrubs, and is set out in the OLEMP [EN0110014/APP/7.4].</p> <p>Baseline photography has been obtained and is included in ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.5 Photosheets [EN0110014/APP/6.3.7.5] and ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.6 Visualisations [EN0110014/APP/6.3.7.6] to demonstrate the nature of baseline views including the extent of existing screening. The ES includes a number of photomontages to help understand how the Scheme could look.</p> <p>The Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.8 [EN0110014/APP/6.3.7.8]) details the assessment undertaken by the Applicant regarding the visual impact to nearby properties, with mitigation and screening measures outlined in ES Volume 1, Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual [EN0110014/APP/6.1.7].</p>
Agriculture and soils	
<p>Respondents expressed concerns regarding the use of agricultural land, particularly the use of Best and Most Versatile land (BMV). Respondents noted concern for UK's food security and the potential impacts to soil quality.</p>	<p>Details of the site selection process can be found in the Site Selection Assessment [EN0110014/APP/7.20].</p> <p>The Applicant is committed to avoiding fragmentation of remaining agricultural land and to carefully manage soils throughout all project phases. The Outline Soil Resources Management Plan [EN0110014/APP/7.9] guides the protections at all stages of the development.</p>
Transport and access	
<p>Respondents noted concern about the potential increase in traffic around the Site, and congestion during the Scheme's construction. Others stated that the construction traffic could cause damage to roads and verges to the narrow nature of rural roads.</p> <p>Respondents expressed that narrow, rural roads are unsuitable to be used as access routes.</p>	<p>The Transport Assessment (ES Volume 3, Appendix 11.1 [EN0110014/APP/6.3.11.1]) has been prepared to assess the road network capacity. This reviewed the current highway network usage and determined if any mitigation is required. The assessment considers any committed developments (for example, developments that have received planning permission but are yet to be built) as part of the cumulative assessment scenario.</p> <p>The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (OCTMP) [EN0110014/APP/7.6] identifies the routes that should be used by construction traffic and takes into account the existing highway capacity of each route.</p> <p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 11: Transport and Access [EN0110014/APP/6.1.11] details the decommissioning proposals for the Scheme in relation to the return of temporary changes to transport routes back to their original states and addresses concerns around potential damage to road infrastructure.</p>
Cultural heritage	
<p>Respondents reported concerns regarding the Scheme's impact on archaeological and historic sites, as well as the potential disruption to listed buildings.</p>	<p>The Applicant has conducted extensive surveys, including geophysical work and trial trenching. The Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.6 [EN0110014/APP/6.3.10.6]) provides further information regarding measures that will be taken if anything is found during the construction of the Site.</p>

Feedback comments	Applicant response
	<p>The results of traffic, noise and vibration surveys have been used to assess whether there are any significant effects on historical sites, and how to mitigate these if needed.</p>
BESS safety	
<p>Many respondents noted that the risk of fire from the BESS has not been assessed adequately, and that the Scheme's BESS poses dangers such as toxic gas fumes. Some respondents expressed concern regarding the availability of water supplies in the event of a BESS fire.</p>	<p>Safety risks from substations and BESS have been assessed within ES Volume 1, Chapter 18 – Other Environmental Matters [EN0110014/APP/6.1.18].</p> <p>The chapter assesses the risk from 'Building Failure, Fire and Explosions' as not significant. This is due to embedded mitigation such as built in safety features in the BESS Area (i.e., cooling systems, non-combustible BESS enclosures, high levels of thermal insulation to protect against fire propagation, fire and gas detection system, explosion protection systems, suppression systems, emergency stop functions and isolation monitoring) and the implementation of the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (OBSMP) [EN0110014/APP/7.5].</p> <p>The OBSMP has been developed using the guidance provided by Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, which fully incorporates the recommendations of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and NFPA 855, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems.</p> <p>The availability of water supply during a fire event has been assessed in the OBSMP [EN0110014/APP/7.5].</p>
Cumulative and in-combination effects	
<p>Many respondents had concerns about cumulative impacts or wanted the Applicant to consider other developments (both large-scale NSIP developments and Town and Country Planning schemes) in assessments.</p> <p>Respondents pointed to the plans for Tasway Energy Park, as well as National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury project.</p>	<p>The Applicant is working with nearby infrastructure projects, including energy and housing developments. For each relevant topic in the ES [EN0110014/APP/6.1], the Applicant has included a cumulative impact assessment that considers existing developments and all publicly known proposals. This covers traffic, landscape, ecology and other key environmental topics. Further information can be found in ES Volume 1, Chapter 19 – Cumulative and In-Combination Effects [EN0110014/APP/6.1.19].</p> <p>The list of developments has been regularly updated throughout the assessment period and is presented in ES Volume 3, Appendix 2.4 Cumulative Schemes [EN0110014/APP/6.3.2.4].</p>
Noise and vibration	
<p>Respondents informed the Applicant about concerns regarding the potential increase in noise and vibration from Project Substations, invertors and solar PV panels. Some respondents also noted the increased noise during the construction of the Site.</p>	<p>The OCEMP [EN0110014/APP/7.1] sets out the Applicant's noise mitigation measures for the construction period, and the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) [EN0110014/APP/7.2] details mitigation measures intended for the operational period.</p> <p>The Site will be designed to ensure increased separation from infrastructure, such as invertors and substations, that are away from residential properties. Screening measures will also be used to reduce any potential noise near properties, and the operational design of the equipment will</p>

Feedback comments	Applicant response
	<p>only function during specific hours to minimise disruption. Further information about noise and vibration impact and mitigation measures is outlined in ES Volume 1, Chapter 12 – Noise and Vibration [EN0110014/APP/6.1.12].</p>
<p>Construction</p>	
<p>Many respondents expressed concern for general disruption caused as a result of construction and decommissioning activities, with many highlighting working hours should be restricted from 8am to 5pm on weekdays.</p>	<p>In terms of the concern regarding disruption during construction, this has been fully assessed within the ES[EN0110014/APP/6.1], any likely significant effects of the Scheme have been identified and appropriate mitigation measures incorporated into the Scheme. Mitigation measures are contained within the OCEMP [EN0110014/APP/7.1] and ODEMP [EN0110014/APP/7.3] to limit disruption during construction and decommissioning. The core construction working hours are set out in the ES Volume 1, Chapter 4 – The Scheme [EN0110014/APP/6.1.4]. These hours will be agreed with the Local Planning Authorities prior to the start of the construction works.</p>
<p>Reasonable alternatives</p>	
<p>Many respondents expressed that solar panels should be on rooftops and/or on brownfield sites. Some suggestions included rooftop solar on houses, industrial units, farm buildings, commercial premises, warehouses, airports and airfields, factories and carparks.</p> <p>Respondents also suggested that other forms of renewable and/or non-renewable energy generation would be more effective. Some specified a preference for nuclear, wind, hydro, SMRs, tidal, offshore solar, biomass or mass mobilisation of individual properties being fitted with solar PV panels.</p> <p>Many respondents expressed that they support the implementation of renewable energy projects, but even so the Scheme is not needed to meet government net zero targets.</p> <p>Some respondents added that due to a lack of sunlight (and longer dark skies during the winter) that solar is not efficient as a scalable technology.</p>	<p>The Statement of Need [EN0110014/APP/7.11] explains that the Government does not believe that decentralised and community energy systems, which by definition include rooftop schemes will replace the need for new large-scale electricity infrastructure to meet our energy objective [EN-1, Para 3.3.12].</p> <p>Further, that in its Clean Power 2030 Action Plan, the Government has set capacity ranges for large-scale solar in 2030 and 2035 to chart a path towards achieving its Clean Power Target.</p> <p>In June 2025 the Government published its UK Solar Roadmap, summarised at Section 3.10 of the Statement of Need. The Roadmap confirms that “<i>Solar energy is one of the cheapest forms of electricity generation and will play a key role in reaching clean power. It will enable cheap, efficient electricity to drive other sectors of the economy</i>” (p15).</p> <p>The Roadmap talks to the benefits of increasing small scale / rooftop solar generation in the UK to directly support reducing consumer bills, as well as the further deployment of ground mounted solar because “<i>Ground-mounted solar is one of our cheapest electricity sources to build and operate at scale</i>” and “<i>Speed of deployment is also a huge benefit of solar</i>” for both ground mounted and rooftop schemes (p15). This “<i>makes installing solar one of the fastest ways the UK can reduce its dependence on volatile fossil fuel markets.</i>”</p> <p>Statement of Need [EN0110014/APP/7.11] also provides an analysis of many different low carbon generation technologies which are being developed as part of the UK's fight against climate change. The Statement of Need concludes that a large capacity of many low carbon technologies is required to meet the Government's energy objectives.</p>

Feedback comments	Applicant response
Ground Conditions	
<p>Many respondents noted that the PEIR does not contain mapping or risk appraisal of the high-pressure gas main, water mains, railway line or source protection zones, which, they believe, is necessary for assessing infrastructure safety and water contamination risks.</p>	<p>The Applicant has detailed assessments undertaken on ground condition impacts and mitigation in ES Volume 1, Chapter 16 – Ground Conditions [EN0110014/APP/6.1.16]. ES Volume 3, Appendix 16.1 Ground Conditions Assessments [EN0110014/APP/6.3.16.1] outlines the assessment undertaken on potential impacts to railway lines, source protection zones and water mains.</p>
Other environmental matters	
<p>Many respondents expressed concern PEIR fails to meet current scientific, regulatory, and planning standards for assessing Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) impacts. They stated that data relies on outdated guidelines, omits ecological and vulnerable receptor assessments, and lacks field data or mitigation planning.</p> <p>Some respondents expressed particular concern for EMF effects on fish, bats and other wildlife.</p>	<p>ES Volume 3, Appendix 17.1 High-Level Electromagnetic Field Assessment [EN0110014/APP/6.3.17.1] outlines the Applicant’s high-level assessment on the potential effects of electromagnetic fields. The data used to inform this assessment is up to date and includes both ecological and residential receptor assessments.</p>

12.6 Section 42 Consultation: Responses received, issues raised, and changes made

12.6.1 Across the s42 consultation undertaken – as described in **Chapter 9** of this report – the Applicant received responses from 31 prescribed consultees and local authorities (s42(1)(a) and (1)(b)).

12.6.2 The Applicant received no responses from s44 consultees to the s42 consultation. The Applicant notes that many s44 consultees would have also been notified of the s47 consultation, as described in Chapter 8 of the report, and may have therefore chosen to provide their responses to the s47 consultation without indicating they were also a s44 consultee. In these cases, their feedback will have been captured as s47 and presented in **Consultation Report Appendix 10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.11]**.

12.6.3 The Applicant received feedback from the following prescribed bodies (Section 42) including local authorities:

- Alington with Yelverton Parish Council
- Anglian Water
- Brooke Parish Council
- East Suffolk Council

- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission
- Health and Safety Executive
- Hedenham Parish Council
- Hempnall Parish Council
- Historic England
- Kirstead Parish Council
- Mid Suffolk District Council
- National Gas Transmission plc
- National Grid Electricity Transmission
- National Highways
- NATS Safeguarding
- Natural England
- Norfolk County Council
- Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- Royal Mail
- Saxlingham Nethergate Parish Council
- Seething Parish Council
- Shelton Parish Council
- Shotesham Parish Council
- South Norfolk Council
- Suffolk County Council
- Topcroft Parish Council
- Wacton Parish Council
- Woodton Parish Council

12.6.4 A detailed record of all comments received from s42 consultees, and the Applicant’s response to all of these comments, is provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 11: Section 42 Applicant Response Table [EN0110014/APP/5.12]**.

12.6.5 **Table 12-5** presents a summary of this feedback.

Table 12-5 Summary of Section 42 consultation feedback, including how the Applicant has considered this feedback

Feedback comments	Applicant response
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	
<p>Consultees commented that the PEIR was inadequate, did not provide sufficient information and/or contained incomplete surveys.</p> <p>Some consultees noted that further information would be provided in the Environmental Statement and requested further consultation at this stage.</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that not all information was available at PEIR stage. The purpose of PEIR is to provide a preliminary assessment of the effects of the proposed Scheme. As such finalised assessments are not provided at PEIR to allow the Applicant time to take on the feedback received at Statutory Consultation and work this into the design envelope to be submitted in the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.</p> <p>The full Environmental Statement [EN0110014/APP/6.1] has been submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application. This includes Appendices which detail the results of surveys undertaken to support the Environmental Impact Assessment.</p> <p>The Applicant will continue to engage with statutory bodies throughout the DCO process.</p>
Cumulative and In-combination Effects	
<p>Consultees commented on the potential cumulative impact of the Scheme and/or expressed that Norfolk already hosted many solar/energy developments.</p>	<p>The impact of solar developments (both existing and forthcoming) in the areas surrounding the Scheme been fully assessed within the ES [EN0110014/APP/6.1]. Existing solar farms are considered in the baseline of each technical chapter (ES Volume 1 Chapters 7-20 [EN0110014/APP/6.1.7-20]). Forthcoming solar developments are assessed within the cumulative and in-combination effects section of each technical chapter (ES Volume 1 Chapters 7-20 [EN0110014/APP/6.1.7-20]) and summarised in ES Volume I Chapter 20: In-combination Effects Assessment [EN0110014/APP/6.1.20].</p>
Flood Risk	
<p>Consultees commented on the potential impact on flood risk and drainage as a result of the Scheme.</p> <p>Specific concerns focused on some aspects of the Sites already having poor infiltration and drainage that contributes to local flooding, and that adequate flood risk mitigation has not been set out.</p>	<p>Flood risk has been assessed in detail within ES Volume 1 Chapter 9 – Water Environment [EN0110014/APP/6.1.9] and the supporting Flood Risk Assessment [EN0110014/APP/6.3.9.1]. This work includes baseline analysis, modelling of runoff, and review of climate change allowances.</p> <p>The Scheme is designed to ensure runoff rates and volumes remain consistent with greenfield conditions. Measures such as permeable surfacing, infiltration</p>

Feedback comments	Applicant response
	<p>features, swales and attenuation storage will manage surface water.</p> <p>As a result, no increase in flood risk is expected on or off site, including to adjacent communities and downstream settlements. Embedded mitigation and design measures will be secured through the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN0110014/APP/7.1], ES Volume 3, Appendix 9.1: Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Water Drainage Strategy [EN0110014/APP/6.3.9.1] and finalised at detailed design.</p>
<p>Soils and Agriculture</p>	
<p>Consultees commented on the use of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land in the Scheme and expressed concern about the potential impact on agricultural productivity and food security.</p>	<p>The areas of each ALC grade affected by the Scheme are set out in ES Volume 1 Chapter 15 – Soils and Agricultural Land [EN0110014/APP/6.1.15].</p> <p>The Site Selection Assessment [EN0110014/APP/7.20] document (and summarised in ES Volume 1 Chapter 5 – Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110014/APP/6.1.5]) sets out the methodology for site selection, including brownfield sites; consideration of alternative layouts; the design evolution of the Cable Route Corridors; and consideration of alternative technologies. The Applicant has considered ALC grade in its site selection for the Scheme, seeking to avoid BMV land, where practicable, when assessing appropriate sites.</p> <p>Food security will not be compromised by the Scheme (or solar energy more widely). In 2024, solar occupied around 7,300 ha of agricultural land in England, approximately half of which was in dual use for agricultural production. In the same year, 581,000 ha of arable land in England were left uncropped (source: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Agricultural land use in England, 1 June 2024).</p> <p>It should also be noted that food security is not identified as an issue within the suite of Energy National Policy Statements or the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Further, the Government’s UK Solar Roadmap (2024) states that solar development is not considered to compromise food security, and that climate change itself poses the greatest long-term risk to food production - a risk which the Scheme directly helps to address by providing a secure, low-carbon source of electricity.</p>
<p>Traffic and Access</p>	
<p>Consultees commented on the potential impact on the local highway network as a result of the Scheme.</p> <p>In particular, concern was expressed regarding the potential impact on junctions along the A47 and that further assessment on these is needed.</p>	<p>Construction vehicle movements will be managed through a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). The aim of the CTMP is to ensure that the effect of the construction phase on the local highway network is minimised. An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN0110014/APP/7.6] has been prepared and submitted as part of the DCO. An Outline Operational Traffic Management Plan (OOTMP)</p>

Feedback comments	Applicant response
	<p>[EN0110014/APP/7.7] has also been provided which details traffic during the operational phase of the Scheme. Decommissioning activities have been considered in the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (ODEMP) [EN0110014/APP/7.3].</p> <p>Compliance with the OCTMP will be monitored by the Developer, Contractor and Wiltshire Council as local highway authority. A road condition/dilapidation survey of minor roads not typically used by HGV traffic forms a measure set out within the OCTMP. Any damage in the verge or on carriageway road surface caused by construction vehicles will be rectified to the satisfaction of the local highway authority. There will also be a community liaison element of the OCTMP to keep the local community informed on the construction process, and to provide a contact for feedback should any issues arise.</p>
Public Rights of Way (PRoWs)	
<p>Consultees commented on the potential impact on Public Rights of Way as a result of the Scheme.</p> <p>Specific concern was expressed about the ability of the public to access PRoWs.</p>	<p>A detailed assessment of the likely significance of effects of the Scheme on the use and desirability of PRoWs, permissive routes and long-distance recreational routes has been included in the ES Volume 1 Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual [EN0110014/APP/6.1.7]. The assessment identifies potential for some significant adverse effects during construction; peak replacement works and decommissioning.</p> <p>The Scheme seeks to minimise disruption to the use of PRoWs during construction. Diversions or closures to facilitate construction works will only be undertaken where necessary and will be temporary in nature with signage and prior notice provided as set out and secured through the Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [EN0110014/APP/7.8].</p>
Needs case	
<p>Consultees questioned the need for the Scheme as sufficient megawatts of solar energy and BESS are already planned to meet Net Zero targets.</p>	<p>The Statement of Need [EN0110014/APP/7.11] describes that there is an urgent and unprecedented need for new low carbon generation in the UK to meet our climate change, energy security and affordability targets. Further, the Government considers that a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar (NPS EN-1, Para 3.3.23).</p> <p>National Policy Statement EN-1 also states that the Secretary of State should assess all applications for development consent for the types of infrastructure included by the NPS (including solar) on the basis that there is demonstrated urgent need for them, that substantial weight should be given to this need, and that the Secretary of State is not required to consider the specific contribution of any individual project to be satisfied that need is established [EN-1 Paras 3.2.8 - 3.2.10]. This representation goes to the merits of the NPS, and to have regard to it would be directly in contradiction of NPS EN-1 (in particular the paragraphs</p>

Feedback comments	Applicant response
	<p>cited above that make clear that the need is established and that there is no requirement to consider the contribution of individual projects).</p> <p>The Applicant does not believe it is prudent nor accurate analysis to claim that there is an adequate or over supply of schemes by reference to a register or registers of schemes, the significant majority of which have not submitted planning applications, have not demonstrated that they have secured land and have not made significant (irreversible) progress in construction. Attrition in connection queues is discussed in the Statement of Need [EN0110014/APP/7.11]. Notably, NESO has shown historically that “only 30-40% of projects in the [connections] queue make it to fruition” and is engaged in an ongoing ‘Connections Reform’ activity which seeks to remove projects which are “speculative or do not have the necessary funding or planning permission to progress” from connection queues (Clean Power 2030 Action Plan, Page 65).</p>
BESS	
<p>Consultees commented on the safety of the BESS and measures to mitigate fire risk.</p> <p>Respondents particularly expressed the need for sufficient water supply to be confirmed in the event of a BESS fire.</p>	<p>Safety risks from substations and BESS have been assessed within Volume 1 Chapter 18 – Other Environmental Matters [EN0110014/APP/6.1.18]. The chapter assesses the risk from 'Building Failure, Fire and Explosions' as not significant. This is due to embedded mitigation such as built in safety features in the BESS Area (i.e., cooling systems, non-combustible BESS enclosures, high levels of thermal insulation to protect against fire propagation, fire and gas detection system, explosion protection systems, suppression systems, emergency stop functions and isolation monitoring) and the implementation of the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (BSMP) [EN0110014/APP/7.5]. The Outline BSMP has been developed using the guidance provided by Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, which fully incorporates the recommendations of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and NFPA 855, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems.</p> <p>The availability of water supply during a fire event has been assessed in ES Volume 1 Chapter 9 – Water Environment [EN0110014/APP/6.1.9] and the BSMP [EN0110014/APP/7.5].</p>
Arboriculture	
<p>Consultees commented on the potential impact on ancient trees and protected habitats as a result of the Scheme.</p>	<p>Potential impacts of the Scheme relevant to this point are fully assessed in ES Volume 1 Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual [EN0110014/APP/6.1.7] and Chapter 8 – Ecology and Biodiversity [EN0110014/APP/6.1.8]. This assessment considers all phases of the Scheme, including the construction phase, and describes appropriate measures to avoid or mitigate identified impacts. Arboriculture impacts are considered in ES Volume 2 Chapter 7 - Appendix 7.10 Preliminary Arboriculture Impact Assessment. No ancient and/or veteran trees are proposed to be removed to facilitate the Scheme. The Scheme has been designed in order to retain existing arboriculture features as far as practicable. Any unavoidable tree losses as a</p>

Feedback comments	Applicant response
	result of the Scheme will be suitably mitigated for. This is set out in ES Volume 1 Chapter 8 – Ecology and Biodiversity [EN0110014/APP/6.1.8] .

12.7 Conclusion

12.7.1 As detailed in this chapter, the Applicant considers that it has fulfilled its statutory duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity, pursuant to s49 of the PA2008. The Applicant did not receive any feedback that could be identified as being specifically submitted as a result of the publicity carried out as required by s48 of the PA2008.

13 Ongoing activities and Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

13.1 Introduction

13.1.1 The Applicant continued to engage with consultees following the close of statutory consultation and outside of the defined phase of Targeted Consultation.

13.1.2 The purpose of this continued engagement was to discuss feedback received through consultation, seek to reach positions of agreement or understanding prior to finalising the Application, and to respond to further enquiries.

13.1.3 Between phases of consultation, and following Phase Two consultation, the Applicant has also held meetings and briefings with various consultees. **Table 13-1** sets out the details of these meetings.

13.1.4 The Applicant met fortnightly with The Drove Solar Farm project team between February and October 2025, coinciding with the pre-application stage of both schemes.

Table 13-1 Ongoing meetings held with stakeholders outside consultation periods

Stakeholder/Location	Date and summary of meeting(s)
Post-Phase One consultation	
Online meeting with National Gas Transmission plc	<p>10 January 2025</p> <p>Meeting held to discuss to introduce the Scheme and the Applicant ahead of the Scoping Report submission.</p>
<p>Online meeting with Norfolk County Council Planning Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ██████████ - Principal Planner, National Infrastructure Co-lead • ██████████ – Project Manager, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 	<p>22 January 2025</p> <p>Meeting held with Local Planning Authorities to discuss Scoping Report submission, engagement with Norfolk County Council members and cumulative developments.</p>
In-person meeting with Tibenham Airfield (Norfolk Gliding Club)	<p>23 January 2025</p> <p>Meeting held to discuss Scheme proposals for glint and glare mitigation.</p>
<p>In-person meeting with one near neighbour properties around Solar PV Sites (Sites 1-10), including:</p> <p>Two properties near Site 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grove Farm Barn, Lundy Green, Hempnall, NR15 2NU • Lundy Green, Hempnall, NR15 2NU 	<p>31 January – 11 April 2025</p> <p>Following the close of consultation in December 2024, the Applicant offered individual meetings with near neighbour properties in proximity to Solar PV Sites.</p> <p>The Applicant – alongside representatives from the communications team and landscape</p>

Stakeholder/Location	Date and summary of meeting(s)
Two properties near Site 8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mill Farm House, Mill Lane, Brooke, NR15 1EX • Brooke Manor, 4 High Green Gardens, NR15 1HY 	and visual team – met with four individual properties. The Applicant used conversations to help inform the ongoing design of ahead of the Phase Two statutory consultation and used each meeting as an opportunity to discuss additional stakeholder concerns, including opportunities for landscaping and screening.
Meeting with South Norfolk Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ██████████ – Area Planning Manager and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects • ██████████ – Director of Place • ██████████ – Clean Growth and Sustainability Manager 	5 February 2025 Meeting with executive members to discuss opportunities for community benefits.
Online meeting with Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service	5 March 2025 Meeting held to discuss the Scheme proposals and Applicant's mitigation measures.
Online meeting with the Environment Agency	27 March 2025 Meeting held to discuss ground conditions and hydrological mitigation measures.
Online meeting with Anglian Water	7 April 2025 Meeting held to discuss the Scheme's proposals and Scoping response.
Pre-Phase Two consultation	
Online meeting with Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council Planning Officers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ██████████ - Principal Planner, National Infrastructure Co-lead • ██████████ – Project Manager, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects • ██████████ – Area Planning Manager and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 	8 April 2025 Joint meeting with host authority Planning Officers to discuss the early working draft of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), engagement with council members and cumulative developments.
Online meeting with the Environment Agency	29 April 2025 Meeting held to discuss water impacts and hydrological mitigation measures.
Online meeting with Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council Planning Officers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ██████████ - Principal Planner, National Infrastructure Co-lead • ██████████ – Project Manager, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects • ██████████ – Area Planning Manager and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 	7 May 2025 Joint meeting with Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council Planning Officers to discuss the draft SoCC consultation and upcoming Phase Two statutory consultation.

Stakeholder/Location	Date and summary of meeting(s)
<p>Online meeting with the Reclaim the Rain organisation</p>	<p>8 May 2025</p> <p>Meeting held to introduce the Scheme and the Applicant and to discuss opportunities for community benefits.</p>
<p>Online briefing with South Norfolk Council members, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Kim Carsok (Forncett) • Cllr Suzanne Wateridge (Bunwell) • Cllr Lisa Overton-Neal (Poringland, Framinghams and Trowse) • Cllr Jim Webber (Mulbarton and Stoke Holy Cross) • Cllr Martyn Hooton (Hempnall) • Cllr Jenny McCloskey (New Costessey) • Cllr John Morland (North Wymondham) • Cllr Clayton Hudson (Beck Vale, Dickleburgh and Scole) • Cllr James Easter (Bressingham and Burston) • Cllr Graham Minshull (Diss and Roydon) • Cllr Deborah Sacks (Cringleford) • Cllr Trevor Graham (Harleston) • Cllr Vic Thomson (Rockland) • Claire Curtis – Area Planning Manager and NSIPs Lead Officer • ██████████ – Democratic Services Manager • ██████████ – Development Manager • ██████████ – Planning Officer • ██████████ – Planning Officer 	<p>27 May 2025</p> <p>The Applicant held a briefing with members and executive leaders from South Norfolk Council to discuss the upcoming Phase Two statutory consultation and to provide an update on the design of the Scheme since Phase One consultation.</p>
Post-Phase Two consultation	
<p>Online meeting with Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council Planning Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ██████████ - Principal Planner, National Infrastructure Co-lead (NCC) • ██████████ – Project Manager, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NCC) • ██████████ (SNC) – Business Support Team Leader 	<p>3 September 2025</p> <p>Joint meeting with Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk Council Planning Officers to discuss the feedback received during Phase Two consultation and Scheme programme.</p>
<p>Online meeting with Aukera Energy regarding plans for Tasway Energy Park</p>	<p>17 September 2025</p> <p>Meeting held to discuss the plans for Tasway Energy Park, located in South Norfolk.</p>
<p>In-person meeting with Seething Airfield (on-site visit)</p>	<p>19 September 2025</p>

Stakeholder/Location	Date and summary of meeting(s)
	Site visit held to discuss potential impacts and mitigation measures near Seething Airfield.
<p>Online meeting with Norfolk County Council Transport and Landscape Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] – Specialist Advice Manager 	<p>3 October 2025</p> <p>Meeting held to discuss the feedback received during Phase Two consultation and measures for PRow mitigation.</p>
<p>Online meeting with Norfolk County Council Planning Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] - Principal Planner, National Infrastructure Co-lead (NCC) • [REDACTED] – Project Manager, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NCC) 	<p>9 October 2025</p> <p>Meeting held to discuss the Applicant's approach to Targeted Consultation.</p>
<p>Online meeting with Historic England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] – Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas • [REDACTED] – Heritage at Risk Project Officer 	<p>17 October 2025</p> <p>Meeting held to discuss Scheme proposals, viewpoints, information requested by Historic England and next steps.</p>
Targeted Consultation	
<p>Online meeting with Norfolk County Council Planning Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] - Principal Planner, National Infrastructure Co-lead • [REDACTED] – Project Manager, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 	<p>5 November 2025 and 6 November 2025</p>
<p>Online meeting with South Norfolk Council Planning Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] – Area Planning Manager and NSIPs Lead Officer • [REDACTED] – Business Support Team Leader • [REDACTED] – Planning Officer 	<p>Meetings held to discuss ongoing Targeted Consultation and draft Adequacy of Consultation Milestone document.</p>
<p>Online meeting with South Norfolk Council on cultural heritage matters, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] – Senior Heritage and Design Officer • [REDACTED] – Planning Officer 	<p>11 November 2025</p> <p>Meeting held to discuss setting assessment, site by site design, and planting proposals.</p>
<p>Online meeting with National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)</p>	<p>11 November 2025</p> <p>Meeting held to discuss the siting of the new National Grid Substation and the ongoing engagement between the Applicant and NGET.</p>
<p>Online meeting South Norfolk Council Technical Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] – Environmental Management Officer 	<p>11 November 2025</p> <p>Meeting held to discuss site layout and noise mitigation, air quality monitoring, water supplies, vibration, and transport.</p>

Stakeholder/Location	Date and summary of meeting(s)
Pre-submission	
Online meeting with Norfolk County Council Highways Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] – Engineer (Major and Estate Development) • [REDACTED] – Network Coordinator (NSIP and Major Projects) 	26 November 2025 Meeting to discuss transport and access proposals after the close of Targeted Consultation.
Online meeting with National Highways	27 November 2025 Meeting to discuss transport and access proposals after the close of Targeted Consultation.
Online meeting with Norfolk County Council Planning Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] - Principal Planner, National Infrastructure Co-lead • [REDACTED] – Project Manager, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 	3 December 2025 and 4 December 2025 Meetings held to provide an update on the Scheme, ongoing engagement with technical officers and upcoming DCO application submission.
Online meeting with South Norfolk Council Planning Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] – Area Planning Manager and NSIPs Lead Officer • [REDACTED] – Planning Officer 	
Online meeting with NGET	9 December Further meeting to discuss the new National Grid Substation.
Online meeting with Norfolk County Council Local Lead Flood Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] – Strategic Flood Risk Planning Officer, Norfolk County Council • [REDACTED] – Senior Flood Risk Officer, Norfolk County Council) 	10 December 2025 Meeting held to discuss the Applicant's Flood Risk Assessment, Work Plans, watercourse crossings, drainage strategy and maintenance plan.
Online meeting with the Environment Agency (EA)	15 December 2025 Meeting held to discuss Scheme interaction with flood zones, surface water management of Project substations and BESS, and Scheme programme.
Online meeting with Norfolk Wildlife Trust <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] – Policy and Campaigns Officer • [REDACTED] – Director of Nature Recovery 	18 December 2025 Meeting held to discuss Scheme scope and timescales, design principles and offsets, construction and cable impacts, management and monitoring responsibilities, BNG, and community benefits.
Meeting with Norfolk County Council Economic and Skills Officer	7 January 2026

Stakeholder/Location	Date and summary of meeting(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ██████████ - Principal Planner, National Infrastructure Co-lead • ██████████ – Senior Skills Coordinator • ██████████ – Head of Employment and Skills 	<p>Meeting held to discuss the Applicant's plans for the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Strategy.</p>
<p>Online meeting with Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service</p>	<p>9 January 2026</p> <p>Meeting held to discuss management plan for BESS and substations.</p>
<p>Online meeting with South Norfolk Council Economic and Skills Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ██████████ – Area Planning Manager and NSIPs Lead Officer • ██████████ – Planning Officer 	<p>9 January 2026</p> <p>Meeting held to discuss the Applicant's plans for the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Strategy.</p>
<p>Online meeting with South Norfolk Council and Norfolk County Council Landscape and Environmental Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ██████████ – Landscape Architect (South Norfolk Council) • ██████████ – Principal Landscape Architect (Norfolk County Council) 	<p>27 January 2026</p> <p>Meeting held to discuss an update on the design evolution of the Scheme and to provide an overview of the landscape mitigation and green infrastructure strategy, as well as site-specific proposals and environmental enhancements.</p>
<p>Online meeting with Norfolk County Council Planning Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ██████████ - Principal Planner, National Infrastructure Co-lead • ██████████ – Project Manager, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 	<p>4 February 2026</p>
<p>Online meeting with South Norfolk Council Planning Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ██████████ – Area Planning Manager and NSIPs Lead Officer • ██████████ – Planning Officer 	<p>Meetings held to provide an update on the Scheme, ongoing engagement with technical officers and upcoming DCO submission.</p>

13.2 Ongoing community engagement

13.2.1 The Applicant's communications channels (email, Freephone and Freepost) and website remained open and maintained following the close of statutory consultation.

13.2.2 Through these channels, the Applicant continued to provide information and respond to enquiries.

13.2.3 The Applicant published a Community Update in January 2026 to provide an update on the Scheme (including the main design changes to the Scheme), anticipated timescales for the Application, and to promote the Applicant's

communication channels. A copy of this Community Update is provided in **Consultation Report Appendix 9: Targeted Consultation Materials [EN0110014/APP/5.10]**.

13.3 Ongoing landowner negotiations

13.3.1 The Applicant has continued engagement with landowners and those with land interests regarding the Scheme. Detail of negotiations and engagement undertaken with land interests regarding the Scheme can be found in pre-application **Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker [EN0110014/APP/4.4]** and **Book of Reference [EN0110014/APP/4.3]**.

13.4 Ongoing stakeholder engagement and Statements of Common Ground

13.4.1 The Applicant has prepared the **Potential Main Issues for Examination [EN0110014/APP/7.24]** which sets out the main potential issues as agreed with a number of stakeholders including Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk Council, Natural England, the Environment Agency, National Highways, National Gas, and Historic England. The potential main issues will inform the Statements of Common Ground when they are prepared in the pre-examination stage.

13.4.2 The Applicant has and continues to engage with National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) throughout the development of the Scheme. Outside of meetings listed in **Table 13-1**, the Applicant has continued to share information with NGET on the evolving design and siting proposals for the new National Grid Substation, including the indicative layout and a draft of the **Works Plan [EN0110014/APP/2.3]** showing the National Grid Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure, and the **draft DCO [EN0110014/APP/3.1]**. Feedback was invited on these documents and is summarised in the **Grid Connection Statement [EN0110014/APP/7.2]**. The Applicant notes that this material was provided to support further engagement and discussion, and the opportunity for continued dialogue was offered.

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

14 Conclusion

14.1 Concluding remarks

- 14.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken comprehensive pre-application consultation on the Scheme.
- 14.1.2 The consultation has been informed by and complied with the requirements of the PA2008 and associated guidance and legislation.
- 14.1.3 The Applicant's strategy of coordinating consultation activities across the Scheme has resulted in a high level of engagement throughout the pre-application process.
- 14.1.4 The Applicant's strategy of undertaking an interactive consultation process has allowed for feedback to inform the design of the Scheme in a timely manner, including reporting back to consultees at an interim stage.
- 14.1.5 The Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation and has made changes where possible as documented in this Consultation Report.
- 14.1.6 Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of this iterative process, with stakeholders, such as Local Planning Authorities, statutory consultees, community groups and members of the local community, playing a key role in the design of the proposals.
- 14.1.7 The Applicant's strategy of coordinating the Phase Two consultation to be statutory under Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 in parallel allowed for meaningful engagement and consideration of feedback on the PEIR.
- 14.1.8 The Applicant has sought to address comments, concerns and issues raised in the final design of the Scheme where possible and has responded to comments raised in the Consultation Report.
- 14.1.9 As well as preparing the Consultation Report, the Applicant has set out how it complied with guidance and advice on the consultation in the **Section 55 Checklist [EN0110014/APP/1.1]** that is also part of the DCO application documents.

15 References

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

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus> [Accessed 10 November 2025]

- Ref 11 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation (updated March 2025). Available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-eia-notification-and-consultation>

16 Appendices

16.1 List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Statement of Compliance

- Statement of Compliance
- Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

Appendix 2: Scheme Introduction Materials

- Scheme launch community postcard
- Scheme launch letter to properties within 100m of the Site
- Scheme launch press release

Appendix 3: Phase One Consultation Materials

- Phase One Consultation community consultation postcard
- Phase One Consultation press release
- Phase One Consultation newspaper advertisement
- Phase One Consultation Feedback Form
- Phase One Consultation Leaflet
- Phase One Consultation Poster
- Phase One Consultation Exhibition Boards
- Phase One Consultation Overview Map (Indicative Concept Masterplan)
- Phase One Consultation Section Maps
- Phase One Consultation Indicative Masterplan
- Phase One Consultation Community Webinar Slides
- Phase One Consultation Summary Report

Appendix 4: Consultation under EIA Regulations

- Scoping Report Submission Stakeholder Email
- Scoping Report Submission Website News Update

Appendix 5: Statement of Community Consultation Materials

- Early working draft of Statement of Community Consultation
- Letter to Norfolk County Council regarding draft SoCC consultation
- Letter to South Norfolk Council regarding draft SoCC consultation
- Draft SoCC
- Published SoCC
- Section 47 Notice as placed in Eastern Daily Press (4 June 2025)
- Section 47 Notice as placed in Diss Express (6 June 2025)

Appendix 6: Phase Two Consultation Materials

- Phase Two Consultation Information Leaflet
- Phase Two Consultation Feedback Form
- Phase Two Consultation BESS Fact Sheet
- Phase Two Consultation Site Location Overview Plan
- Phase Two Consultation Section Maps
- Phase Two Consultation Event Display Boards
- Phase Two Consultation Community Webinar Slides
- Phase Two Consultation Community Postcard
- Phase Two Consultation Indicative Masterplan (PEIR Figure 5.1)
- Phase Two Consultation Poster
- Phase Two Consultation Advertisement
- Phase Two Consultation Press Release
- Press Release Distribution List for Phase Two Consultation

Appendix 7: Section 42 Consultation Materials

- Section 42 Consultee List
- Section 44 Consultee List
- Section 42 Covering Letter

- Section 44 Covering Letter
- Site Location Plan
- Section 46 Covering Letter
- Acknowledgement of Section 46 Notice

Appendix 8: Section 48 Consultation Materials

- Section 48 Notice
- Map of Site Notice Locations
- Copy of Section 48 Notice as placed in Diss Express (6 June 2025 and 13 June 2025)
- Copy of Section 48 Notice as placed in Eastern Daily Press (11 June 2025 and 18 June 2025)
- Copy of Section 48 Notice as placed in the Guardian (16 June 2025)
- Copy of Section 48 Notice as placed in the London Gazette (18 June 2025)

Appendix 9: Targeted Consultation Materials

- Approach to Targeted Consultation Document
- Targeted Consultation Information Change Note
- Section 42 Covering Letter
- Section 44 Covering Letter
- Map of Site Notice Locations
- Targeted Consultation Feedback Form
- Targeted Consultation Advertisement
- Targeted Consultation Poster
- Targeted Consultation – Maps of Changes in the Vicinity of Site 1, National Grid Substation Site and Site 7D
- Targeted Consultation – Localised Changes to Site Boundary Area
- Targeted Consultation – Proposed Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) Routes

- Targeted Consultation – Proposed HGV Routes
- Post-Consultation Community Updated Newsletter (January 2026)

Appendix 10: Section 47 Applicant Response Table

- Section 47 Applicant Response Table (Phase Two and Targeted Consultation Feedback)

Appendix 11: Section 42 Applicant Response Table

- Section 42 Applicant Response Table (Phase Two and Targeted Consultation Feedback)