



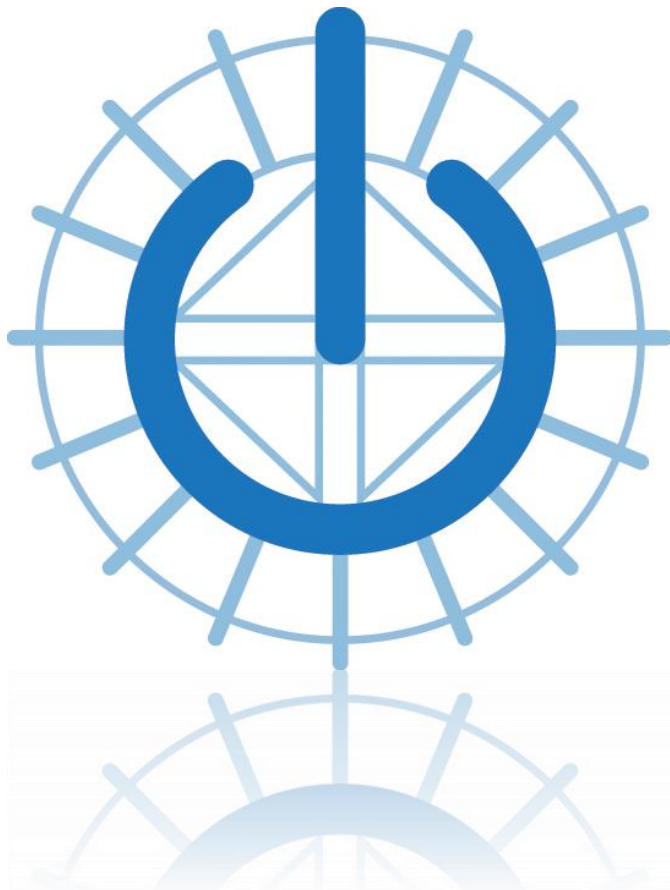
The Millbrook Power (Gas Fired Power Station) Order

5.1 Consultation Report

Planning Act 2008
The Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 Overview

1.1.1 Millbrook Power Limited (MPL) wishes to construct, operate and maintain a gas fired power station (with associated gas and electrical connections) at Rookery South Pit, between Bedford and Milton Keynes.

1.1.2 The Project includes an underground gas pipeline connection and an underground electrical connection, the latter including a substation, sealing end compounds and a 400 kV single circuit. A full description of the Project is provided in Section 2.5.

1.2 Purpose of the Report

1.2.1 This Consultation Report and accompanying Appendices (Document Reference 5.2) have been produced to satisfy s37(3) and s37(7) of the PA 2008. The purpose of the Consultation Report is to provide an account of the statutory and non-statutory pre-application consultation activities undertaken by MPL and explain how consultation responses have been taken into account in the development of the Project.

1.3 Statutory Requirements

1.3.1 This Consultation Report and the pre-application consultation process have been prepared and undertaken in accordance with the following requirements and guidance:

Primary and Secondary Legislation

- the PA 2008;
- the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (the 'EIA Regulations 2009'); and
- the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the 'APFP Regulations').

Statutory Guidance and Non-Statutory Advice notes

- The Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG)), 2015 ("the PA 2008 DCLG pre-application guidance") (s42, s47 and s48); and
- Advice Note 14: Compiling the consultation report (PINS, Version 2: April 2012) ("PINS Advice Note 14").

1.4 Approach

1.4.1 MPL has invested considerable time and resources during two pre-application consultation phases of the Project in order to encourage meaningful involvement by the local community, those interested in the Project and the Project Site, Local Authorities and other prescribed consultees. Consequently, the Project has developed in a consultative and iterative manner, during successive stages of development and consultation.

1.4.2 The Project was initiated by MPL in January 2014, following which a phase of consultation was undertaken. In March 2015, it was decided by the previous owners of the Project to put it “on hold” primarily because of the then market conditions for new power generation in the UK. However, after acquisition of the Project by Drax in December 2016 (further described in Section 2.4) the Project was publicly “re-launched” in April 2017. Consultation on the Project (statutory and non-statutory) has been undertaken over two phases: Phase 1 (April 2014 – March 2015) and Phase 2 (March 2017 - October 2017).

1.4.3 The two phased approach to Consultation involved several different strands of pre-submission engagement (both non-statutory and statutory), which can be summarised as follows:

Phase 1 consultation (April 2014 – March 2015):

- Non-Statutory Consultation (before and after statutory consultation)
- EIA Scoping (under the EIA Regulations 2009)
- s47 - Local Community Consultation
- s42 - Consultation with Prescribed Consultees (s42(1)(a) prescribed persons; s42(1)(b) local authorities, and s42(1)(d) land interests)
- s48 - Statutory Publicity

Phase 2 consultation (March 2017 - October 2017):

- Non-Statutory Consultation (before and after statutory consultation)
- s47 - Local Community Consultation
- s42 - Consultation with Prescribed Consultees (s42(1)(a) prescribed persons; s42(1)(b) local authorities, and s42(1)(d) land interests)
- s48 - Statutory Publicity

1.4.4 Consultation on the Project has generated significant levels of interest and participation from a broad spectrum of consultees. This Consultation Report recognises that certain members of the local community expressed concerns about the Project and its potential impacts. Equally, this Consultation Report acknowledges that the Project has received expressions of support.

- 1.4.5 Both supporters and objectors of the Project have been able to contribute to its development since 2014. Significant design and Project decisions were either directly or indirectly influenced by the consultation undertaken. This is reflected, in particular, by the significant changes to the design of the Project which were undertaken during and following the Phase 1 consultation.
- 1.4.6 Figure 1.1 below summarises the key stages of the development of the Project, and highlights the interaction between the consultation, assessment and design stages.

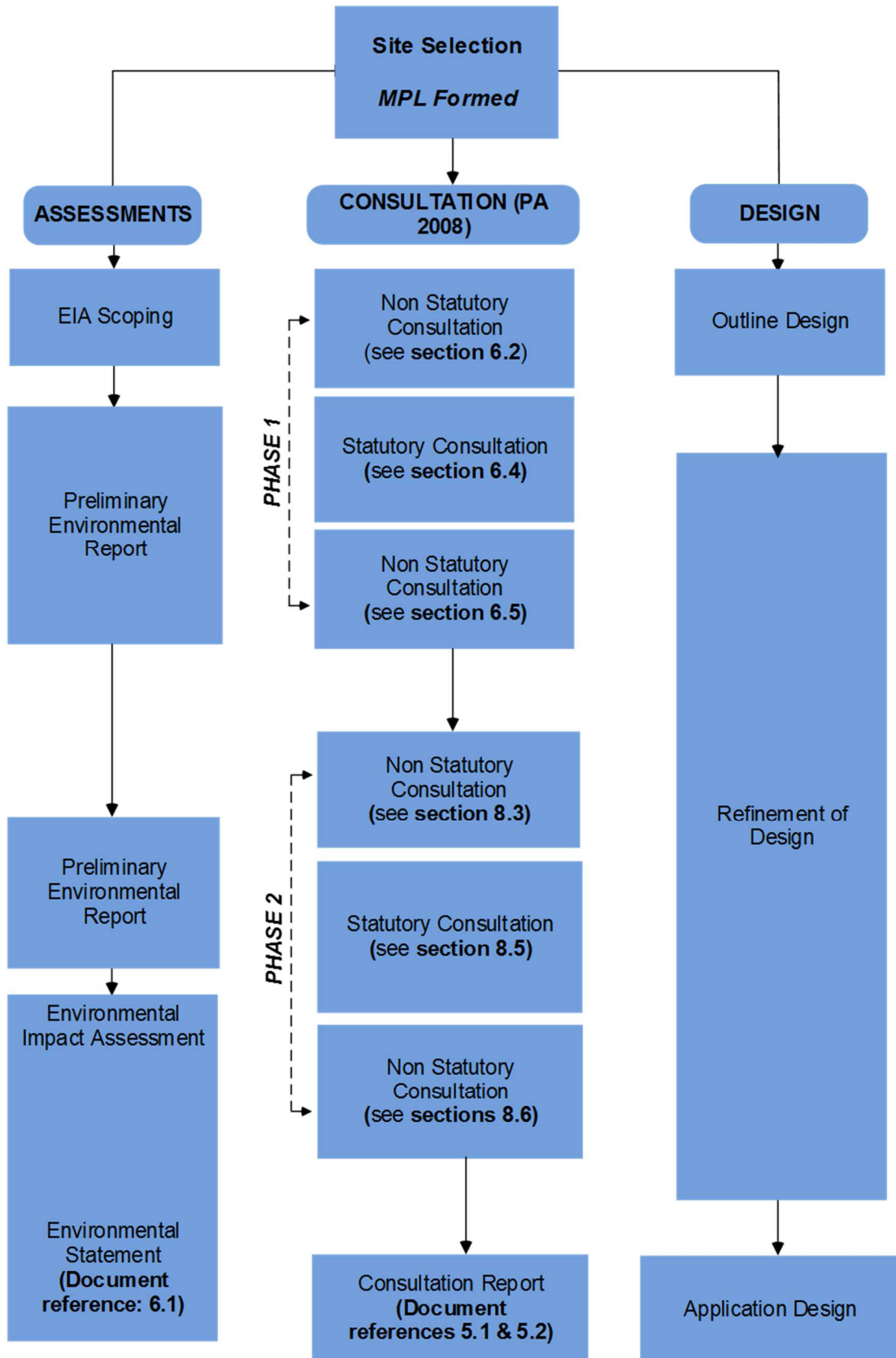


Figure 1.1 Stages of development of the Project

1.4.7 A basic summary of consultation activities is provided in Table 1.1 below. A more detailed summary is contained in Table 5.1 Summary of Consultation undertaken for MPL, located in Section 5 of this document.

Table 1.1 Summary of Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultation

Strand	Dates
Phase 1 Consultation (April 2014 – March 2015)	
Phase 1 Non Statutory Consultation (pre-statutory consultation)	April 2014 – October 2014
Phase 1 EIA Scoping	June 2014 – October 2014
Phase 1 Statutory Consultation (s47)	July 2014 – September 2014
Phase 1 Statutory Publicity (s48)	October 2014
Phase 1 Statutory Consultation (s42)	October 2014 – November 2014
Phase 1 Statutory Consultation (s47)	September 2014 – November 2014
Phase 1 Non Statutory Consultation (post-statutory consultation)	November 2014 – February 2015
Phase 2 Consultation (March 2017 – October 2017)	
Phase 2 Non Statutory Consultation (pre-statutory consultation)	April 2017 – May 2017
Phase 2 EIA Scoping	April 2017 – May 2017
Phase 2 Statutory Publicity (s48)	May 2017
Phase 2 Statutory Consultation (s42)	May 2017 – July 2017
Phase 2 Statutory Consultation (s47)	May 2017 – June 2017
Phase 1 Non Statutory Consultation (post-statutory consultation)	July 2017 – October 2017

Phase 1 Consultation (April 2014 – March 2015)

Phase 1 non-statutory consultation (April 2014 - June 2014) (prior to Phase 1-statutory consultation)

1.4.8 MPL decided to carry out non-statutory consultation at an early stage of the Project's development, and did so several months in advance of the commencement of the statutory consultation element of Phase 1 Consultation. This allowed MPL to introduce the project to the public and gain early feedback from other consultees.

1.4.9 As part of the non-statutory consultation MPL sought early discussions in May 2014 with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and Bedford Borough Council (BBC) councillors on the consultation process. This resulted in:

- An increase in the Core Consultation Zone (the 'CCZ') (see Figure 6.1) from 3 km to 5 km, and contact with more distant Parish Councils in the Outer Consultation Zone (the 'OCZ') (see Figure 6.2);
- Identification of hard to reach groups; and

- Provision of further information at the statutory consultation exhibitions.

1.4.10 Specific concerns were raised regarding the assumption of a stack height of 60 m as a worst case and the visual impact of pylons. In order to give more certainty during statutory consultation, MPL undertook early atmospheric dispersion modelling to inform the stack height which showed that a range of 30 m to 40 m for the stack height would be sufficient to produce no significant impacts in terms of local air quality. In addition, and in discussion with the relevant landowners, a preferred location for the Gas Connection was proposed (consultation undertaken with landowners is described in sections 6.4 of this Consultation Report).

1.4.11 In May 2014, a letter drop was made to approximately 10,500 local homes in the CCZ (shown in Figure 6.1) in advance of holding three exhibitions which were attended by approximately 250 people. Local area media coverage at the time highlighted the main aspects of the Project and the exhibitions and subsequently reflected the feedback received by MPL. Reporting covered concerns about visual impacts, the future development of Rookery South Pit (including the Rookery South RRF Project), and the level and extent of potential local environmental benefits.

Phase 1 EIA scoping (July 2014)

1.4.12 The DCO Application must be supported by an Environmental Statement (ES) (Document Reference 6.1), reporting on the outputs of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)¹. During production of the ES, MPL also identified the key technical consultees with an interest in the Project, and, through a process known as EIA 'scoping', was able to agree its primary methodological approaches to environmental assessment with the SoS. The SoS's written opinion as to the information to be provided in the ES was set out in the Scoping Opinion, dated July 2014. Environmental survey and assessment work was subsequently undertaken during 2014 and early 2015. PINS was satisfied that the details of the EIA Scoping Report encompassed the matters identified in the EIA Regulations.

Phase 1 statutory consultation (October 2014 - November 2014)

1.4.13 MPL's early non-statutory engagement helped to inform the development of the Phase 1 Statement of Community Consultation (Phase 1 SoCC) (Appendix 2.D). The Phase 1 SoCC set out how MPL would consult with the local community under s47 of the PA 2008. Informed by non-statutory consultation, MPL was able to agree the content and objectives of the Phase 1 SoCC with CBC and BBC (Appendix 2.B). As the relevant local authorities, CBC and BBC's knowledge and contribution was invaluable; it enabled MPL to develop a

¹Note: The Project falls under the EIA Regulations 2009 regime and not the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the "EIA Regulations 2017") regime. This is because a scoping opinion was requested from the SoS under the EIA Regulations 2009 before the commencement of the EIA Regulations 2017. This means that, in accordance with the transitional arrangements at Regulation 37(2)(a)(ii) of the EIA Regulations 2017, the EIA Regulations 2009 will continue to apply to the Project.

proportionate and targeted approach to consultation, informed by detailed local knowledge.

- 1.4.14 Published in October 2014, the Phase 1 SoCC Notice (Appendix 3.U) confirmed where and when the SoCC could be inspected by members of the public.
- 1.4.15 For clarity and to avoid confusion, MPL took the approach of conducting a combined consultation under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA 2008. MPL's Phase 1 statutory consultation commenced on 13th October 2014 and ended on 16th November 2014, a period of 35 days.
- 1.4.16 MPL sought to provide sufficient clarity to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the Project. In order to do so, MPL introduced the key elements of the Project, supported by significant quantities of information including a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (2014 PEIR) and a Non-Technical Summary (2014 PEIR NTS). PINS received a copy of the 2014 PEIR and the 2014 PEIR NTS on 7th October 2014 as part of the s46 notification process.
- 1.4.17 MPL explained what decisions had been made to date, and sought feedback on specific Gas Connection options, whilst also inviting feedback on the 2014 PEIR and the Project as a whole. At this stage, there were a number of options available for connecting into the existing 400 kV transmission network and a worst case scenario of two overhead line double circuits with six (6) additional towers was assumed for the purposes of the 2014 PEIR.
- 1.4.18 MPL undertook statutory consultation with prescribed consultees under s42. Prescribed consultees received a copy of the 2014 PEIR (on CD), 2014 PEIR NTS, a leaflet containing information about the Project and the consultation process, and a cover letter. A small number of consultees were issued the above information after the start of the consultation process. In some cases, this was the result of returned deliveries, or difficulty in obtaining proof of delivery. Despite this, MPL received proof of delivery for all consultees within at least 28 days prior to the consultation deadline, in accordance with the statutory minimum timescale. The final receipt of the latest deliveries was 17th October 2014 and the date at which the minimum 28 days expired was 14th November 2014 (consultation for this Phase 1 finished on 16th November 2014).
- 1.4.19 MPL held four exhibitions at separate venues within the CCZ (see Figure 6.1), under s47. Homes and businesses within the CCZ were notified of the consultation period and the local exhibitions by a leaflet and local media (print, broadcast & social) carried reports about the Project and the statutory consultation period. Local parish councils as well as CBC and BBC local councillors and the constituency MP were notified of the statutory period of consultation (including the exhibitions), as were "hard to reach groups" in the area.
- 1.4.20 The Project and exhibitions were publicised via a s48 notice published in national and local newspapers, and posters were displayed at various locations in the area surrounding around the site. In addition, MPL issued three press

releases to local media to publicise the period of consultation (with media reports subsequently published and broadcast) and arranged for articles about the Project and the consultation to be included in parish council newsletters and on their websites.

1.4.21 In response to feedback from the local community and statutory consultees during statutory consultation, MPL had amended its proposals to:

- Assess additional viewpoints from the Millennium Park and Marston Moretaine; and
- Not access parts of the site for construction purposes via the villages of Millbrook (Sandhill Close) or Kempston Hardwick (Manor Road).

**Phase 1 non-statutory consultation (November 2014 – March 2015)
(following Phase 1 statutory consultation)**

1.4.22 A number of additional non-statutory consultation activities were undertaken by MPL following the Phase 1 statutory consultation.

1.4.23 MPL held an outreach meeting with CBC councillors, CCZ parish councillors and PINS on 26th November 2014 in order to discuss the DCO Application, the latest update on the Project and stakeholder specific issues (BBC was invited to the meeting but was unable to send a representative). At this meeting concerns were raised regarding the visual impact of the pylons on Ampthill Park. Following this meeting and consistent feedback about the pylons throughout the strands of the consultation process a decision to "underground" the electrical connection was made and this was one of the key outcomes of the consultation process. Following this decision there remained several options for the connection into the existing 400 kV network albeit with underground cables rather than an overhead line.

1.4.24 MPL held a meeting with the Environment Agency (EA) on 20th January 2015 in order to discuss the DCO Application including the latest update on the Project and the Environmental Permitting that will allow the project to operate.

1.4.25 MPL held further meetings with CBC, BBC and local parishes on 4th February 2015 in order to keep them apprised of developments and timeline to submission as well as to update them with respect to the undergrounding of the electrical connection. The local media were notified of the meeting via a press release.

1.4.26 MPL issued additional information to s42 parties and those s47 parties that had requested to be kept informed on 6th and 7th February 2015 (Appendix 4.N.i).

1.4.27 A further information update was issued to s42 parties and those s47 parties that had requested to be kept informed on 20th March 2015 (Appendix 4.N.ii). This provided further information on a modification to the Red Line Boundary from October 2014 in relation to the Access Road within Rookery South Pit, and also informs consultees about amendments to the RRF Order (relating to the

Rookery South RRF Project) that MPL propose to make in order to ensure that both projects can co-exist.

1.4.28 In March 2015, it was decided by the previous owners of the Project to put it “on hold” primarily because of the then market conditions for new power generation in the UK. On 26th March MPL informed local councillors and parish councils (as well as other local stakeholders) that it was putting the Project on hold. However, after Drax’s acquisition of the Project in December 2016 the Project was publicly “re-launched” in April 2017.

Phase 2 Consultation (March 2017 - October 2017)

Phase 2 non-statutory consultation (March 2017 - May 2017) (carried out prior to the Phase 2 statutory consultation)

1.4.29 From March 2017, MPL undertook non-statutory consultation with a range of stakeholders prior to the commencement of the Phase 2 statutory consultation period, including:

- Refreshing the Regulation 9 consultation list;
- Meetings with key stakeholders including PINS, regulatory agencies, local authorities and CCZ parish councils; and
- Updating the MPL website (www.millbrookpower.co.uk) to advise that further consultations would be taking place in 2017.

1.4.30 The focus of this non-statutory consultation was to introduce the Project to those who were not involved in Phase 1 consultation and update those who were consulted during the Phase 1 consultation on the changes to the Project to explain why the Project was now progressing again towards submission of a DCO application.

Phase 2 EIA scoping (March 2017)

1.4.31 As outlined in the summary of the Phase 1 Consultation, the DCO Application must be supported by an ES (Document Reference 6.1), reporting on the outputs of an EIA.

1.4.32 It was agreed during discussions with PINS that the previous Scoping Opinion was still applicable and that a further Scoping Request would not be necessary prior to submission of the DCO Application.

Phase 2 statutory consultation (May 2017 - July 2017)

1.4.33 MPL's early non-statutory engagement helped to inform the development of the Project's Statement of Community Consultation for Phase 2 consultation (Phase 2 SoCC). The Phase 2 SoCC was based on the Phase 1 SoCC and set out how MPL would consult with the local community under s47 of the PA 2008. Informed by both non-statutory and statutory consultation, MPL was able to agree the content and objectives of the Phase 2 SoCC with CBC and BBC. As the

relevant local authorities, CBC and BBC's knowledge and contribution was invaluable; it enabled MPL to develop a proportionate and targeted approach to consultation, informed by detailed local knowledge.

- 1.4.34 Published in May 2017, the Phase 2 SoCC Notice confirmed where and when the Phase 2 SoCC could be inspected by members of the public.
- 1.4.35 For clarity and to avoid confusion, MPL took the approach of conducting a combined consultation under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA 2008. MPL's Phase 2 statutory consultation commenced on 29th May 2017 and ended on 2nd July 2017, a period of 35 days.
- 1.4.36 MPL sought to provide sufficient clarity to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the Project. In order to do so, MPL introduced the key elements of the Project as amended, supported by significant quantities of information including a preliminary environmental information report (2017 PEIR) and a non-technical summary (2017 PEIR NTS). The 2017 PEIR contained significantly more information than the 2014 PEIR and reflected the changes that had been made to the Project as a result of the Phase 1 consultation. PINS received a copy of the 2017 PEIR and the 2017 PEIR NTS on 23rd May 2017 as part of the s46 notification process.
- 1.4.37 The Phase 2 consultation documentation set out what decisions had been made to date, and sought feedback on the 2017 PEIR and the Project as a whole. By this stage the options for connecting into the 400 kV National Transmission line had been refined by MPL to underground options only (as explained in Chapter 5 of the ES (Document Reference 6.1)). The Electrical Connection options were re-named and presented during the Phase 2 consultation as Option 1 (previously named Option 3 in the 2014 PEIR) and Option 2 (previously named Option 4 in the 2014 PEIR) and were consulted on and described in the 2017 PEIR.
- 1.4.38 MPL undertook statutory consultation with prescribed consultees under s42. Prescribed consultees received a CD containing the 2017 PEIR and Project Overview Document and a hard copy of the 2017 PEIR NTS, Project Overview Document and consultation leaflet. A small number of consultees were issued the above information after the start of the consultation process. In some cases, this was the result of returned deliveries, or difficulty in obtaining proof of delivery. Despite this, MPL received proof of delivery for these consultees allowing at least 28 days to respond to the consultation, in accordance with the statutory minimum timescale.
- 1.4.39 Subsequent to the commencement of the Phase 2 statutory consultation a number of consultees were identified which required consulting under s42 PA 2008. Where consultation packages were not received in time to provide consultees with at least 28-days to respond during the Phase 2 statutory consultation period (29th May – 2nd July 2017) the relevant consultees were given their own consultation periods as summarised in Section 8 below.

1.4.40 MPL held four exhibitions at separate venues, under s47, in accordance with the Phase 2 SoCC. Around 13,000 homes and businesses within the CCZ (see figure 8.1) were notified of the consultation period and the local exhibitions by a leaflet and local media (print, broadcast & social) carried reports about the Project and the statutory consultation period. In addition, parish council newsletters and parish council websites carried details of the Project, the period of consultation and where information about the Project could be inspected (local libraries and council offices).

1.4.41 The Project and exhibitions were publicised via a s48 notice published in national and local newspapers, and posters were displayed at various locations in the area surrounding the site.

Phase 2 non-statutory consultation (July 2017 – October 2017) (carried out following Phase 2 statutory consultation)

1.4.42 A number of additional non-statutory consultation activities were undertaken by MPL following Phase 2 statutory consultation. Following the receipt of Phase 2 statutory consultation responses MPL arranged meetings with the following stakeholders: the Bedford Group of Internal Drainage Boards ('IDB'), the Environment Agency ('EA'), Covanta, and the Forest of Marston Vale. Further non-statutory consultation was undertaken via email and phone call correspondence; details are presented in Section 8.6.

Evolution of the Project in Response to Consultation Feedback

1.4.43 MPL has had regard to consultation feedback received between 2014 and 2017 and has amended its proposals in response to feedback received from consultees during the phased consultation as follows:

- Undergrounding of electrical connection resulting in no additional pylons;
- Consultation Zones modified; CCZ expanded from 3km radius to 5km radius;
- Air dispersion modelling to determine stack heights was brought forwards and undertaken in May 2014;
- Additional viewpoints added for the LVIA;
- Confirmation of the preferred Gas Connection route following comments from consultees;
- Change the AGI location to address landowner's concerns;
- Reduction in stack height from 60m (at scoping stage) to 35m (in DCO Application);
- Reduction in the number of turbines used to generate electricity from a maximum of five gas turbine generators to one thereby resulting in only one stack;

- Improved access arrangements, traffic management measures and routing during construction; and
- Commitment to landscape and ecology mitigation strategy.

1.4.44 During the Phase 2 consultation MPL engaged with NGET on the preferred choice of Electrical Connection from the MPL site to the 400kV National Electricity Transmission line to the south. Following these discussions, it was decided that Electrical Connection Option 2 is no longer suitable. This means that Electrical Connection Option 1, comprising one underground double circuit Tee-in and two Sealing End Compounds (SECs) (located on each side of the existing transmission line), is now the sole option proposed in respect of the Electrical Connection. A full description of the Electrical Connection is provided in Section 3.4 of the ES (Document Reference 6.1).

Next Steps

1.4.45 MPL is grateful to all who have provided input during both phases of the pre-application consultation process.

1.4.46 MPL is committed to continued engagement with the local community, their political representatives (councillors and MPs) and other key stakeholders following submission of the DCO Application, as well as throughout the construction, operation and decommissioning phases, should a DCO be made.

2 Introduction and Context

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Millbrook Power Limited (MPL) wishes to construct, operate and maintain a gas fired power station (with associated gas and electrical connections) at Rookery South Pit, between Bedford and Milton Keynes.
- 2.1.2 The Project includes an underground gas pipeline connection and an underground electrical connection, the latter including a substation, sealing end compounds and a 400 kV single circuit. A full description of the Project is provided in Section 2.5.
- 2.1.3 A full glossary of defined terms used in the Consultation Report is presented in the Project Glossary (Document Reference 1.4).

2.2 Phases of Consultation

- 2.2.1 The Project was initiated by MPL in January 2014. In March 2015, it was decided by the previous owners of the Project to put it “on hold” primarily because of the then market conditions for new power generation in the UK. However, after acquisition of the Project by Drax Group plc (Drax) in December 2016 (further described in section 2.3 below) the Project was publicly “re-launched” in April 2017. As a result, MPL decided to undertake a second phase of consultation after the Project was relaunched. This Consultation Report refers to the two phases of consultation as follows:
- Phase 1 consultation (including non-statutory and statutory consultation from January 2014 until March 2015); and
 - Phase 2 consultation (including non-statutory and statutory consultation from March 2017 until submission of the DCO Application in October 2017).

2.3 Purpose of the Report

- 2.3.1 This Consultation Report has been produced to satisfy s 37(3) and s37(7) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) and accompanies MPL's DCO Application to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (SoS). The DCO Application will be submitted to PINS who will examine it before making a recommendation to the SoS.
- 2.3.2 In accordance with s37(7) of the PA 2008, this Consultation Report provides:
- An account of the consultation, publicity, deadlines set and community consultation activities undertaken under s42, s46, s47 and s48 of the PA 2008 (“statutory consultation”) is provided in section 6 for the Phase 1 consultation and section 8 for the Phase 2 consultation;

- Information regarding the non-statutory consultation activities that have taken place is provided in section 6 for the Phase 1 consultation and section 8 for the Phase 2 consultation;
- A summary of the relevant responses to the separate strands of statutory consultation. This is provided in section 7 for the Phase 1 consultation and section 9 for the Phase 2 consultation; and
- An explanation of how MPL has had regard to the relevant responses in the development of the Project, as required by s49(2). This is provided in section 11 for both consultation phases.

2.3.3 The Appendices to this Consultation Report are contained in Document Reference 5.2.

2.4 The Applicant

2.4.1 MPL is the applicant for the Project. MPL is registered in England (Company Number 08920458) and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Drax Group plc (Drax), Company Number 05562053.

2.4.2 MPL's registered office is at Drax Power Station, Drax, Selby, North Yorkshire, United Kingdom, YO8 8PH.

2.4.3 Drax is responsible for generating 7% of the UK's electricity, predominantly via Drax power station in Selby. Drax is one of the UK's largest energy producers and is committed to helping to reduce carbon emissions, displacing more coal off the system and providing additional system support to plug the gaps created by intermittent renewables and boost security of supply.

2.4.4 Drax acquired MPL from Watt Power Limited (Watt Power) in 2016. Stag Energy Development Company Ltd (Stag Energy) previously provided management services to Watt Power in relation to MPL. Stag Energy continues to provide resources to MPL through a management services agreement. Stag Energy was founded in 2002 and the company draws on a depth of experience within a team that has created and delivered over 10,000 MW of power generation and related infrastructure projects across the globe, of which 2,500 MW has been delivered in the UK.

2.4.5 MPL is committed to acting in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. As part of this policy, MPL has sought the views and concerns of the local community outside of the statutory consultation process under the PA 2008 and has considered this feedback alongside the consultation feedback from statutory consultation in preparing the DCO Application.

2.4.6 For further details on MPL and Drax, please refer to the Introduction to the Applicant and Guide to the Application (Document Reference: 1.1).

2.5 The Project

2.5.1 MPL is proposing to develop a gas-fired power generation plant (and connections to the electricity and gas networks) on land located in Rookery South Pit (the Project Site), near the villages of Stewartby, Millbrook and Marston Moretaine in Bedfordshire.

2.5.2 The Project Site is located almost entirely within the administrative area of Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), with a small proportion crossing into Bedford Borough Council (BBC).

2.5.3 The up to 299 MW gas fired peaking power generation plant element of the Project constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) pursuant to the PA 2008 and therefore requires development consent under that PA 2008. The Applicant is therefore applying for a development consent order (DCO); this Consultation Report is provided as part of that application.

2.5.4 The Project would comprise:

- a new Power Generation Plant in the form of an Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) peaking power generating station, fuelled by natural gas with a rated electrical output of up to 299 MW. This is the output of the generating station as a whole, measured at the terminals of the generating equipment. The Power Generation Plant comprises:
 - generating equipment including one Gas Turbine Generator with one exhaust gas flue stack and Balance of Plant (together referred to as the ‘Generating Equipment’), which are located within the ‘Generating Equipment Site’;
 - a new purpose built access road from Green Lane to the Generating Equipment Site (the ‘Access Road’ or the ‘Short Access Road’);
 - a temporary construction compound required during construction only (the ‘Laydown Area’);
- a new underground gas pipeline connection, approximately 1.8 km in length (the ‘Pipeline’) to bring natural gas to the Generating Equipment from the National Transmission System (the ‘Gas Connection’). The Gas Connection also incorporates an Above Ground Installation (AGI) at the point of connection to the National Transmission System; and
- a new electrical connection to export power from the Generating Equipment to the National Grid Electricity Transmission System (NETS) (the ‘Electrical Connection’), comprising an underground double circuit Tee-in. This would require one new tower (which will replace an existing tower and be located in the existing Grendon – Sundon transmission route corridor, thereby resulting in no net additional towers). This option would require two SECs, one located on each side of the existing transmission line, and both circuits would then be connected via underground cables approximately 500 m in length to a new substation (the ‘Substation’).

- 2.5.5 The Generating Equipment, Access Road and Laydown Area are together known as the 'Power Generation Plant' and are located within the 'Power Generation Plant Site'. The Power Generation Plant Site is approximately 12.5 ha in area.
- 2.5.6 The Power Generation Plant, Gas Connection, and Electrical Connection, together with all access requirements are referred to as the 'Project'. The land upon which the Project would be developed, or which would be required in order to facilitate the development of the Project, is referred to as the 'Project Site'. The Project Site is approximately 48 ha in area. The Project is described in more detail in Chapter 3 of the ES (Document Reference 6.1).
- 2.5.7 The new Electrical Connection will comprise one underground double circuit Tee-in. This would require one new tower (which will replace an existing tower and be located in the existing Grendon – Sundon transmission route corridor, thereby resulting in no net additional towers). This connection would require two SECs, one located on each side of the existing transmission line, and both circuits would then be connected via underground cables approximately 500 metres in length to a new substation (the 'Substation').
- 2.5.8 The Power Generation Plant (including the Access Road and the Laydown Area) form an integral part of the nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP). The Gas Connection (including the Pipeline and the AGI) and the Electrical Connection constitute associated development within the meaning of section 115 of the PA 2008.
- 2.5.9 Pursuant to section 115 of the PA 2008, development consent can be granted for the NSIP and associated development. Associated development is development associated with the NSIP as set out in section 115 of the PA 2008, and having regard to guidance on associated development issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Further information on the meaning of associated development is set out in the Explanatory Memorandum (Document Reference 3.2).

2.6 Structure

- 2.6.1 The remainder of this Consultation Report is structured as follows:
- Section 3: identifies relevant legislation and guidance which together set out the statutory requirement for pre-application consultation on the Project;
 - Section 4: provides a summary of historical consultation undertaken on the Project Site;
 - Section 5: provides an overview of the phased consultation process undertaken by MPL;
 - Section 6: provides a description of the Phase 1 consultation;
 - Section 7: summarises feedback from the Phase 1 consultation;

- Section 8: provides a description of the Phase 2 consultation;
- Section 9: summarises feedback from the Phase 2 consultation;
- Section 10: summarises how MPL has managed the interaction between the Project and the Rookery South Resource Recovery Facility Project (the 'Rookery South RRF Project') throughout the consultation process and how the DCO will manage the interaction between the two Projects; and
- Section 11: provides an overview of the evolution of the Project from initial design up to the application design, and a summary of how MPL has had regard to the consultation responses.

3 Legislation & Guidance

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section summarises the legislation and guidance which provide the statutory requirements for pre-application consultation on the Project.

3.2 Legislation and Guidance

3.2.1 Both Phases of statutory consultation and the production of this Consultation Report have been carried out in accordance with the requirements of primary and secondary legislation, in particular:

- the PA 2008;
- the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (the 'EIA Regulations 2009'); and
- the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the 'APFP Regulations').

3.2.2 The following statutory guidance and non-statutory advice notes have also been followed in the design and delivery of the consultation process and preparation of this Consultation Report:

- The Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG)), 2015 ("the PA 2008 DCLG pre-application guidance") (s42, s47 and s48); and
- Advice Note 14: Compiling the consultation report (PINS, Version 2: April 2012) ("PINS Advice Note 14").

3.2.3 Appendix 2.A highlights key components of the PA 2008, DCLG pre-application guidance and PINS Advice Note 14 as they apply to this Consultation Report and the consultation process, and signposts where the guidance has been addressed by MPL in this Consultation Report.

3.3 The PA 2008

3.3.1 The following provisions of the PA 2008 are relevant to statutory consultation undertaken on the Project:

- Section 37: Applications for orders granting development consent;
- Section 42: Duty to consult certain categories of person;
- Section 43: Local authorities for purposes of s42(1)(b);
- Section 44: Categories for purposes of s42(1)(d);
- Section 45: Timetable for consultation under s42;

- Section 46: Duty to notify the SoS of proposed application (and to provide s42 consultation materials to the SoS);
- Section 47: Duty to consult the local community (people living in the vicinity of the land);
- Section 48: Duty to publicise the proposed application; and
- Section 49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity.

Section 37 (PA 2008)

3.3.2 This Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with s37(7) of the PA 2008. It seeks to demonstrate how MPL has complied with its duties under s42, s46, s47, s48 and s49 of the PA 2008, gives details of relevant responses received and the account taken of any relevant responses.

Section 42 (PA 2008)

3.3.3 Under s42 of the PA 2008, bodies prescribed by Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations must be consulted about the proposed application (the 'prescribed bodies'). In addition, each local authority that is set out within s43 of the PA 2008 must be consulted, as must the people who fall within the categories set out in s44. This consultation must be for no shorter a period than 28 days beginning with the day after receipt of the consultation documents.

Section 46 (PA 2008)

3.3.4 Under s46 of the PA 2008, the applicant must supply PINS with the same information as that supplied to consultees under s42 and s43 of the PA 2008. The applicant must do this before commencing consultation under s42.

Section 47 (PA 2008)

3.3.5 Under s47 of the PA 2008, a Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') must be developed for the project and must set out how the applicant proposes to consult people living in the vicinity about the proposed application. In preparing the SoCC, an applicant must consult the relevant local authorities about the SoCC. Those local authorities have 28 days from receiving the draft SoCC to comment and the applicant must have regard to comments from the relevant local authorities on what should be included in the SoCC. Once the SoCC has been finalised, the applicant must make it available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land and must publish a notice in a local newspaper that says where and when the SoCC can be inspected.

Section 48 (PA 2008)

3.3.6 Under s48 of the PA 2008, a proposed application is required to be publicised once in the London Gazette and a national newspaper and twice in local newspapers. The notice must do various things, including explaining where and

when the consultation documents can be viewed and what the deadline is for consultation responses (being no earlier than 28 days from the date when the last notice was published).

Section 49 (PA 2008)

3.3.7 S49(2) applies where the applicant has complied with s42, s47 and s48, and proposes to go ahead with making an application for an order granting development consent. Under s49(2) of the PA 2008, the applicant must have regard to any relevant responses received during the s42, s47(7) and s48(2) consultation before the relevant deadline imposed by the Applicant in accordance with s45, s47(7) and s48(2).

3.4 The EIA Regulations

3.4.1 The Project falls under the EIA Regulations 2009 regime and not the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations 2017) regime. This is because a scoping opinion was requested from the SoS under the EIA Regulations 2009 before the EIA Regulations 2017 came into effect. This means that, in accordance with the transitional arrangements at Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations 2017, the EIA Regulations 2009 will continue to apply to the Project.

3.4.2 The following provisions of the EIA Regulations are relevant to statutory consultation undertaken on the Project:

- Regulation 6: Procedure for establishing whether EIA is required;
- Regulation 8: Application for a scoping opinion;
- Regulation 9: Procedure to facilitate preparation of environmental statements;
- Regulation 10: if a development is EIA development, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information; and
- Regulation 11: Pre-application publicity under s48 (duty to publicise).

3.5 The APFP Regulations

3.5.1 The following provisions of the APFP Regulations are relevant to statutory consultation undertaken on the Project:

- Regulation 3: Prescribed consultees;
- Regulation 4: Publicising a proposed application; and
- Schedule 1: Circumstances when consultees must be consulted and notified about an application.

3.6 PINS Advice Note 14

- 3.6.1 PINS Advice Note 14 version 2 provides guidance on the format and content of a consultation report. The note also provides relevant advice on dealing with statutory consultation including how to present feedback from phased consultation processes.
- 3.6.2 Appendix 2.A outlines where recommendations on the content of the consultation report made in PINS Advice Note 14 have been complied with through the consultation process and addressed in this Consultation Report.

3.7 The PA 2008 DCLG pre-application guidance

- 3.7.1 The PA 2008 DCLG pre-application guidance reminds us that the PA 2008 sets out statutory requirements for applicants to engage in pre-application consultation with local communities, local authorities, and those who would be directly affected by the project. The front-loaded emphasis of consultation in the major infrastructure planning regime is designed to ensure a more transparent and efficient examination process.
- 3.7.2 Appendix 2.A outlines where recommendations on the consultation process made in the PA 2008 DCLG pre-application guidance have been complied with through the consultation process and addressed in this Consultation Report.

4 Historical Consultation

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section sets out an overview of historical consultation undertaken in relation to the Project Site in accordance with PINS Advice Note 14 (p3). MPL's Consultation Plans for the Phase 1 and Phase 2 consultation have been influenced by careful consideration of historical consultation carried out on the Project Site.

Draft Central Bedfordshire Local Plan Consultation

4.1.2 CBC undertook consultation on the Draft Central Bedfordshire Local Plan document under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, ('the Local Plan Regulations') between 4th July and 29th August 2017.

4.1.3 During this consultation CBC requested comments on growth locations, strategic policies and development management policies. However, the draft Local Plan did not contain any site specific allocations or policies relating specifically to the Project Site.

Covanta Resource Recovery Facility

4.1.4 The Rookery South RRF Project is a separate project promoted by Covanta, which is also planned for construction in Rookery South Pit. The Rookery South RRF Project was granted a DCO in 2011 (the "RRF Order") and the Order limits (i.e. the Red Line Boundary) of the RRF Order partially overlap with the Project Site. Section 10 of this Consultation Report explains the interactions between the Rookery South RRF Project and the Project.

4.1.5 The Project Overview Document consulted on during the Phase 2 consultation set out how MPL will manage the relationship with the Rookery South RRF Project. The Project Overview Document is contained at Appendix 3.T.ii.

4.1.6 As part of the DCO application process for the Rookery South RRF Project, Covanta carried out the following consultation activities under the PA 2008 with the following:

- i. Statutory consultees, as prescribed under s42(1)(a) of the PA 2008;
- ii. Technical consultees;
- iii. Local Authorities, including neighbouring authorities whose areas adjoin the two authority areas within which the Application Site lies;
- iv. Parties with interests in land, falling within the categories set out in s44 of the PA 2008; and
- v. The local and wider community.

- 4.1.7 Covanta's consultation took a variety of forms, including meetings with statutory and technical consultees, meetings with and presentations to the community liaison panel established for the Covanta RRF project, letters, advertisements, public exhibitions, use of a website and a telephone information line.
- 4.1.8 Covanta undertook a direct mail consultation within a radius of 5 km of its site; the footprint was then adjusted to reflect Parish Council boundaries. The proposed consultation footprint was adjusted to reflect Parish boundaries, to avoid splitting villages or local areas along artificial boundaries. The 5 km radius was also deemed to be appropriate from a near neighbour issue context, following discussions with the local authorities. During these discussions, 3 km (too small), 5 km and 7 km (larger than required) radii were reviewed. The choice of Parish Council boundaries also related to stakeholder engagement by ensuring that parish/town councils, the finest grained level of local representation, were consulted. A distribution company was engaged to deliver leaflets and information about the development.
- 4.1.9 In March/April 2017, Consultation was undertaken by the Environment Agency (EA) on an application for the Environmental Permit of the Rookery South RRF Project. Subsequently, the EA are now undertaking consultation on the draft decision in relation to the Environmental Permit application; the consultation is due to close on 7th November 2017.

Bedfordshire and Luton Minerals and Waste Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

- 4.1.10 Bedfordshire County Council (abolished 2009) adopted its Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in October 2006. It explains how the general public and all others with an interest in development plans can be involved in the Minerals and Waste Development Framework process. This effectively sets out the consultation regime that was in place when the Rookery South was allocated as a development site by the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Strategic Sites and Policies document.
- 4.1.11 Subsequently, Bedfordshire County Council was abolished and replaced by a series of unitary authorities including CBC and BBC which inter alia took over responsibility for County Matters including minerals and waste planning. This SCI is still in force in each of the successor Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities. This means that it has been a consideration in the preparation of any new planning documents concerning minerals and waste as discussed below.

Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic Sites and Policies

- 4.1.12 In relation to waste, the following preparatory work has been undertaken:
- The 'Waste Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Paper 1', which addressed policy issues underwent public consultation from 1st October to 30th November 2007.

- The 'Waste Site Allocations Plan Issues and Options Consultation Paper 2' set out a portfolio of potential new sites for waste management facilities, nominated by waste operators and landowners. This underwent public consultation from 1st October to 30th November 2007. The Consultation Paper also called for additional site nominations. Following this paper, a further eight waste sites were put forward for possible inclusion within the Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework, and there was also an amendment to information about a previously suggested site regarding its capacity. This led to additional public consultation from between 28th April and 2nd June 2008.
- The 'Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation document' (which included Strategic sites) underwent public consultation from 1st June to 12th July 2010.

4.1.13 A combined minerals and waste local plan has been developed from the preceding consultation documents discussed above and underwent consultation on soundness between 5th December 2011 and 5th February 2012. 'Main Modifications and Additional Modifications' to the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy were subject to consultation between 1st June and 16th July 2012. It was then submitted to the SoS on 10th August 2012. BBC, CBC and Luton Borough Council's Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic Sites and Policies was adopted on the 30th January 2014. As part of the Spatial Strategy for Waste, Policy WSP2 allocates four sites for waste recovery uses, at Elstow North, Land at Former Brogborough landfill, Rookery Pit South, and Land at Thorn Turn.

4.1.14 The site at Rookery Pit South (107 ha), located predominantly within CBC and partly within BBC, is allocated for non-landfill waste management recovery operations and non-hazardous landfill, with opportunities for pre-treatment recovery operations prior to landfill.

CBC Statement of Community Involvement

4.1.15 CBC published a new Statement of Community Involvement in 2012; this deals with a range of consultation scenarios and in particular reflects on sites that are already known to the public and suggest that the Council would wish to see Developers or landowners take a leading role in consultation as part of their obligations to the local community and gives examples of making contact regarding such issues (for example exhibitions/workshops run with the local community) and extra effort being made to engage with "hard to reach" groups.

4.1.16 It encourages schemes for development to be drawn up with considerable (and demonstrable) local input, with local support as far as possible and that a statement setting out what consultation has taken place should be submitted to the Council for consideration as part of the planning application process.

4.1.17 Whilst the Project is consented under the PA 2008, rather than the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 process (to which the SCI applies), considerable

attention has been paid by MPL to CBC's SCI in developing MPL's approach to local engagement and consultation.

4.2 Summary and conclusions

- 4.2.1 MPL's Consultation Plans for the Phase 1 and Phase 2 consultation have been influenced by careful consideration of historical consultation carried out in respect of the Project Site. The Phase 1 Consultation Plan and Phase 2 Consultation Plan are enclosed at Appendix 2.D and Appendix 2.E.
- 4.2.2 Section 10 of this Consultation Report summarises how MPL has managed the interaction between the Project and the Rookery South RRF Project throughout the consultation process and sets out how the DCO will manage the interaction between the two Projects.

5 Overview of Consultation

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section provides an overview of the phased approach to the pre-application consultation undertaken by MPL during the evolution of the Project.

5.2 MPL's Consultation Process

5.2.1 At the outset of the Project, MPL recognised that the planning regime established by the PA 2008 places significant importance on pre-application consultation. Accordingly, MPL has invested considerable time and resources in the pre-application phases of the Project, in order to encourage meaningful involvement in the process by the local community, those interested in the Project Site, local authorities and other prescribed consultees.

5.2.2 MPL has undertaken pre-application consultation on the Project in two phases, which reflects the Project development timeline.

5.2.3 The Project was initially developed and taken through the first phase of consultation by MPL under the ownership of MPL in 2014/2015. MPL undertook its Phase 1 consultation on the Project between January 2014 and February 2015

5.2.4 In March 2015, it was decided by the previous owners of the Project to put it “on hold” primarily because of the then market conditions for new power generation in the UK. However, after acquisition of the Project by Drax in December 2016 (further described in section 2.3 below) the Project was publicly “re-launched” in April 2017.

5.2.5 Following this, and in accordance with the PA 2008 DCLG pre-application guidance (paragraph 73), MPL decided to undertake a second phase of consultation in 2017. The feedback received from the Phase 1 consultation informed a number of changes to the Project. The Phase 2 consultation provided the opportunity for MPL to inform those who were not involved with Phase 1 consultation about the Project and to update consultees on the changes to the Project and for all consultees to comment on the revised proposals.

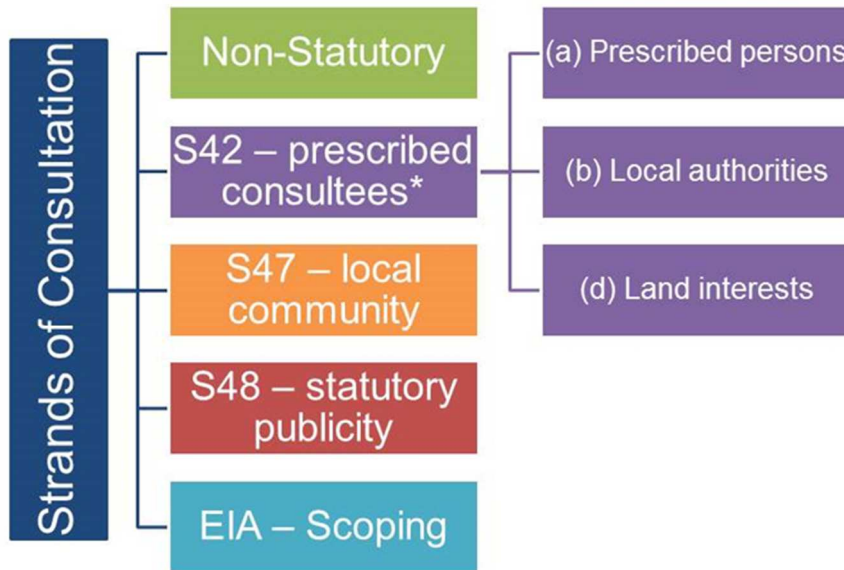
5.2.6 Consequently, the Project has developed in a consultative and iterative manner during successive stages of development as shown in Figure 5.1 and described in Section 11.

Consultation strands

5.2.7 Figure 5.1 illustrates the strands of consultation that have been undertaken during both Phase 1 consultation and Phase 2 consultation, as required under the terms of the PA 2008 and the EIA Regulations 2009.

5.2.8 The definitions are used throughout this Consultation Report to identify how the consultation activities relate to the statutory consultation requirements of the PA 2008 and EIA Regulations 2009. The colour coding shown in Figure 5.1 for the various sections of the PA 2008 is applied and used consistently in Table 5.1 and Table 5.2.

5.2.9 For clarity, MPL took the approach of conducting two streamlined statutory consultation periods, incorporating the requirements of s42, s46, s47 and s48 of the PA 2008 during both the Phase 1 consultation and Phase 2 consultation.



* s42(c) is not applicable as the project is not within the remit of the Greater London Authority

Figure 5.1 The strands of consultation

5.2.10 MPL undertook non-statutory consultation both leading up to and following on from the Phase 1 and Phase 2 statutory consultation periods. In accordance with PINS Advice Note 14 (page 4), MPL has clearly indicated and identified separately within this Consultation Report non-statutory from statutory consultation undertaken. In practice, MPL has afforded equal weight to feedback received from statutory and non-statutory consultation activities. This approach is reflected throughout this Consultation Report.

5.2.11 Table 5.1 provides an overview of pre-application consultation undertaken by MPL, in chronological order, and signposts where further information can be found in this Consultation Report.

Table 5.1 Summary of Consultation undertaken for MPL

Strand	Description	Purpose	Date	Relevant Section in Consultation Report
Phase 1 consultation (April 2014 – March 2015)				
Phase 1 Non Statutory Consultation (pre-statutory consultation) (PA 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meetings with CBC and BBC regarding consultation approach and Phase 1 SoCC ▪ Meetings with MPs, Center Parcs, English Heritage and Natural England to discuss project. ▪ Meetings with Parish Councils to discuss project 	To introduce the outline proposals and DCO process, to gain understanding of local and technical issues of the Project, and to informally consult on the Phase 1 SoCC and consultation plan.	April – October 2014	Table 6.1
	Media coverage – Radio, TV, Newspapers, websites and social media (twitter, facebook).	To introduce the Project, share MPL’s initial plans with people living in the vicinity of the site and gather initial feedback on the Project and its impact on the environment, local communities and the local economy.	May – June 2014	Paragraph 6.2.28 to 6.2.31
	Public Exhibitions – Lidlington, Stewartby and Marston Moretaine		June 2014	Paragraph 6.2.20 to 6.2.27
Phase 1 EIA Scoping (EIA Regs. 2009)	EIA Scoping Report submitted	Obtain a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2009 from PINS	June 2014	Paragraph 6.3.1 to 6.3.3
	Receipt of EIA Scoping Opinion from PINS (including Regulation 9 consultee list) providing	Sets out the SoS and statutory consultee opinions on the scope, methodologies and likely potential effects of the Project that will be assessed as part of the EIA.	July 2014	Paragraph 6.3.9

Strand	Description	Purpose	Date	Relevant Section in Consultation Report
	response to submitted EIA Scoping Report.			
	Regulation 6 Notification	To notify the SoS under Regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations 2009 that MPL intends to submit an ES as part of the DCO Application.	June 2014	Paragraph 6.4.2
	EIA Scoping – Regulation 11 Notification Issue of the s48 notice to the consultation bodies and to those persons notified to MPL in accordance with Regulation 9(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations 2009.	In compliance with Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations 2009.	Late September / October 2014	Paragraph 6.4.85 to 6.4.91
Phase 1 Statutory Consultation (s47) (PA 2008) ⁱ	Statutory consultation with BBC, CBC and PINS on the content of the Phase 1 SoCC.	To agree how MPL will consult on the Project with people living in the vicinity of the land (local community).	Late July / August 2014	Paragraph 6.4.43 to 6.4.61
	Phase 1 SoCC published	To inform the local community about how MPL will consult with them on the Project and how they can comment on the proposals.	September 2014	Paragraph 6.4.62 to 6.4.63

Strand	Description	Purpose	Date	Relevant Section in Consultation Report
Phase 1 Statutory Publicity (s48) (PA 2008)	Notice publicising the Project in newspapers	To nationally publicise the intention to submit a DCO Application.	October 2014	Paragraph 6.4.80 - 6.4.84
Phase 1 Statutory Consultation (s42) (PA 2008)	s46 Notification	To notify the SoS under s46 of the PA 2008 of the proposed application and supply the s42 consultation information.	October 2014	Paragraph 6.4.3 to 6.4.4
	s42(1)(a) – Prescribed Persons	To consult prescribed persons on the proposals and gather their feedback.	October – November 2014	Paragraph 6.4.8 - 6.4.14
	s42(1)(b) – Local Authorities	To consult local authorities on the proposals and gather their feedback.	October – November 2014	Paragraph 6.4.15 - 6.4.18
	s42(1)(d) – Land Interests	To consult those with land interests on the proposals and gather their feedback.	October – November 2014	Paragraph 6.4.19 to 6.4.25
Phase 1 Statutory Consultation (s47) (PA 2008)	Media coverage – Radio, TV, Newspapers, websites and social media (twitter, facebook).	To nationally publicise the intention to submit a DCO Application.	September – October 2014	Paragraph 6.4.92
	s47 Consultation – including public exhibitions (Marston Moretaine, Stewartby, Ampthill and Lidlington)	To consult the local community on the proposals and gather their feedback.	October – November 2014	Paragraph 6.4.77

Strand	Description	Purpose	Date	Relevant Section in Consultation Report
Phase 1 Non Statutory Consultation (post-statutory consultation) (PA 2008)	Non statutory consultation post statutory consultation phase.		November 2014 to February 2015	Section 6.5
Phase 2 consultation (March 2017 - October 2017)				
Phase 2 Non Statutory Consultation (pre-statutory consultation) (PA 2008)	Meetings with CBC and BBC to discuss the Project. Meetings with Parish Councils in the CCZ to discuss the Project. Notifying local MP, OCZ parish councils and hard to reach groups	To update Councillors and Officers on key changes to the Project since 2015.	April – May 2017	Paragraph 8.3.2
Phase 2 Statutory Consultation (s47) (PA 2008)	Statutory consultation with BBC, CBC and PINS on the content of the Phase 2 SoCC.	To agree how MPL will consult on the Project with people living in the vicinity of the land (local community).	April- May 2017	Paragraph 8.5.4 to 8.5.11
	Phase 2 SoCC published in Bedford Time and Citizen, Bedfordshire on Sunday.	To inform the local community about how MPL will consult with them on the Project and how they can comment on the proposals.	May 2017	Paragraph 8.5.16
	Leaflet distributed to 13,000 homes and businesses in the CCZ.	To inform the local community about how the Project, they will consult with them on the Project and how they can comment on the proposals.		Paragraph 8.5.56

Strand	Description	Purpose	Date	Relevant Section in Consultation Report
Phase 2 EIA Scoping (EIA Regs. 2009)	Non-statutory consultation with PINS to confirm that MPL did not need to re-scope the EIA.	To agree that the EIA Scoping Opinion was still valid in compliance with Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations 2009.	April 2017	Paragraph 8.4.1 to 8.4.2
Phase 2 EIA Scoping (EIA Regs. 2009)	EIA Scoping – Regulation 11 Notification. Issue of the s48 notice to the consultation bodies and to those persons notified to MPL in accordance with Regulation 9(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations 2009.		May 2017	Paragraph 8.5.79 to 8.5.86
Phase 2 Statutory Publicity (s48) (PA 2008)	Notice publicising the Project in newspapers in the Bedford Time and Citizen, Bedfordshire on Sunday, The Times and the London Gazette under s48.	To nationally publicise the intention to submit a DCO Application.	May 2017	Paragraph 8.5.76 to 8.5.78
Phase 2 Statutory Consultation (s42) (PA 2008)	s46 Notification.	To notify the SoS under s46 of the PA 2008 of the proposed application and supply the s42 consultation information.	May 2017	Paragraph 8.5.18 to 8.5.19
	s42(1)(a) – Prescribed Persons s42(1)(b) – Local Authorities s42(1)(d) – Land Interests	To consult prescribed persons, local authorities and those with an	May - July 2017	Paragraph 8.5.20 to 8.5.30

Strand	Description	Purpose	Date	Relevant Section in Consultation Report
		interest in the land on the proposals and gather their feedback.		
Phase 2 Statutory Consultation (s47) (PA 2008)	Media coverage of public exhibitions – newspapers notices published in the Bedford Time and Citizen, Bedfordshire on Sunday and on the MPL website and Social Media Posts.	To nationally publicise the intention to submit a DCO Application under s48 PA 2008.	May 2017	Paragraph 8.5.68
	s47 Consultation – public exhibitions (Marston Moretaine, Stewartby, Ampthill and Lidlington)	To consult the local community on the proposals and gather their feedback.	June 2017	Paragraph 8.5.69
Phase 1 Non Statutory Consultation (post-statutory consultation) (PA 2008)	Non statutory consultation post statutory consultation phase.		July – October 2017	Section 8.6

5.3 MPL's approach to consultation

- 5.3.1 As noted on the MPL website, "Public consultation is an integral part of the planning process and has been an important element of Millbrook Power's work since the project was first announced in 2014. The project's consultations with the local community, local politicians, local groups and other relevant organisations, are designed to meet all legal requirements and are based on a range of advice and guidance."
- 5.3.2 In developing its approach to consultation, MPL has taken account of the legislative requirements and accompanying guidance. In doing so, MPL has sought to ensure that its approach to consultation is 'thorough, effective and proportionate,' as set out in the PA 2008 DCLG pre-application guidance (paragraph 25).
- 5.3.3 The pre-application consultation encouraged a range of people to express their views on the emerging proposals and MPL was able to have regard to those views, before important decisions were made. Responses have been generated through both non-statutory and statutory consultation undertaken during Phase 1 consultation and Phase 2 Consultation, as set out in Table 5.1 and Table 5.2.

Phase 1 Consultation (April 2014 – March 2015)

- 5.3.4 During the Phase 1 consultation, MPL chose to undertake non-statutory consultation with the local community, political representatives and other key stakeholders several months in advance of the commencement of the Phase 1 statutory consultation in order to capture any initial input to the ongoing refinement of the Project (Stages 2 a to c in Table 5.2).
- 5.3.5 Stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels as well as local community representatives were contacted by MPL and public exhibitions were held for the benefit of the local community in June 2014 (Stage 4 in Table 5.2). During this non-statutory phase of consultation, MPL explained the rationale and key objectives of the Project, gave reasons why the Power Generation Plant Site had been chosen (and the need for the Project) and presented opportunities for feedback on the initial Project concepts.
- 5.3.6 As acknowledged by the PA 2008 DCLG Guidance, there is an inherent tension between consulting early and providing sufficient information to enable consultees to comment. MPL sought to balance these competing requirements by providing clear descriptions of options under consideration and explaining the on-going nature of the design development and consultation processes.
- 5.3.7 Drawing on the early feedback on the proposals, MPL was able to consider the consultation responses alongside the design development and environmental assessment processes. MPL's decision to engage early was subsequently validated as this phase of non-statutory consultation would ultimately shape the development of the Project; for example, recommendations received from CBC and BBC in relation to previous projects in the area guided MPL's decision on

the size of the consultation zones that were included in the Phase 1 SoCC that was submitted for comment to CBC and BBC 30th July 2014.

- 5.3.8 MPL set out in the draft Phase 1 SoCC (6a and 6b of Table 5.2) how the 2014 PEIR would be publicised and proposed to conduct a single phase statutory consultation with aligned deadlines for s42 and s48 publicity. In this respect, MPL's approach is compliant with PINS Advice Note 14, which states that it is helpful for s48 and s42 deadlines to be aligned. MPL sought to maximise the opportunity for consultees to comment on the Project by exceeding the minimum statutory timescales of 28 days. In this respect, MPL's approach to the consultation is considered to be straightforward and accessible.
- 5.3.9 The draft Phase 1 SoCC was developed in consultation with CBC and BBC (6a and 6b of Table 5.2) and the final version of the Phase 1 SoCC was published on the 23rd September 2014 (Appendix 2.D).
- 5.3.10 During Phase 1 statutory consultation, MPL was able to demonstrate how feedback generated by early non-statutory consultation had informed an iterative process of project evolution and design development.

Phase 2 Consultation (March 2017 - October 2017)

- 5.3.11 MPL decided to undertake a second phase of consultation after the project was resumed in early 2017 in accordance with the PA 2008 DCLG pre-application guidance (paragraph 73). The feedback received from the Phase 1 consultation informed a number of changes to the Project and the Phase 2 consultation provided the opportunity for MPL to inform those who were not involved with Phase 1 consultation about the Project and to update consultees on the changes to the Project and for all consultees to comment on the revised proposals for the Project.
- 5.3.12 During the Phase 2 Consultation, MPL chose again to undertake early informal non-statutory consultation to inform the local community, political representatives and other key stakeholders about the DCO application process for the Project resuming (under the new ownership of MPL by Drax) and changes made to the Project since the end of the Phase 1 statutory consultation (Stages 16 and 17 in Table 5.2).
- 5.3.13 MPL produced a draft Phase 2 SoCC for the Phase 2 consultation which set out how the 2017 PEIR produced for the Project would be publicised and consulted upon. MPL proposed to conduct a single Phase 2 statutory consultation period with aligned deadlines for s42 and s48 publicity reflecting the guidance set out in PINS Advice Note 14. Again, MPL sought to maximise the opportunities for consultees to comment on the Project by exceeding the minimum statutory timescales of 28 days. In this respect, MPL's approach to the consultation is considered to be straightforward and accessible.
- 5.3.14 The draft Phase 2 SoCC was developed in consultation with CBC and BBC (Stages 18a and 18b in Table 5.2). The final version of the Phase 2 SoCC was published on 8th May 2017.

Project Consultation Milestones

5.3.15 Table 5.2 presents a summary of project consultation milestones detailing how the Project has evolved from the site selection process to the preparation of the Application, and the key project design decisions taken at each stage.

5.3.16 Section 7 and Section 9 of this Consultation Report respectively explain how feedback generated during Phase 1 consultation and Phase 2 consultation influenced the development of the Project.

5.4 Summary

5.4.1 The phased approach to consultation undertaken by MPL is considered to be appropriate to the scale and timeline of the Project. MPL has maintained an internal communications logging system to record incoming and outgoing consultation for both statutory and non-statutory consultation.

5.4.2 Section 6 and Section 8 describe the consultation activities undertaken by MPL for the various strands of consultation during Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the pre-application consultation.

Table 5.2 Project Consultation Milestones

Stage	Description	Period	Strand of consultation	Key Project Decision
Phase 1 consultation (April 2014 – March 2015)				
1	Initial meeting with CBC	21 st January 2014, meeting CBC. Emails exchanged. CBC Head of Development held initial discussions with council members on behalf of MPL.	Non-statutory	Introduction of the project
2a	Initial non-statutory consultation CBC	Follow up meeting on 8 th April 2014 with CBC, main topics for discussion – project update, consultation strategy, PPA. 19 th May 2014 – briefing session for council members 25 th June 2014 – PPA agreed	Non-statutory	Consultation Zones modified; CCZ expanded from 3km radius to 5km radius Stack modelling brought forwards and undertaken in May 2014.
2b	Initial non-statutory consultation BBC	Initial meeting offered and declined. First meeting was at Council member briefing on 19 th May 2014	Non-statutory	Stack modelling brought forwards and undertaken in May 2014.
2c	Initial non-statutory consultation with other key stakeholders – NE, EH, EA and landowners	Met English Heritage (EH) on 1 st August 2014 Met Natural England (EH) on 12 th August 2014 MPL offered meeting to EA but it was declined. Met landowners on 9 th September 2014	Non-statutory	Revised Red Line Boundary from October 2014 to reflect the preferred Gas Connection route

Stage	Description	Period	Strand of consultation	Key Project Decision
3	EIA Scoping Report received by PINS	20 th June 2014	EIA - Scoping	
4	Non-statutory consultation with local community	Publicity - June 1 st Exhibitions on the 5 th , 6 th and 7 th June 2014	Non-statutory	Reduction in stack height from 40m to 35m.
5	EIA Scoping Opinion issued by PINS	28 th July 2014	EIA - Scoping	EIA methodologies confirmed
6a	s47 consultation with CBC on the Phase 1 Statement of Community Consultation	Submission of Phase 1 SoCC for informal review on 27 th June 2014, meeting to discuss Phase 1 SoCC on 3 rd July 2014, submission for formal review on 30 th July 2014	s47 – local community	
6b	s47 consultation with BBC on the Phase 1 Statement of Community Consultation	Submission of Phase 1 SoCC for informal review on 9 th July 2014, submission for formal review on 30 th July 2014	s47 – local community	SoCC design crystallised
7	s47 Phase 1 SoCC published	23 rd September 2014 on MPL website, and in: CBC and BBC offices, Marston Vale Forest Centre, Bedford Library, Ampthill Library and Wootton Library.	s47 – local community	
8a	Commencement of statutory s47 and s42 consultation, and s46 notification (Including notification under	Consultation commenced on 13 th October 2014. The s46 notification was received by PINS on 7 th October 2014. The last of the s42 packs was received on the 17 th October 2014.	S42 – prescribed consultees	

Stage	Description	Period	Strand of consultation	Key Project Decision
	Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations).			
8b	Commencement of statutory s48 publicity	The Phase 1 s48 notice published in Bedford. Citizen. on 2 nd October 2014. Last one published in Bedford on Sunday 12 th October 2014.	s48 statutory publicity	
9	Conclusion of statutory s48, s47 and s42 consultation	16 th November 2014	s47 – local community S42 – prescribed consultees s48 statutory publicity	
10	Review of statutory s47, s42 and s48 consultation responses	17 th November 2014 – 19 th December 2014	s47 – local community S42 – prescribed consultees s48 statutory publicity	Confirmation of AGI location to address consultation feedback received from land owners. Confirmation of Station Road and Green Lane as lorry routing and access points for construction following discussions with Network

Stage	Description	Period	Strand of consultation	Key Project Decision
				Rail, CBC, BBC and Parish Councils. Further review of Electrical Connection options.
11	PINS outreach meeting	26 th November 2014	Non-statutory	Undergrounding of cable routing proposed following concerns raised at meeting and following the outcome of Statutory consultation
12	Environment Agency meeting	20 th January 2015	Non-statutory	
13	Additional s42 consultation with those with specific identified land interests	26 th January 2015	S42 – prescribed consultees	
14	Targeted information update with s42 prescribed consultees	4 th February 2015	S42 – prescribed consultees	Confirmation of undergrounding decision to include two possible options (Option 1 and Option 2), taking into consideration consultation responses and discussions with NGET.
15	Information update to s47 parties	5 th and 6 th February 2015	s47 – local community	Confirmation of undergrounding decision to include two possible options

Stage	Description	Period	Strand of consultation	Key Project Decision
			S42 – prescribed consultees	(Option 1 and Option 2), taking into consideration consultation responses and discussions with NGET.
Phase 2 consultation (March 2017 - October 2017)				
16	Initial meetings with CBC, BBC and Parish Councils in the CCZ	26th April - 17 th May 2017	Non-statutory	Project re-start briefing- including update on changes to the Project and timetable for submission of the DCO Application. Reduction in the number of turbines used to generate electricity from a maximum of five units to only one unit resulting in only one stack
17	Initial non-statutory consultation with stakeholders including statutory and non-statutory consultation bodies (Covanta, Network Rail, PINS, Bovis Homes,	19th April - 24 th May 2017	Non-statutory	Project re-start briefing- including update on changes to the Project and timetable for submission of the DCO Application.

Stage	Description	Period	Strand of consultation	Key Project Decision
	Persimmon Homes, Mulberry Developments and Barratt Homes).			Reduction in the number of turbines used to generate electricity from a maximum of five units to only one unit resulting in only one stack
18a	s47 consultation with CBC on the Phase 2 SoCC	Submission of Phase 2 SoCC for formal review on 6 th April 2017. CBC recommendations on the Phase 2 SoCC received on 3 rd May 2017.	s47 – local community	Phase 2 SoCC design crystallised.
18b	s47 consultation with BBC on the Phase 2 SoCC	Submission of Phase 2 SoCC for formal review on 6 th April 2017. BBC recommendations on the Phase 2 SoCC received on 2 nd May 2017.	s47 – local community	Phase 2 SoCC design crystallised.
19	s47 Phase 2 SoCC published	8 th May 2017 on MPL website, and in CBC and BBC offices, Marston Vale Forest Centre, Bedford Library, Ampthill Library and Wootton Library.	s47 – local community	
20	Commencement of statutory s47 and s42 consultation, and s46 notification (including notification under Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations 2009).	Consultation commenced on 29 th May 2017. The s46 notification was received by PINS on 23 rd May 2017.	S42 – prescribed consultees	
21	Commencement of statutory s48 publicity	First Phase 2 s48 notice published in Bedford Citizen on 18 th May 2017 and the	s48 statutory publicity	

Stage	Description	Period	Strand of consultation	Key Project Decision
		last one published in Bedford on Sunday 28 th May 2017.		
22	Conclusion of statutory s48, s47 and s42 consultation	2 nd July 2017 (and September 2017 for parties identified late in the Phase 2 statutory consultation process)	s47 – local community	
			S42 – prescribed consultees	
			s48 statutory publicity	
23	Review of statutory s47, s42 and s48 consultation responses	July 2017 – October 2017	s47 – local community	Confirmation of Option 1 electrical connection following discussions with NGET.
24	Rookery South RRF meeting	Meeting with Covanta, developers and operators of the Rookery South RRF Project on the July 18 th 2017	Non-statutory	

6 Description of Phase 1 Consultation (April 2014 – March 2015)

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This section describes the non-statutory and statutory consultation activities that MPL undertook as part of the Phase 1 Consultation.

6.2 Phase 1 Non-statutory consultation (April 2014 - October 2014) (prior to Phase 1 statutory consultation)

6.2.1 MPL undertook non-statutory consultation with CBC and BBC on its draft Phase 1 Consultation Plan and the Phase 1 SoCC in June and July 2014 to aid early consideration of key elements of MPL's proposed consultation strategy with the local community (see Appendix 2.D for copies of the Phase 1 Consultation Plan and the Phase 1 SoCC).

6.2.2 The draft Phase 1 Consultation Plan and the Phase 1 SoCC explained how MPL intended to consult people living and working in the vicinity of the proposed Project. The documents set out the methodology for both Phase 1 non-statutory and statutory consultation with the local community. The development of the Phase 1 Consultation Plan and the Phase 1 SoCC into their final form and the statutory consultation with the local authorities on the Phase 1 SoCC is explained in paragraph 6.4.43 to 6.4.65.

6.2.3 As indicated earlier, MPL's first engagement and communication with the local community was a non-statutory consultation, at a relatively early stage of project development (Stage 4 in Table 5.2).

6.2.4 The focus of this stage of consultation was to raise awareness of the Project and invite initial views on the overall concept of the scheme. It also increased MPL's understanding of the area, local issues and established contact with local representatives such as ward and parish councillors and the constituency MP for the site.

6.2.5 MPL shared its initial plans for the Project with people living in the vicinity of the Project Site and Parish Council members via letter, media reports and public exhibitions held over three days on 5th, 6th and 7th June 2014 in Lidlington, Stewartby and Marston Moretaine. These exhibitions were publicised in advance and this is addressed in paragraph 6.2.1 to 6.2.6 for further detail. Consultation materials associated with the exhibition are provided in Appendix 3.A.

6.2.6 During the exhibitions, MPL received and responded to comments on the Project and its impact on the environment, local communities and the local economy. The responses generated by this phase of consultation are summarised in section 7.2 of this Consultation Report.

Phase 1 non-statutory consultation with key stakeholders (April 2014 – October 2014)

- 6.2.7 Non-statutory consultation with key stakeholders also commenced in April 2014, including with a number of regulatory agencies.
- 6.2.8 MPL also engaged with elected CBC and BBC Councillors, the MP for the site area and spoke to the local media as summarised in Table 5.1.
- 6.2.9 The purpose of this parallel engagement was to raise awareness of the proposals and to increase MPL's understanding of the local context and assist with the identification of potential considerations capable of influencing the development of the Project.
- 6.2.10 The term "key stakeholders" is used to describe consultation with bodies and individuals who can be classified as statutory agencies, decision-makers, political representatives or people identified under s42(1)(d) of the PA 2008. It is employed to distinguish the consultation activities with these bodies, from those undertaken with the local community. There is some overlap across the two, for instance councillors and MPs.
- 6.2.11 Table 6.1 refers to the meetings held with key stakeholders between April 2014 and October 2014 at which MPL sought to raise awareness of the Project and gain early feedback (part of Stage 2a – c in Table 5.1, non-statutory consultation). At the meetings, MPL outlined the intended Project timetable for submission of the DCO Application and consultation periods.
- 6.2.12 MPL also responded to individual queries and information requests from consultees via email, letter and phone call.

Table 6.1 Meetings held with Key Stakeholders between April 2014 and October 2014

Date	Activity and consultee	Minutes reference
08/04/2014	Meeting with CBC to discuss the Project and consultation approach.	Appendix 3.F.i
19/05/2014	Meeting to brief CBC Members and Officers on the Project proposals and consultation.	Appendix 3.F.ii
19/05/2014	Meeting to brief BBC Members and Officers on the Project proposals.	Appendix 3.F.iii
25/06/2014	Meeting with Mid Bedfordshire Conservative MP to discuss the project and local community interest.	Appendix 3.F.iv
01/08/2014	Meeting with Center Parcs regarding concerns over visual impact and construction traffic routes.	Appendix 3.F.v

Date	Activity and consultee	Minutes reference
01/08/2014	Meeting with English Heritage to discuss visual impact on grade I and II listed buildings and ancient monuments.	Appendix 3.F.vi
12/08/2014	Meeting with Natural England to discuss the Project generally.	Appendix 3.F.vii
27/08/2014	General update meeting with CBC.	Appendix 3.F.viii
27/08/2014	Meeting with CBC and BBC to discuss highways / access matters.	Appendix 3.F.ix
09/09/2014	Meeting with Lidlington Parish Council to discuss the Project.	Appendix 3.F.x
09/09/2014	Meeting with O-MIL-s42-ST-PBA-L-96 to discuss the Project ² .	Appendix 3.F.xi
09/09/2014	Meeting with O-MIL-s42-ST-PBA-L-95 and O-MIL-s42-ST-PBA-L-98 to discuss the Project.	Appendix 3.F.xii
11/09/2014	Meeting with Houghton Conquest Parish Council to discuss the Project.	Appendix 3.F.x
17/09/2014	Meeting with Ampthill Parish Council to discuss the Project.	Appendix 3.F.x and Appendix 3.F.xiii
17/09/2014	Meeting with Cranfield Parish Council to discuss the Project.	Appendix 3.F.x
18/09/2014	Meeting with Stewartby Parish Council to discuss the Project.	Appendix 3.F.x
30/09/2014	Meeting with Marston Moretaine Parish Council to discuss the Project.	Appendix 3.F.x

Development of the initial Project description

6.2.13 Non-statutory consultation with the community and statutory consultees was undertaken at the same time as the development of the Project design and the preparation of the 2014 PEIR. The Project description that was used in the 2014 PEIR and more generally in any Phase 1 non-statutory consultation materials is summarised in paragraph 6.2.14.

6.2.14 The description of the Project as it stood during the Phase 1 non-statutory consultation and, in particular, the 2014 PEIR was as follows:

²MPL has anonymised individuals with which it has had discussions regarding the Project for data protection purpose's.

“A new Power Generation Plant in the form of a Simple Cycle Gas Turbine (SCGT) gas fired peaking power generating station fuelled by natural gas and capable of providing an electrical capacity of up to 299 Megawatts (MW) comprising:

- *The Generating Equipment including the Gas Turbine Generators and balance of plant, which are located within the Generating Equipment Site;*
- *A new purpose built Access Road from Green Lane to the Generating Equipment Site; and*
- *During construction a temporary construction compound (the Laydown Area).*

A new Gas Connection to bring natural gas to the Generating Equipment from the National Transmission System which is located within the Gas Connection Opportunity Area; and

A new Electrical Connection to export power from the Generating Equipment to the National Grid Electricity Transmission System (NETS) for distribution to homes and businesses which is located within the Electrical Connection Opportunity Area.

The Generating Equipment, Access Road and Laydown Area are together known as the Power Generation Plant, and are located within the Power Generation Plant Site”.

Phase 1 non-statutory consultation: the CCZ and OCZ

6.2.15 The CCZ (see Figure 6.1) is the area in which MPL focused its primary Phase 1 statutory and non-statutory consultation activity, for example leaflet distribution. The OCZ (see Figure 6.2) is a wider area in which MPL carried out Phase 1 consultation activity on the Project proposals, for example media coverage and email contact with parish councils in the outer zone.

6.2.16 Early feedback (in May 2014) received from CBC and BBC councillors on the consultation process resulted in an increase in MPL’s initial proposals for a CCZ from 3km to 5km, identification of hard to reach groups, contact with more distant Parish Councils in the OCZ and provision of further information at the statutory consultation exhibitions.

6.2.17 The CCZ that was used during Phase 1 non-statutory consultation equates to an approximate 5 km distance from the Generating Equipment Site; it was adjusted to reflect Parish Council boundaries and ensure that no settlements were divided. The OCZ equates to an approximate 10 km radius.

6.2.18 The geographical extent of the CCZ for Phase 1 non-statutory consultation is shown in Figure 6.1 (marked in blue) and was agreed with CBC and BBC at the start of the consultation process. It was established to capture the main population areas within the Parish Councils that were within close vicinity of the

Site, including those considered most likely to be impacted by the Project and expected to have the greatest interest in it, namely the villages of Stewartby, How End, Ampthill, Millbrook and Marston Moretaine. The CCZ includes all of the following parish council areas:

- Wootton;
- Stewartby;
- Houghton Conquest;
- Ampthill;
- Maulden;
- Millbrook;
- Lidlington; and
- Marston Moretaine.

6.2.19 The OCZ for Phase 1 consultation is shown in Figure 6.2 and was also agreed with BBC and CBC. It includes the main population area of Bedford. MPL did not anticipate that the communities and businesses that lie within the OCZ would be significantly impacted by the Project's construction, operation and maintenance; although MPL recognised that they may nevertheless be interested in it.

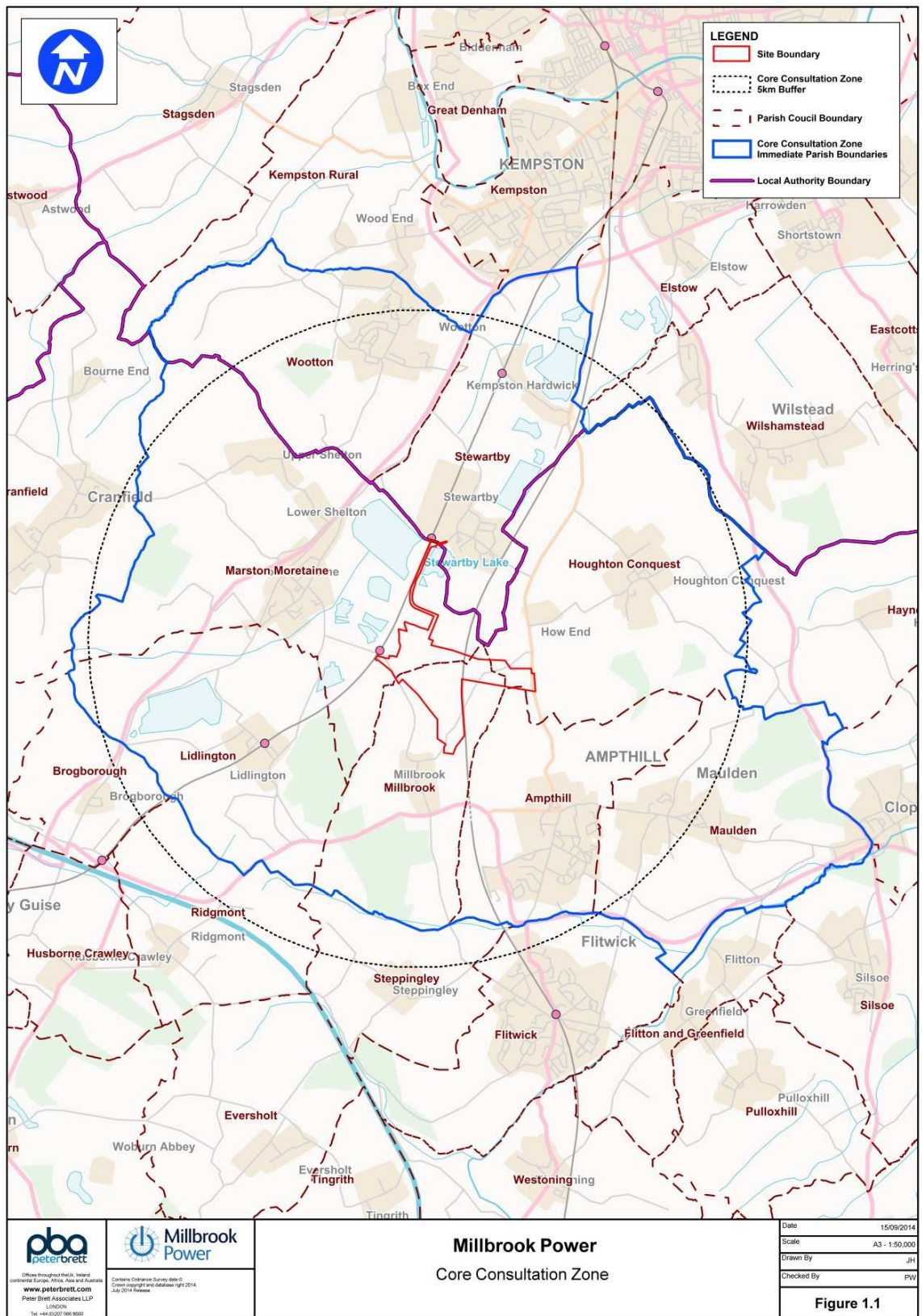


Figure 6.1 Core Consultation Zone (CCZ) (Phase 1 Consultation)

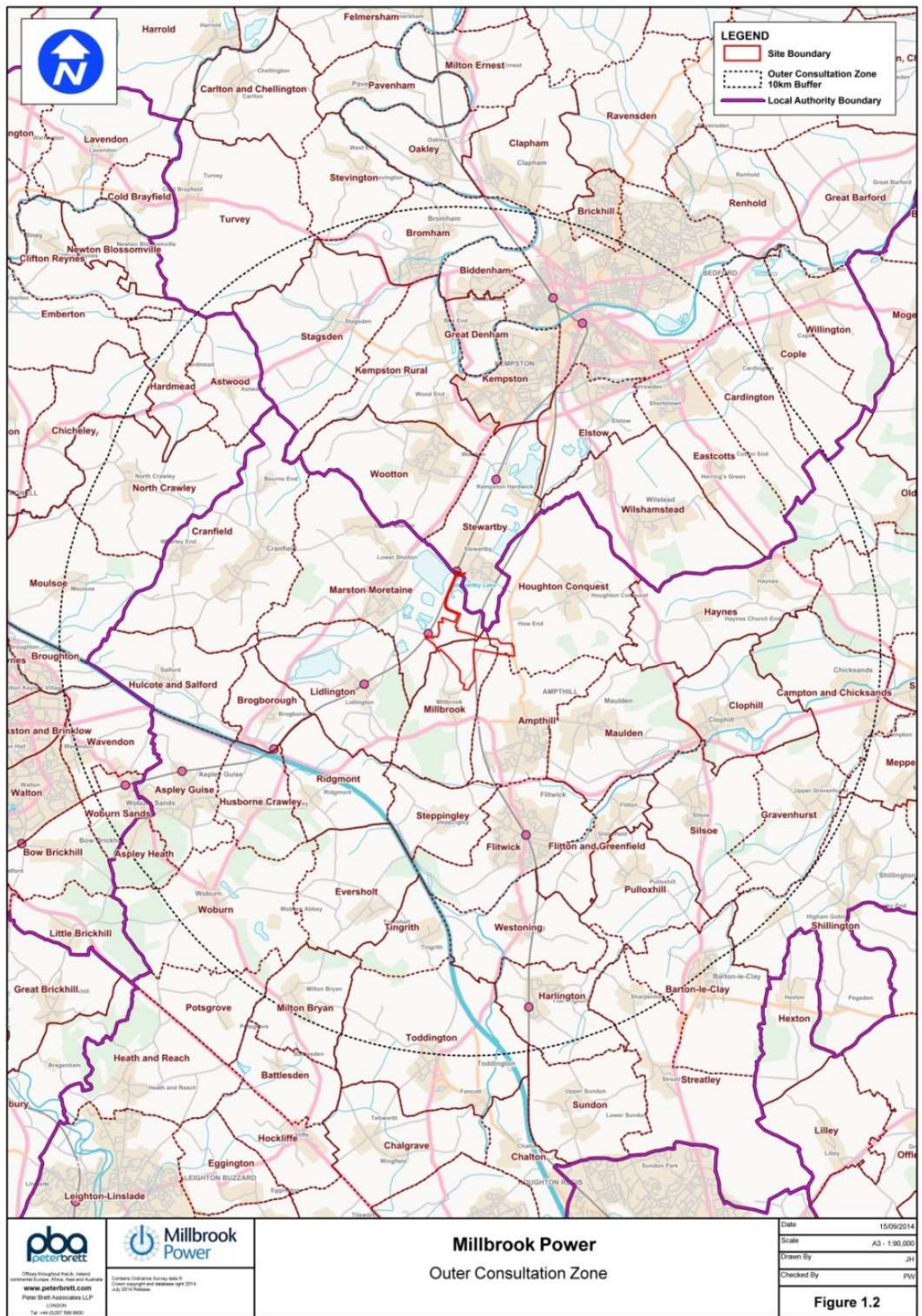


Figure 6.2 Outer Consultation Zone (OCZ) (Phase 1 Consultation)

Phase 1 non-statutory local community consultation (April 2014 – June 2014)

6.2.20 Letters were emailed to local community representatives from 30th May 2014 (see Table 6.2) in advance of the June 2014 exhibitions. A copy of the letter is contained in Appendix 3.B. The letters provided an overview of the Project and explained:

- The Project proposal;
- The need for the Project;
- Who MPL is; and
- The dates and venues of local exhibitions.

Table 6.2 Community representatives contacted on 30th May 2014

Body / Role	Position
Wootton Parish Council	Clerk
Stewartby Parish Council	Clerk
Houghton Conquest Parish Council	Clerk
Amphill Town Council	Town Clerk
Maulden Parish Council	Clerk
Millbrook Parish Meeting	Parish Meeting Clerk
Lidlington Parish Council	Clerk
Marston Moretaine Parish Council	Clerk
Bedford Borough Council	Head of Planning
Central Bedfordshire Council	Head of Planning

6.2.21 Letters about the Project were also delivered to circa 10,500 residential addresses in the local community within a 5km radius of the Project Site in the CCZ. The location and extent of the CCZ is included in Figure 6.1 and explained in paragraph 6.2.15 to 6.2.19.

6.2.22 Details of the dates and venues of the local exhibitions were reported in the local media following a press release issued by MPL on 30th May 2014; this is contained in Appendix 3.C.

6.2.23 An advertisement for the exhibitions was also published in the Bedfordshire on Sunday newspaper on 1st June 2014 and is contained in Appendix 3.D.

- 6.2.24 Twelve posters were distributed and eight posters were put up at appropriate locations in the vicinity of the site and exhibition locations (see Appendix 3.E for a copy of the poster).
- 6.2.25 The June 2014 public exhibitions were staffed by members of the MPL Project team, who were all knowledgeable about the proposals and the intended Project timeline. The team proactively sought to engage with attendees to provide information and answer questions.
- 6.2.26 At the exhibitions, large information display boards were set up containing information relating to the Project (refer to Appendix 3.A.i) and information leaflets were made available (refer to Appendix 3.A.ii), including information on:
- The Power Generation Plant;
 - Who MPL is;
 - The need for gas generation;
 - Why Rookery South Pit;
 - Community benefits;
 - The environment;
 - Planning and consultation; and
 - Key milestones.
- 6.2.27 Approximately 250 people attended the exhibitions. Attendees were asked to complete a feedback form for return on the day or at a later date via free-post (see Appendix 3.A.iii). The summary of feedback received can be found in section 7.2.

Media coverage

- 6.2.28 Copies of the media coverage of the Project during the Phase 1 non-statutory consultation phase are provided in Appendix 3.G. The following provides a summary of the coverage generated and the matters that were reported:
- Bedford Today – Public consultation on plans for gas-fired power station at Rookery South Pit (30th May 2014) (Appendix 3.G.i)
 - BBC News Online, Bedford, Bucks and Herts - Gas power station plan for Stewartby incinerator site (30th May 2014) (Appendix 3.G.ii)
 - BBC Three Counties Radio, 1709hrs – Chris McKerrow interviewed (30th May 2014)
 - BBC TV Look East News – George Grant interviewed (30th May 2014)

- Bedfordshire on Sunday – Stewartby site next to one marked for Covanta’s waste incinerator could now become a gas-fired power station (30th May 2014) (Appendix 3.G.iii)
- UK Wired News – Gas power station plan for Stewartby incinerator site (30th May 2014) (Appendix 3.G.iv)
- Gas to Power Journal – Millbrook plans 299MW Bedfordshire (2nd June 2014) (Appendix 3.G.v)
- Energy Industries Council – Millbrook Power outlines plans for gas-fired plant, Bedfordshire (2nd June 2014) (Appendix 3.G.vi)
- Twitter – tweets on 29th and 30th May regarding the project, their handle and number of followers: @cllmarkasmith (133), @amphillinfo (1090), @GreeninBeds (61), @NarbroughL (749), @BedfordNews (7311), @BedsNews (4102), @DailyBeds (2796), @BedfordTC (2751), @news24heng (1746) and @nadinedorriesMP (26,327).

6.2.29 The articles all outline the nature of the Project with some advertising the upcoming exhibitions and setting out the anticipated project timeline.

6.2.30 MPL submitted articles about the Project in September/October 2014 for publication in the Houghton Conquest Parish Newsletter (Appendix 3.G.vii) and for Stewartby Parish Council’s website and newsletter (Appendix 3.G.viii), though MPL understands that the Parish Councils inadvertently failed to publish it.

6.2.31 Further articles were submitted by MPL in January-February 2015 to Houghton Conquest Parish Newsletter (Appendix 3.G.ix) and Stewartby Parish Council’s website and newsletter (Appendix 3.G.x). The article was published on Stewartby Parish Council’s website and in Houghton Conquest Parish Newsletter.

6.3 Phase 1 EIA scoping consultation (June 2014)

6.3.1 Whilst EIA Scoping is not a requirement of the PA 2008 regime, MPL considered that it might be helpful to consultees under MPL’s PA 2008 consultation programme to understand the consultation activities that were undertaken in relation to the EIA for the Project. As such, this Consultation Report outlines the consultation that has been undertaken in relation to the EIA Scoping stage. More detail on how MPL’s ES has taken on board comments of statutory consultees can be found in the ES itself (Document Reference 6.1).

6.3.2 MPL’s EIA Scoping Report (Appendix 1.2 of the ES) was submitted to PINS on 19th June 2014 and was received on 20th June 2014. It accompanied a request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations from the SoS (PINS processes the request on behalf of the SoS). At the same time, the covering letter advised the SoS under Regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations 2009 that MPL intended to submit an ES as part of its DCO Application

(Appendix 3.I). The then Red Line Boundary (Scoping Report Figure 1) is shown in Figure 6.3 below.

6.3.3 The Scoping Report provided an introduction to the Project, including the need for the Project and its benefits, the developer, the consenting regime and the EIA process. It set out the intended scope and structure of the ES as well as a detailed description of the assessments proposed in order to understand the likely significant environmental effects of the Project. The Scoping Report set out MPL's intention to assess the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Project.

Project description for EIA Scoping Report

6.3.4 The Project description included within the EIA Scoping Report (ES Appendices, Document Reference 6.2) was the same as that for the Phase 1 non-statutory consultation and as set out above in 6.2.12.

6.3.5 The description that was used in the EIA Scoping Report was: The Power Generation Plant would be designed as a Simple Cycle Gas Turbine (SCGT) peaking plant fired by natural gas supplied by a new underground gas pipeline connecting the Power Generation Plant to the existing National Transmission System. It would have a capacity of up to 299 MW (enough to power the equivalent of 400,000 homes).

6.3.6 A number of options were under consideration at this time, including:

- Power Generation Plant options:
 - Three, four or five individual aero-derivative gas turbine generators to achieve 299 MW;
 - One or two individual industrial gas turbine generators will be used to achieve 299MW;
 - Up to 90m (length), up to 150m (width) and up to 20m (height).
- Stack options:
 - One to five stacks;
 - Up to 60m in height from the base of Rookery South Pit and up to a 10m diameter.
- Access option:
 - 1.7 km long road from Green Lane to the Generating Equipment Site.
- Gas Connection options:
 - Located to the south and east of the Generating Equipment Site within the opportunity area;

- Gas receiving station up to 50m by 50m (width) and up to 3m (height).
- Electrical Connection Options:
 - Located to the south of the Generating Equipment site within the Electrical Connection opportunity area;
 - Underground or overhead line;
 - 400kV substation located either on the Generation Equipment Site or adjacent to the existing 400kV overhead line running from Sundon to Grendon.
- Other buildings/infrastructure options:
 - Up to two (2) water tanks that are up to 24m (diameter) and up to 15m (height);
 - Administration/ workshop/ control building up to 50m by 20m (width) and up to 6m (height).

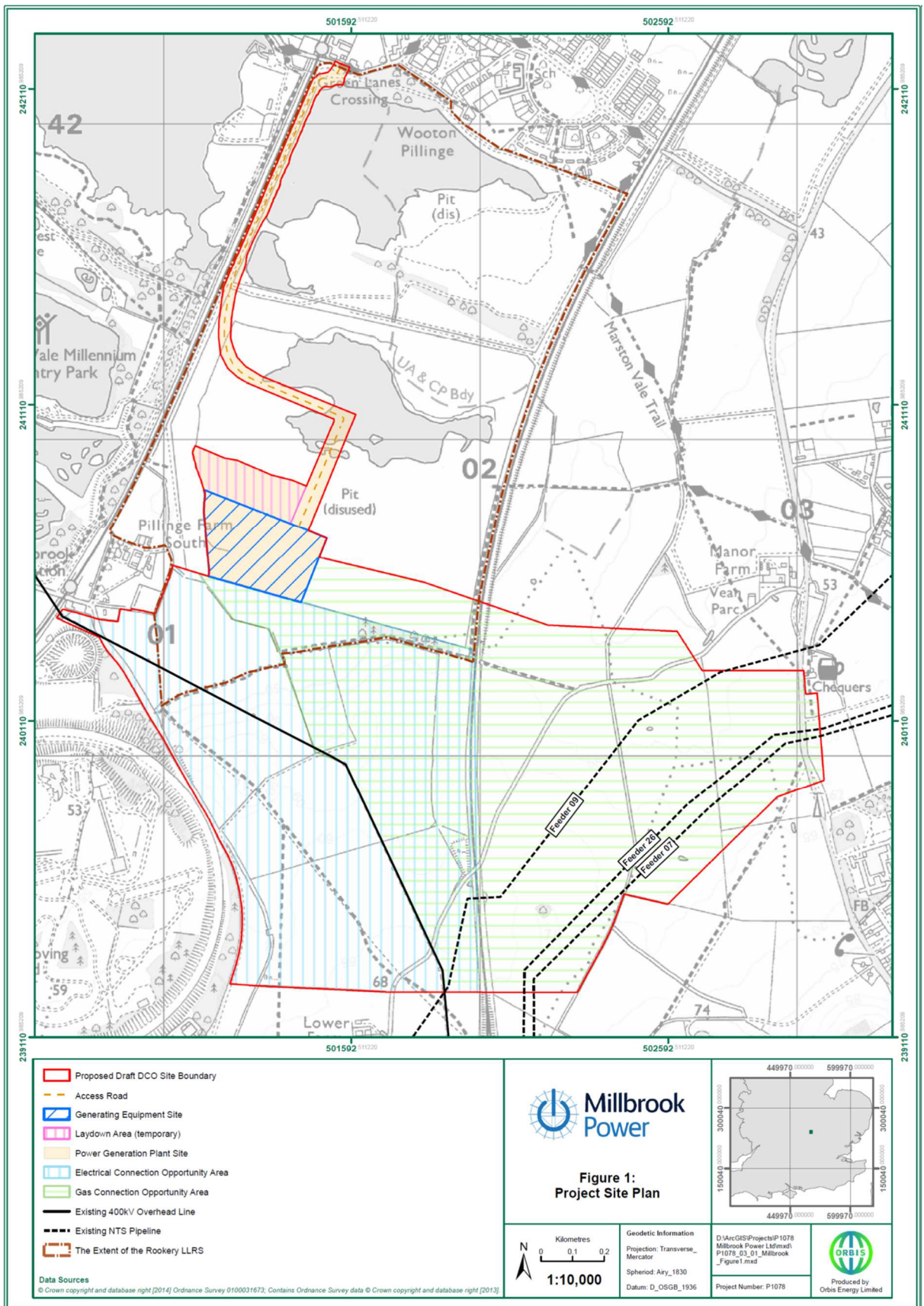


Figure 6.3 Figure 1 of EIA Scoping Report

- 6.3.7 An acknowledgment of receipt of the EIA Scoping Report was received from PINS on 20th June 2014.
- 6.3.8 A copy of the Regulation 9 list was received from PINS on 9th July 2014 (Appendix 3.J.ii).
- 6.3.9 A Scoping Opinion was received from PINS on 28th July 2014 (Appendix 3.K). The Scoping Opinion included a list of all consultees consulted by PINS during scoping. The Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion are contained as Appendices to the ES (Document Reference 6.2).
- 6.3.10 As well as the formal Scoping Opinion being received, on-going consultation with consultees was undertaken by MPL in order to seek to agree the scope and content of the EIA methodology. These discussions and the Scoping Opinion responses have been considered and reflected in the production of the 2014 and 2017 PEIRs as well as the ES (Document Reference 6.1). The 2014 PEIR was subsequently published during statutory consultation and the ES is submitted with the Application. MPL's response to comments received during the scoping process is contained within the ES (Document Reference 6.1).

6.4 Phase 1 statutory consultation (October 2014 - November 2014)

- 6.4.1 Following the period of non-statutory consultation and EIA Scoping consultation described above, MPL undertook a series of activities in accordance with the statutory requirements of the PA 2008. Each element of the statutory consultation fulfils a particular requirement of the PA 2008 and was undertaken following the structure provided in. These strands of consultation are explained in more detail in the following section.

Regulation 6 notice

- 6.4.2 A notification under Regulation 6 of the EIA Regulations 2009 was included as part of the request for a Scoping Opinion submitted to PINS on 19th June 2014 (Appendix 3.I).

Phase 1 Section 46 notification

- 6.4.3 On behalf of the SoS, PINS received the following information on 7th October 2014 (despatched 6th October 2014 for next day delivery) prior to the commencement of the s42 consultation (this started on 13 October 2014) and in accordance with s46 of the PA 2008:
- A covering letter (Appendix 3.L.i);
 - An electronic copy of the Project's 2014 PEIR;
 - A hard copy of the Non-Technical Summary of the 2014 PEIR; and
 - A hard copy of an information leaflet that formed part of MPL's community consultation under s47 of the PA 2008.

6.4.4 An acknowledgement of receipt was received from PINS on 8th October 2014 (Appendix 3.L.ii).

Phase 1 Section 42 consultation

6.4.5 s42 of the PA 2008 requires that MPL consults about its proposed application with the following:

- s42(1)(a): prescribed persons;
- s42(1)(b): local authorities within s43; and
- s42(1)(d): those persons falling within s44.

6.4.6 In the case of the Project, neither s42(1) (aa) (the Marine Management Organisation) nor s42(1)(c) (the Greater London Authority) were relevant.

6.4.7 Pursuant to s45 of the PA 2008, the statutory consultation period under s42 must be a minimum of 28 days from the day after the consultee receives the consultation documents. However, in order to provide a slightly longer consultation window, MPL's statutory consultation commenced on 13th October 2014 and concluded on 16th November 2014; allowing a period of 35 days.

Consultation under section 42(1)(a): prescribed persons

6.4.8 Under s42(1)(a) of the PA 2008, bodies prescribed by Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations were required to be consulted (the 'prescribed bodies').

6.4.9 In order to identify these prescribed bodies, the list of consultees notified of the proposed application by PINS (under Regulation 9(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations) was used as a starting point.

6.4.10 In some instances, the contact address used in the consultation differs from the Regulation 9 list provided by PINS. This is the result of further inquiries that led to a change in address or notification by the consultee that a differing address should be used. The contact addresses used are contained in Appendix 3.N.

6.4.11 MPL also considered Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations and where a body appeared to be statutory consultee, then they were consulted.

6.4.12 The list of prescribed persons consulted under s42(1)(a) of the PA 2008 is contained in Appendix 3.N.

6.4.13 The relevant Parish Councils under s42(1)(a) are:

- Stewartby Parish Council;
- Marston Moretaine Parish Council;
- Ampthill Town Council;

- Millbrook Parish Meeting; and
- Houghton Conquest Parish Council.

6.4.14 Although the following Parish Councils are not prescribed consultees under s42 of the PA 2008, MPL delivered materials to and invited these additional Parish Councils to actively participate in the consultation process. This was due to their close proximity to the Project Site:

- Wootton Parish Council
- Lidlington Parish Council
- Maulden Parish Council
- Cranfield Parish Council

Consultation under section 42(1)(b): local authorities

6.4.15 Pursuant to s42(1)(b) the Local Authorities falling within s43 needed to be consulted by MPL. In order to identify the host and neighbouring authorities referred to in s43, the Local Government Boundary Commission website was accessed, together with local authority websites for verification purposes. A plan showing the local authority boundaries is included at Appendix 3.P.

6.4.16 The Project lies within both CBC and BBC administrative boundaries; CBC and BBC are therefore 'B' authorities for the purpose of s43(2) of the PA 2008.

6.4.17 The following local authorities are located adjacent to CBC and BBC and as such are 'A' authorities for the purpose of s43(2) of the PA 2008. The following 'A' authorities were therefore consulted by MPL (in addition to CBC and BBC) pursuant to s42 of the PA 2008:

- Northamptonshire County Council
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Milton Keynes Council
- Buckinghamshire County Council
- Luton Borough Council
- Wellingborough Council
- East Northamptonshire Council
- Huntingdonshire District Council
- South Cambridgeshire District Council

- North Hertfordshire District Council
- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- St Albans City and District
- Dacorum Borough Council

6.4.18 All of these local authorities were also consulted under s47 of the PA 2008, and were sent the final Phase 1 SoCC and Scoping Report (see below).

Phase 1 consultation under section 42(1)(d): s44 persons with an interest in the land

6.4.19 s42(1)(d) parties consist of persons either with a range of land interests or who may make a claim under certain land compensation legislation as follows:

- A person is within **Category 1** if the applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant (whatever the tenancy period) or occupier of the land.
- A person is within **Category 2** if the applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person -
 - a. is interested in the land, or
 - b. has power -
 - i. to sell and convey the land, or
 - ii. to release the land.
- A person is within **Category 3** if the applicant thinks that, if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented, the person would or might be entitled:
 - a. as a result of the implementing of the order,
 - b. as a result of the order having been implemented, or
 - c. as a result of use of the land once the order has been implemented,to make a relevant claim. A "relevant claim" is then defined in s44 by reference to particular land compensation legislation.

6.4.20 Landowner consultees were identified by MPL by undertaking diligent inquiries. Initially, plans were submitted to the Land Registry to identify all registered titles. These were then examined to further identify all interests noted against the title in each case. A site/area visit was then carried out in order to check that the desktop information being processed tallied with the boundaries and occupants in practice.

- 6.4.21 Further information from each landowner was sought directly by requesting that they complete a full enquiry form for each parcel of land - stipulating the freehold / leasehold interests, the occupiers if any, and other rights on / over the land whether registered or not.
- 6.4.22 Following the receipt of the enquiry forms, a further site and area visit was conducted to cross check the data received against any observable inconsistencies or to establish whether further interests existed which may have been unidentified earlier in the process.
- 6.4.23 Potential Category 3 interests were identified by holding meetings and reviews to discuss the total areas likely to be affected by the physical impacts from the Project in construction and operation (for example noise) and noting persons who may potentially be able to make a claim under certain land compensation legislation in this regard. Consideration was given to neighbouring landowners and their use of premises.
- 6.4.24 There were a small number of additional land interests identified on 15th October 2014. These were added to the existing landowner list and consulted accordingly (see paragraph 6.4.31 to 6.4.39 for more details on the timings of the receipt of the consultation documents and for confirmation that a minimum of 28 days was provided for consultation feedback).
- 6.4.25 One further land interest relating to a shooting licence was identified as a result of ongoing diligent inquiry on 21st January 2015 (O-MIL-s42-PBA-P-L-184). The schedule of land interests was updated on a continuous basis during the preparation of the Book of Reference (Document Reference 4.3) in order to identify any new land interests. This party was added to the s42(1)(d) list and consulted and given their own consultation period which began on 26th January 2015 and ended on 24th February 2015, thereby the minimum of 28 days was provided for consultation feedback. The consultee did not respond to s42 consultation.

The Phase 1 section 42 consultation

- 6.4.26 The full list of s42 parties (i.e. those consulted pursuant to s42(1)(a); s42(1)(b) and s42(1)(d)) is included as Appendix 3.N.
- 6.4.27 The s42 consultation information that was sent out to each consultee comprised:
- A covering letter providing an overview of the Project and details of the consultation process (Appendix 3.R);
 - A paper copy of the 2014 PEIR NTS (Appendix 3.S);
 - A CD copy of the 2014 PEIR; and
 - A copy of the MPL publicity leaflet, which included a freepost feedback/comment form.

6.4.28 The s42 materials were delivered in a range of formats, depending on the type of consultee, as described below.

6.4.29 All consultees received a CD containing the 2014 PEIR and the 2014 PEIR NTS and a hard copy of the 2014 PEIR NTS, as it was considered that not all consultees may have access to the internet or a computer to insert the CD in order to access the NTS. S42(1)(b) local authority consultees also received an additional hard copy of the 2014 PEIR, due to their role as local authority. All hard copies of the 2014 PEIR for s42(1)(b) consultees were dispatched on 7th October 2014 and hand delivered to the addresses by 9th October 2014.

6.4.30 All letters and information packs (containing the CD and 2014 PEIR NTS) were sent by Royal Mail Special Delivery (guaranteed 1.00pm next day); this allowed for tracking of the packages and proof of delivery. The majority were dispatched on 7th October 2014 for delivery on 8th October 2014 in advance of the start of the consultation period.

6.4.31 There were however, a small number dispatched on 16th October 2014. A precautionary approach was taken for these packages as they were dispatched by both Royal Mail Special Delivery (guaranteed 1.00pm next day), and next day courier service. The packages dispatched on 16th October 2014 and proof of delivery was received by 17th October 2014, thereby providing the minimum 28-day consultation period. These packages were sent to the following consultees (as these are all s42(1)(d) consultees, a code is used in place of the consultees name in the interests of confidentiality):

- O-MIL-s42-ST-PBA-L-133
- O-MIL-s42-ST-PBA-L-134
- O-MIL-s42-ST-PBA-L-135
- O-MIL-s42-ST-PBA-L-136
- O-MIL-s42-ST-PBA-L-137

6.4.32 In addition, the land interest (O-MIL-s42-PBA-P-L-184) identified on 21st January 2015 was given their own consultation period which commenced on 26th January 2015 and closed on 24th February 2015. They were sent the s42 consultation information package as outlined in paragraph 6.4.27.

6.4.33 Following dispatch of all the s42 information, the online tracking system was used to monitor delivery. Proof of delivery was recorded for each consultee.

Proof of delivery

6.4.34 Online tracking records indicate that all packages dispatched by Royal Mail Special Delivery were successfully received or delivered prior to the start of the consultation period (13th October 2014) with the exception of those detailed in this section.

- 6.4.35 One s42 package was returned to MPL by Royal Mail stating 'addressee gone away'; this was for a s42(1)(d) consultee (O-MIL-s42-ST-PBA-L-94). To ensure delivery of this information to the address, the pack was delivered by hand to the address on 16th October 2014.
- 6.4.36 There were five addresses, according to the Royal Mail online tracking system, where the packages were not successfully received or delivered (four s42(1)(a) consultees and one s42(1)(b) consultee). To ensure delivery or receipt of these, additional copies were issued as follows:
- ESP Networks and North Hertfordshire District Council packages were dispatched on 15th October 2014 by next day courier service. Confirmation of delivery was received on 16th October 2014.
 - LNG Portable Pipelines Limited package was delivered by hand on 16th October 2014, and The Crown Estate and Instalcom Limited packages were delivered by hand on 17th October 2014. These hand deliveries were all conducted by MPL's own staff.
- 6.4.37 One further package was not tracked through the Royal Mail system (O-MIL-s42-ST-PBA-L-117). To ensure that the recipient had access to a copy of the documents, another pack was dispatched by Royal Mail Special Delivery to the recipient on 14th October 2014. As no proof of delivery for this package was received by 15th October 2014 (proof of delivery was confirmed on 21st October 2014); a representative from MPL visited O-MIL-s42-ST-PBA-L-117 on 16th October 2014 and the recipient confirmed that the original package (dispatched on 7th October 2014) had been received.
- 6.4.38 The packages covered in this section were all received or delivered to the addresses prior to 17th October 2014, allowing the statutory minimum consultation period (28 days) as the Phase 1 statutory consultation ended on 16th November 2014.
- 6.4.39 In the case of the further land party identified on 21st January 2015, the package was delivered prior to the 26th January 2015, allowing the statutory minimum consultation period (28 days).

Returned letters

- 6.4.40 Two s42 packages were returned by the recipients, one s42(1)(a) consultee (Scotland Gas Networks Plc) on 3rd November 2014 and one s42(1)(b) consultee (North Hertfordshire District Council) on 20th October 2014.
- 6.4.41 Scotland Gas Networks Plc stated in their returned package that the correspondence should be redirected to NGG. As NGG are already a s42(1)(a) consultee, a package had already been sent to their registered address.
- 6.4.42 North Hertfordshire District Council returned their original package with a compliments slip stating that the enquiry should be dealt with by BBC. A letter was sent from MPL on 21st October 2014 to North Hertfordshire District Council

explaining why the consultation documents were sent to them. The second package which had been issued to North Hertfordshire District Council was then returned with a note confirming that they didn't need a copy of the CD and documents for their records.

Statutory Consultation on the Phase 1 SOCC

- 6.4.43 s47(1) of the PA 2008 requires that applicants prepare a statement setting out how they proposed to consult people living in the vicinity of a proposed development, about the proposed application for that development.
- 6.4.44 This statement is known as a SoCC. In developing the consultation strategy to be set out in a SoCC, the applicant must consult the local authority(ies) within whose area their project site lies for a statutory period of 28 days from the day after receipt of the draft SoCC. Under s47 of the PA 2008, a SoCC must be developed for the project having due regard to comments from local authority(ies) on what should be included in the SoCC.
- 6.4.45 As PINS Advice Note 14 emphasises, this consultation is important as the local authorities possess unique local knowledge that can influence the approach to and the methods of consultation.
- 6.4.46 Consultation may also occur outside of statutorily defined consultation, although potentially involving the same consultees. PINS Advice Note 14 highlights that non-statutory consultation should not necessarily be afforded any less weight than the statutorily defined consultation. This approach has been adopted by MPL and the way in which this Consultation Report is presented reflects that approach.
- 6.4.47 A draft copy of the Phase 1 Consultation Plan and Phase 1 SoCC was sent to CBC Senior Planning Officer on 27th June 2014 for informal review (Appendix 2.B.i).
- 6.4.48 A meeting was held on 3rd July 2014 at the main office of CBC between representatives from MPL and Officers from CBC. The meeting was an opportunity for MPL to talk through the draft 2014 Consultation Plan and Phase 1 SoCC and for CBC to raise any queries or issues. At the meeting, CBC officers confirmed that they were happy with the draft Phase 1 SoCC and -2014 Consultation Plan, both in terms of MPL's overall approach to consultation and the specific elements of the Phase 1 SoCC. CBC agreed to provide contact details of colleagues who could help to define and add to MPL's list of hard to reach groups and advise if there was an umbrella group for parish councils.
- 6.4.49 A draft copy of the 2014 Consultation Plan and Phase 1 SoCC was also sent to BBC Planning Case Officer on 9th July 2014 for informal review (Appendix 2.B.ii).
- 6.4.50 Comments were received via email on 30th July from BBC Planning Case Officer, who had taken over from the previous BBC Planning Case Officer. BBC directed MPL to guidance from the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

available on the Council's website (Appendix 2.B.iii), which deals with the Council's promises in terms of publicity and consultation. It was considered that following this guidance would ensure that MPL would meet the levels of public consultation and involvement expected from the Council.

6.4.51 Pursuant to s47(2) of the PA 2008 the draft 2014 Consultation Plan, together with the draft Phase 1 SoCC and Phase 1 SoCC Notice were sent to CBC and BBC for statutory consultation on 30th July 2014 (cover letters provided Appendix 2.B.iv and Appendix 2.B.v).

6.4.52 The cover letter accompanying the documents explained that in accordance with s47(2) of the PA 2008, MPL must consult the Councils about what is to be in the SoCC and that MPL therefore requested that the Councils provide comments on the draft Phase 1 SoCC and 2014 Consultation Plan.

6.4.53 The Scoping Opinion and, for completeness, the Scoping Report were also enclosed to provide contextual project information to CBC and BBC to ensure the Councils were able to make an informed response in regards to the draft Phase 1 SoCC and the 2014 Consultation Plan.

6.4.54 The cover letter further set out the deadline for receipt by MPL of responses from each Council as the end of the period of 28 days that began with the day after the day on which the Council received the enclosed documents.

6.4.55 A response was received from CBC on 26th August 2014 (Appendix 2.B.vii). In their formal response, CBC confirmed that they did not have any further comments to make other than those which they made at the meeting prior to the submission of the draft Phase 1 SoCC and -2014 Consultation Plan (the meeting of 3rd July 2014). They commented that there were still areas to be "tidied up" within the document and noted that they would forward separately a couple of additional 'hard to reach' groups (Appendix 2.B.vii). These 'hard to reach' groups were provided to MPL via email on 27th August 2014. Contact details were ultimately given for representatives of the following groups: Community Engagement Network, Older Peoples Reference Group and Youth Parliament.

6.4.56 In their response, CBC commented that: 'Other than these slight tweaks to the submitted document it appears to outline a thorough consultation process to be undertaken prior to the DCO being submitted next year'.

6.4.57 A response was received from BBC on 2nd September 2014 (Appendix 2.B.ix). The response noted that MPL had taken into account the comments made by BBC Case Planning Officer in their email of 30th July 2014 and that the contents of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement had been taken into account in the preparation of the draft 2014 Consultation Plan.

6.4.58 BBC further stated in their response that: 'Your draft plan is comprehensive and demonstrates the intention for a significant level of public consultation and involvement to at least the level specified in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement'.

6.4.59 In response to MPL’s request for advice in seeking out ‘hard to reach’ groups, BBC provided contact details for the Council’s Equality and Diversity Officer and advised that they would be able to offer advice in this regard. BBC also confirmed that to their knowledge there were no other significant public consultation exercises planned for the October/November timescale within that part of the Borough.

6.4.60 Following this consultation and prior to its publication, further minor changes were made to the Phase 1 SoCC which encompassed the following:

- The Project’s red line boundary was revised slightly which was reflected in the maps showing the Consultation Zones. The changes reflected a reduction in the size of the Gas Connection opportunity area as the gas connection design had been refined, an extension of the Redline around the junction onto Green Lane following consultation with highways officials and the Highways Authority (to allow for a safe junction to be built) and a small extension into Millbrook Vehicle Proving Ground to allow for temporary works for construction of the Electrical Connection;
- Exhibition venues, dates and times were finalised with minor changes to timing; and
- Specific consultation questions were finalised.

6.4.61 CBC and BBC were informed of these changes on 15th September 2014 and were sent the finalised Phase 1 SoCC (Appendix 2.B.x).

6.4.62 s47 requires the applicant to make its SoCC available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for them. The applicant then has to carry out its consultation in accordance with its published SoCC. Pursuant to s47(6), notices relating to where and when the Phase 1 SoCC was available to be inspected were published in local newspapers as described in Table 6.3. Copies of the notices are available in Appendix 3.U.

Table 6.3 SoCC Notices

Newspaper Publication	Date of 1st Notice	Date of 2nd Notice
Bedford Times and Citizen	2 nd October 2014	9 th October 2014
Bedfordshire on Sunday	5 th October 2014	12 th October 2014

6.4.63 The final Phase 1 SoCC (Appendix 2.D) was published on the MPL website on 23rd September 2014. The Phase 1 SoCC was made available to the public at the following locations:

- Bedford Library
- Ampthill Library
- Wootton Library
- Bedford Borough Council
- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Marston Vale Forest Centre

6.4.64 Following the issue of the finalised Phase 1 SoCC, BBC stated over phone and email (17th September 2014) that a different location than that previously agreed should be used to lodge the documents, suggesting the Customer Service Centre, 2 Horne Lane, Bedford, MK40 1SJ instead of the main Council offices at Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP. It was later agreed that it was too late to change this location as some documents had already been published. However, MPL agreed (over the phone) on 18th September 2014 to send two copies to the Customer Services Centre so that it could be placed in both locations.

6.4.65 No further comments were received from CBC following the issue of the revised Phase 1 SoCC.

Phase 1 Section 47 consultation

6.4.66 MPL undertook statutory s47 consultation with the local community and key stakeholders (Stage 8a of Table 5.2) in accordance with the published Phase 1 SoCC.

6.4.67 The statutory s47 consultation phase commenced on 13th October 2014 and closed on 16th November 2014, representing a total duration of 35 days, in excess of the statutory minimum requirement of 28 days.

6.4.68 The aim of this phase of consultation was to seek the views of the local community and key stakeholders on the preliminary environmental information presented about the Project as well as on other key elements of the Project. This provided a mechanism for the local community and key stakeholders to influence certain aspect of the Project, such as:

- the layout of the Power Generation Plant within the Project Site;
- route option(s) for accessing the gas and electricity connection infrastructure during construction and maintenance;
- the preferred route option for the gas connection;
- the proposed electrical connection; and

- the findings of the preliminary assessment on the likely significant environmental effects of the Project during construction and operation, as set out in the 2014 PEIR.

6.4.69 The local community and key stakeholders were not however, asked to comment on other elements of the Project, such as the technology choice for the Power Generation Plant.

6.4.70 MPL undertook statutory s47 consultation activities in two areas: the CCZ (see Figure 6.1), equating to an area of an approximate radius of 5km from the Project Site; and the OCZ (see Figure 6.2), equating to an area of an approximate radius of 10km from the Project Site, in accordance with the Phase 1 SoCC and as described in paragraph 6.2.15 – 6.2.19 of this Consultation Report.

6.4.71 During the s47 consultation phase hard copies of the 2014 PEIR, the 2014 PEIR NTS and the information leaflet (Appendix 3.Y.ii) were made available to the public to view at the following locations:

- Bedford Library
- Ampthill Library
- Wootton Library
- Bedford Borough Council
- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Marston Vale Forest Centre

Phase 1 Section 47: Advertising and publicity

6.4.72 The public exhibitions, held during the statutory phase of Phase 1 consultation (Stage 8a of Table 5.2), were advertised to the local community via a number of different means.

6.4.73 Posters advertising the consultation events (Appendix 3.W.i) were sent out by MPL to be displayed at community venues within the CCZ prior to the exhibitions, for example parish council noticeboards, local shops, post offices and doctors' surgeries. A list of the locations that were sent a poster by MPL is contained within Appendix 3.W.ii).

6.4.74 Prior to the first exhibition, a leaflet (Appendix 3.Y.ii) containing an invitation to attend the public exhibitions was delivered to approximately 10,500 households, businesses and institutions in the CCZ (see Figure 6.1), including those groups that are defined as "hard to reach" (e.g. the elderly, young and minority groups). The leaflet included information on the following:

- The Project
- Who is Millbrook Power?
- Planning and Public Consultation
- The Need for Gas Generation
- Why Rookery South Pit?
- The Projects Key Details
- Community Benefit
- Environment
- Key Milestones
- Your views?
- Locations of where more information is available
- Dates and locations of exhibitions in the local area
- Information on how to get in touch with MPL
- A freepost response form to allow comments about the project to be made.

6.4.75 The additional effort made to contact both community representatives in the OCZ and hard to reach groups is set out in Table 6.4.

Table 6.4 Contact with Community Representatives in the OCZ and Hard to Reach Groups

Contact	Activity	Date
Contact with Community Representatives in the OCZ		
Parish Councils in the OCZ	Email notification of project and forthcoming statutory consultation	16/09/2014
Parish Councils in the OCZ	Email notification of Phase 1 SoCC publication and statutory section 47 consultation exhibition dates	24/09/2014
Parish Councils in the OCZ	OCZ Parish Councils informed of publication of 2014 PEIR and 2014 PEIR NTS and where this could be viewed. Advised of how comments could be submitted	09/10/2014

Contact	Activity	Date
Parish Councils in the OCZ	OCZ Parish Councils updated on the statutory exhibitions that had been held and the next steps in the Project	05/11/2014
Contact with Hard to Reach Groups		
BBC Equality & Diversity Officer	Email to seek her advice/input to MPL's Hard to Reach outreach programme of activity	09/09/2014
Central Bedfordshire Council Sarah Hughes Community Engagement Officer	Email to seek her advice/input to MPL's Hard to Reach outreach programme of activity. Plus, telephone call.	09/09/2014
Hard to Reach groups, including schools	Notification of project and forthcoming statutory consultation	22/09/2014
BBC Equality & Diversity Officer	Phone call to seek her advice/input to MPL's Hard to Reach outreach programme of activity	25/09/2014
Hard to Reach groups, including BBC Older People/Youth Parliament/Gypsy & Traveller	Notification of project and forthcoming statutory consultation	25/09/2014
Hard to reach groups including wildlife groups	Notification of project and forthcoming statutory consultation	26/09/2014
Central Beds & Luton Access Forum	Invited to present to the Forum on October 7th 2014 / send leaflets	29/09/2014
Central Beds & Luton Joint Local Access Forum	Paul Taylor, representing MPL, presented to the JLAF and followed up on outstanding issues (noise, choice of generating technology, visual impact, access) on 8/10/2014	7/10/2014
Hard to Reach Groups various (with email addresses)	Notification of 2014 PEIR publication and statutory	09/10/2014

Contact	Activity	Date
	consultation phase to start on 13/10/14	
Hard to Reach Groups various (without email addresses)	Notification of 2014 PEIR publication and statutory consultation phase to start on 13/10/14	09/10/2014
Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity Andy Buckley PR Co-ordinator	Making his 42 twitter followers aware of the Millbrook Power project & ES	09/10/2014

Phase 1 Section 47: Exhibition newspaper adverts

6.4.76 MPL undertook to publish various additional adverts reminding the local community of the dates of the public exhibitions. These adverts are set out in Table 6.5, and included in Appendix 4.A.

Table 6.5 s47 Exhibition adverts

Newspaper publication	Date of 1st advert	Date of 2nd advert	Date of 3rd advert
Bedfordshire on Sunday	12 th October 2014	19 th October 2014	26 th October 2014
Bedford Times and Citizen	16 th October 2014	23 rd October 2014	30 th October 2014

Phase 1 Section 47: Public exhibitions

6.4.77 Public exhibitions were held at the locations identified in Table 6.6.

Table 6.6 Public Exhibitions

Date	Location
Friday, 31 st October 2014 1500- 1900	Marston Moretaine Village Hall, Bedford Road, Marston Moretaine, MK43 0LD
Saturday 1 st November 2014 0900- 1300	Stewartby Village Hall, Stewartby Way, Stewartby, MK43 9LX
Monday 3 rd November 2014	Ampthill Masonic Centre, Old Court House, Church Street, Ampthill MK45 2PL

Date	Location
1600-2000	
Tuesday 4 th November 2014 1100- 1500	Lidlington Village Hall, High Street, Lidlington, MK43 0RT

6.4.78 Hard copies of the 2014 PEIR, 2014 PEIR NTS and leaflets were made available at the s47 consultation exhibitions. Further materials utilised at the exhibitions included the figures, photomontages and exhibition boards, included at Appendix 3.Y, which covered the following areas:

- Who is Millbrook Power?
- Why Rookery South Pit?
- DCO Regime Planning and Public Consultation
- Development of the Project
- Key Milestones
- The Project Key Details
- Preliminary Environmental Assessment, including the following topics:
 - Air Quality
 - Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
 - Ecology
 - Geology, Ground Conditions and Agriculture
 - Landscape and Visual Impacts
 - Noise and Vibration
 - Socio-Economic
 - Traffic, Transport and Access
 - Water Resources
- Need for Gas Generation
- Community Benefits
- Comment and Feedback

Phase 1 Section 47: Compliance with the SoCC

6.4.79 A checklist for SoCC compliance is provided in Appendix 4.C. There were no inconsistencies between the Phase 1 SoCC and the consultation undertaken.

Phase 1 Section 48 consultation notices

6.4.80 As required by s48 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations, a notice publicising the Project was published once in the London Gazette, once in a national newspaper (The Independent) and twice in local newspapers: Bedford Times & Citizen and Bedfordshire on Sunday. Appendix 4.E contains the notices as published.

6.4.81 Table 6.7 sets out the publications and dates that the Phase 1 s48 notice was published.

Table 6.7 s48 consultation notices

Newspaper publication	Date of 1st Notice	Date of 2nd Notice
The Independent	9 th October 2014	n/a
London Gazette	9 th October 2014	n/a
Bedford Times and Citizen	2 nd October 2014	9 th October 2014
Bedfordshire on Sunday	5 th October 2014	12 th October 2014

6.4.82 As required by Regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations, the content of the notice included:

- The name and address of the applicant;
- A statement that the applicant intends to make an DCO Application to the SoS;
- A statement that the application is EIA development (in accordance with EIA Regulations);
- A summary of the main proposals, specifying the locations and route options of the Project;
- A statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Project were available for inspection free of charge at the places (including at least one address in the vicinity of the Project) and times set out in the notice.

- The latest date (16th November 2014) on which those documents, plans and maps were available for inspection;
- Whether a charge would be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge;
- Details of how to respond to the publicity; and
- The deadline of 16th November 2014 for receipt of those responses by MPL, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice was last published (i.e. 12th October 2014).

6.4.83 Information was made available as part of the consultation from 13th October 2014 onwards, to assist the consultees in responding to the consultation, including the 2014 PEIR and 2014 PEIR NTS at the same locations (see paragraph 6.4.71 for locations).

6.4.84 As confirmed earlier, this consultation material was made available at local libraries, CBC and BBC's offices and the Marston Vale Forest Centre. The consultation materials are provided in Appendix 3.Y. The 2014 PEIR is not reproduced within the Appendices due to its significant size but PINS received a copy of the 2014 PEIR and the 2014 PEIR NTS on 7th October 2014 as part of the s46 notification process.

Phase 1 Regulation 11 notification

6.4.85 Under Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations 2009, MPL was required to send a copy of its s48 notice to the consultation bodies (as defined in the EIA Regulations 2009) and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with regulation 9(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations 2009, at the same time as publishing its s48 notice.

6.4.86 Regulation 11 notification was sent via Royal Mail to the parties listed in Appendix 4.G.i on 29th September 2014, with the exception of the Secretary of State for Defence (c/o Fisher German) and PINS who were sent notification on 30th September 2014.

6.4.87 The parties were sent the cover letter contained in Appendix 4.G.ii which stated MPL's intention to apply to the SoS for a DCO under s37 of the PA 2008. The letter further explained that under s48 of the PA 2008 MPL would be publishing a notice of the proposed applications in the London Gazette, the Independent, Bedfordshire on Sunday and the Bedfordshire Citizen. In line with Regulation 11, a copy of the Phase 1 s48 Notice was enclosed with the letter and is also contained in Appendix 3.G.ii.

6.4.88 An acknowledgement of receipt of the Regulation 11 notification and Phase 1 s48 notice was received from PINS by email on 1st October 2014 (Appendix 3.G.iii).

6.4.89 Five additional parties were identified pursuant to s42(1)(a) who were inadvertently not included on the list of parties to receive a copy of the s48 notice pursuant to Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations 2009:

- McNicholas (KPN Networks)
- McNicholas (TATA Networks)
- Telent Limited
- UK Power Networks (Operations) Limited³
- Virgin Media Limited

6.4.90 These parties were however, included in the s42(1)(a) list and were sent the following s42 consultation pack on 7th October 2014:

- A covering letter providing an overview of the project and details of the consultation process (Appendix 4.G.iv);
- A paper copy of 2014 PEIR NTS (Appendix 3.S);
- A CD copy of the 2014 PEIR; and
- A copy of the MPL publicity leaflet, which included a freepost feedback/comment form.

6.4.91 MPL can confirm that these parties received this information, and some of the parties (or related companies) have engaged in the consultation process. For instance, protective provisions have been agreed with Eastern Power Networks plc (part of UK Power Networks Group) which are included in the MPL Draft Order (Document Reference 3.1). In addition, MPL subsequently issued a notice pursuant to Regulation 11 to the above parties on 26th February 2015. A copy of the cover letter that was sent to these five parties, along with the Regulation 11 notice and information update are provided in Appendix 4.G.iv.

Phase 1 Statutory Consultation: Section 47 media coverage

6.4.92 The following local media coverage (see Appendix 4.I) was received:

- Bedford Times and Citizen (in print) - Plans on show for gas power station (25th September 2014)
- Bedfordshire on Sunday - Stewartby gas fired power station plan fuels opposition (12th October 2014)

³ On the 11th October 2017 UK Power Networks informed MPL that the assets were owned and operated by Eastern Power Networks plc (part of UK Power Networks Group). MPL has therefore referred to Eastern Power Networks in the Book of Reference (Document Reference 4.3) and the MPL Draft Order (Document Reference 3.1)

- ITV Anglia News Online - Consultations start on plans to build £200 million gas-fired power station near Bedford (13th October 2014)
- Bedford Times and Citizen (online) - Exhibitions will reveal details of proposed Millbrook power station (30th October 2014)
- BBC Three Counties Radio (31st October): interview with MPL's Nick Johnson about the project and the exhibitions
- BBC Look East TV (31st October): interview with MPL's Nick Johnson
- Social media including twitter.

Phase 1 Statutory consultation: Key stakeholder meetings

6.4.93 Table 6.8 sets out the key stakeholder meetings during statutory consultation.

Table 6.8 MPL meetings during statutory consultation

Date	Activity and consultee	Minutes
23/10/2014	Meeting with BBC to update and discuss the 2014 PEIR, DCO and requirements	Appendix 4.K.i
23/10/2014	Meeting with Landfill Liaison Group to discuss the Project	Appendix 4.K .ii
24/10/2014	Meeting with Network Rail to discuss timing of potential railway improvements	Appendix 4.K .iii
04/11/2014	MPL presented to 6th formers at Kimberley STEM College.	Appendix 4.K.i
06/11/2014	Joint Highway Authority transport meeting	Appendix 4.K.v

6.5 Phase 1 non-statutory consultation (November 2014 – March 2015) (following the Phase 1 statutory consultation phase)

6.5.1 A number of additional non-statutory consultation activities were undertaken by MPL following the Phase 1 statutory phase of consultation. These are captured in Table 6.9.

Table 6.9 MPL activities after statutory consultation to submission

Date	Activity and consultee	Minutes / correspondence
25/11/2014	Meeting with Network Rail to discuss working alongside railway lines and management of traffic.	Appendix 4.M.i
26/11/2014	Outreach meeting with PINS, CBC, CCZ Parish councils, land owners, and EH. BBC, the EA and NE were unable to attend.	Appendix 4.M.ii
17/12/2014	Meeting with O-MIL-s42-ST-PBA-L-96	Appendix 4.M.iii
20/01/2015	Email correspondence with EA	Appendix 4.M.iv
22/01/2015	Email correspondence with O-MIL-s42-ST-PBA-L-96	Appendix 4.M.v

Phase 1 PINS outreach meeting

6.5.2 MPL held an outreach meeting with PINS on 26th November 2014 in order to discuss the DCO Application, the latest update on the Project and stakeholder specific issues.

Phase 1 other key stakeholder meetings

6.5.3 MPL held a meeting with the EA on 20th January 2015 in order to discuss the DCO Application, the latest update on the Project and specific permitting issues.

6.5.4 MPL held further meetings with CBC, BBC and local parishes on 4th February 2015 in order to keep them apprised of developments.

Phase 1 information update February 2015

6.5.5 MPL considered that it would be of interest to s42 consultees and the local community to understand the changes that MPL made to its project as a result of statutory consultation. These key changes were:

- Consultation zones modified;
- Choice of Gas Connection corridor;

- Location of AGI;
- Revised Red Line Boundary; and
- Undergrounding of the Electrical Connection cable.

6.5.6 As such, MPL issued an information update to s42 parties and to those s47 parties that had requested to be kept informed, on 6th and 7th of February 2015 (copies of the letters/emails are provided at Appendix 4.N.i). Copies of the information update were also made available on the Millbrook Power Project website and were sent to parish councils (in both the CCZ and OCZ), CBC and BBC. MPL also held a series of briefings with parish councils and both CBC and BBC to inform and update on its progress with the project.

6.5.7 The purpose of this information update was to provide consultees with feedback on the outcomes of the consultation process prior to submission of the DCO Application and the sending out of the information update was not a statutory or non-statutory consultation exercise, rather it was one of informing and updating in advance of submission of the DCO Application.

Phase 1 information updates March 2015

6.5.8 An information update was issued on 20th of March 2015 to s42 parties and those s47 parties that requested to be kept informed about the Project which reported on the amendment to the Red Line Boundary that was consulted on in October/November 2014 and proposed amendments to the Rookery South (Resource Recovery Facility) Order 2011 (the 'RRF Order'). This extension to the 2014 consultation Red Line Boundary is contained within the land plans (Document Reference 2.5) and works plans (Document Reference 2.6) and was necessary in order to ensure that both the Covanta RRF and the Millbrook Power Project can co-exist (the issues surrounding which are fully explained in the MPL Covanta Position Statement enclosed at Appendix 5 of the Planning Statement (Document Reference 10.1).

6.5.9 In essence, the same development (i.e. an up to 10m wide Access Road) was proposed over the area but the Red Line Boundary was expanded to allow for the location of that road to shift, given that final design for the Covanta RRF had not yet taken place. To allow flexibility to align with the Covanta RRF limits of deviation for its works packages, it was considered that providing for a slightly wider area within which the Access Road could be located would help to ensure that both nationally significant infrastructure projects can be constructed and operate as neighbours. This information update also informed consultees about some proposed amendments to the RRF Order (relating to the Covanta RRF Project) that MPL proposed to make through the draft DCO for the Project. The amendments that MPL proposed (and still proposes) to make are to include within the RRF Order protective provisions for the benefit of MPL (protective provisions for the benefit of Covanta are included in the draft DCO for the Project). More information about these proposed amendments can be found in Section 10 of this Consultation Report.

- 6.5.10 Appendix 4.N.ii contains the information update letter and a plan showing the refinements made to the 2014 Phase 1 consultation Red Line Boundary by the final Red Line Boundary that was consulted on in Phase 2 consultation and which forms the Red Line Boundary for the DCO Application for the Project.
- 6.5.11 A second information update was issued by MPL on 25th March 2015 informing local councillors, parish councils and other local stakeholders of MPL's decision to put the Project "on hold" primarily because of the then market conditions for new power generation in the UK. A copy of this correspondent is contained at Appendix 4.N.iii.

7 Summary of Phase 1 consultation Feedback

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This section explains the non-statutory and statutory consultation responses received during Phase 1 Consultation. MPL notes that PINS Advice Note 14 advocates adopting differing approaches to reporting the consultation responses received, depending on the nature of consultation and the volume of responses.
- 7.1.2 Throughout the non-statutory and statutory phases of consultation, MPL has gathered feedback on the Project from consultees via correspondence, meetings and feedback forms. This information can be classified as primary data. As mentioned in section 2, MPL has sought to maximise consultee involvement in the consultation processes, such that the comments received are representative.
- 7.1.3 Feedback has been analysed according to the themes that are represented by the comments received. Where a comment covers more than one theme, this has been accounted for. Where relevant, the detailed content of the comments received is also discussed.
- 7.1.4 Section 11 summarises how MPL has responded to the comments, and sets out whether there has been a resultant change to the Project.
- 7.1.5 MPL has had regard to PINS Advice Note 14 in preparing this section, including Annex A. MPL has focussed on issues led approach to dealing with responses. Appendices 4.A, 4.C and 4.D group responses by issue and respond to them.

7.2 Phase 1 non-statutory consultation

Phase 1 Local Community Consultation

- 7.2.1 The three public exhibitions at Lidlington, Stewartby and Marston Moretaine were attended by 250 people over the course of three days (5th – 7th June 2014). Table 7.1 sets out the number of attendees and the feedback form response rate at each of the three public exhibitions.

Table 7.1 Number of attendees at the June 2014 non-statutory public exhibitions

Date	Exhibition Location and Time	Attendees	Feedback form response rate
5th June 2014	Lidlington Village Hall 4:00pm till 7:30pm	65	16 responses

6th June 2014	Stewartby Village Hall 3.00pm till 7.00pm	112	41 responses
7th June 2014	Marston Moretaine Village Hall 10.00am till 1.00pm	Over 100	59 responses

7.2.2 Survey forms were provided for attendees to provide feedback about the Project at each exhibition (see Appendix 3.Y.iii). Out of the 250 attendees, 116 people returned a survey form. Figure 7.5 provides a summary of the feedback received from the local community consultation.

Responses to feedback form questions

7.2.3 Figure 7.1 shows the overall response to the question ‘How do you feel about this outline proposal to build a gas fired power station at Rookery South Pit?’

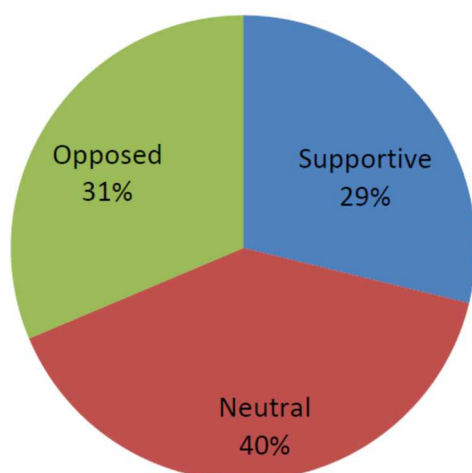


Figure 7.1 Respondents support of the outline proposals

7.2.4 At this stage in the development process, the majority of responses were neutral with the remainder of responses split almost equally between supporting and opposing the project. Figure 7.2 shows the response by exhibition location to the question, 'Millbrook Power is committed to ensuring that the project will create jobs and wider benefits to the local community. How would you like to see us supporting the community?'

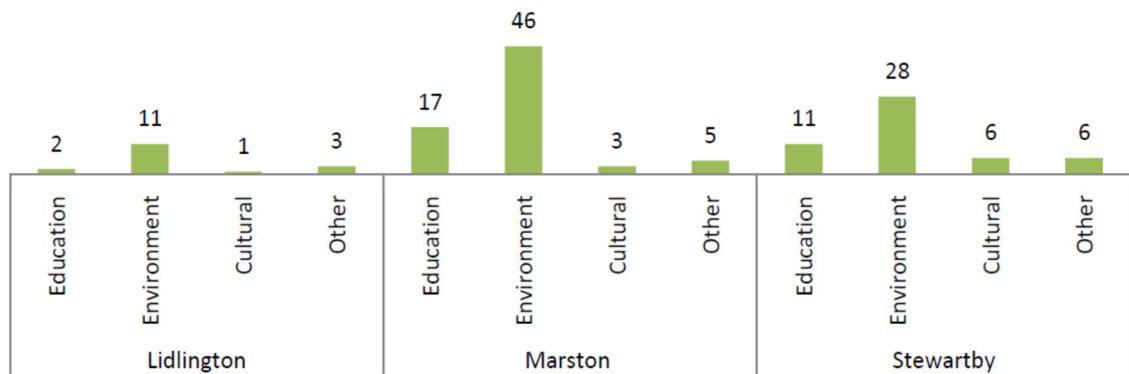


Figure 7.2 Respondents local community support preference

- 7.2.5 There was a degree of concern amongst residents that the needs of the local community would not be addressed. However, most respondents were in favour of MPL's commitment to provide support to local causes and the local community.
- 7.2.6 The majority of residents specified environmental benefits as a priority (64%) a further (27%) specified educational benefits and (9%) chose support for cultural or sporting events. A small handful of respondents specified 'other' benefits which were almost all based around the provision of gas for the community or a reduction of local electricity bills.
- 7.2.7 65% of those in Lidlington were in favour of local environmental benefits, whilst 12% supported benefits for local education and 6% wanted support for cultural or sporting initiatives. 17% specified 'other'.
- 7.2.8 55% of those in Stewartby were in favour of local environmental benefits, whilst 21% supported benefits for local education and 12% for benefits in the areas of culture and sport. Another 12% specified 'other'.
- 7.2.9 65% of those in Marston Moretaine were in favour of local environmental benefits, whilst 24% supported benefits for local education and 4% for culture and/or sport. 7% specified 'other'.
- 7.2.10 Figure 7.3 shows the overall response to the question: 'At an appropriate time, we plan to set up a Community Liaison group which will be kept informed by Millbrook Power of developments with this project - would you like to be a part of it?'

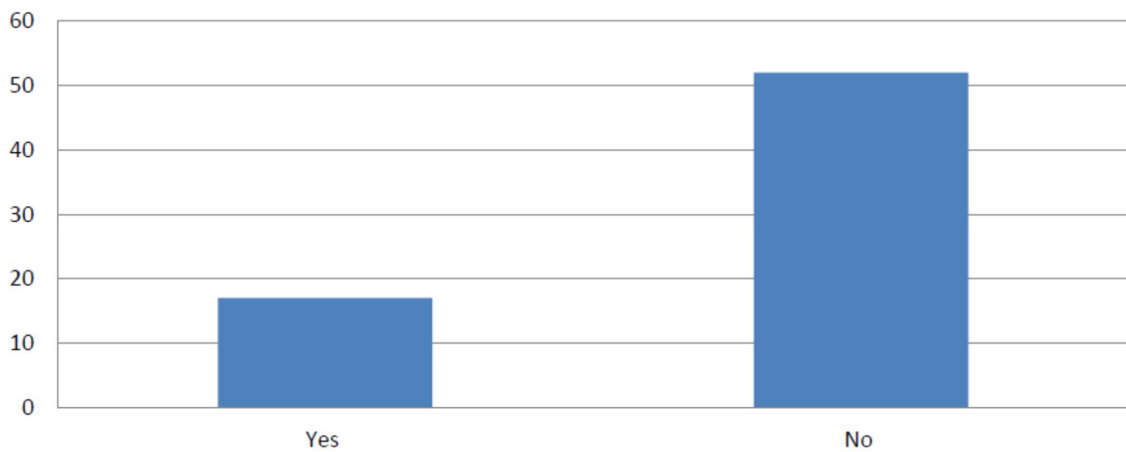


Figure 7.3 Community Liaison Group involvement

7.2.11 The results show that 75% of respondents indicated that they would not like to be considered for membership of any future Community Liaison Group and only 25% indicated that they would. Figure 7.4. shows how the respondents at the three events learnt about the exhibitions.

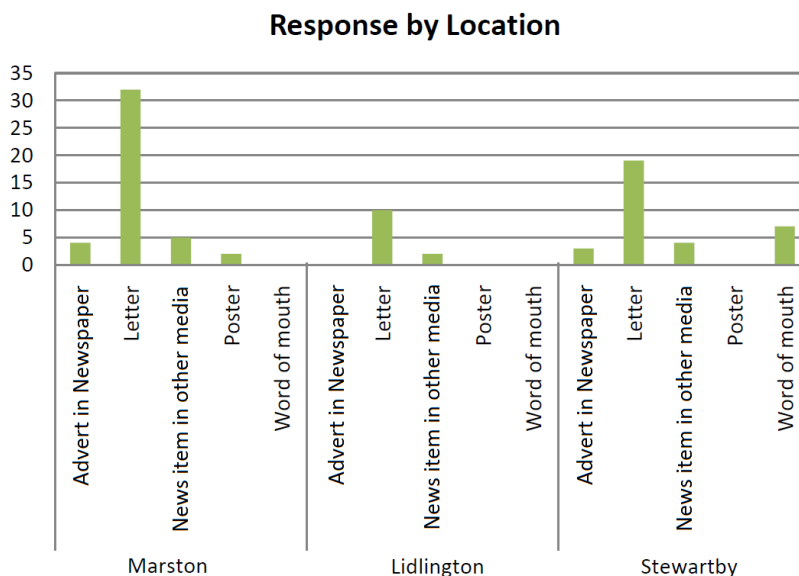


Figure 7.4 How respondents learnt about the exhibition

7.2.12 Overall, 77% of respondents indicated that they learned about the exhibitions by receiving the letter circulated to households in the area. 23% of respondents became aware of the exhibitions through a news item in newspaper or via other local media such as twitter and Facebook.

7.2.13 89% of the respondents from Lidlington learnt of the exhibition by letter and 11% became aware of the exhibition through a news item in the local media.

7.2.14 84% of the respondents from Stewartby learnt of the exhibition by letter and 16% became aware of the exhibition through a news item in the local media.

7.2.15 82% of the respondents from Marston Moretaine learnt of the exhibition by letter and 18% became aware of the exhibition through a news item in the local media.

7.2.16 Further questions asked for respondents' comments as part of the survey, generally the responses to these questions have been dealt with in Appendix 5.A. It is however worth summarising some of the more salient points which have either resulted in major interventions or modification to either the project or the engagement process. Suggestions were also made which did not result in any changes to the project itself but were already being addressed as part of the project design or requirement of the EIA process. The questions and a summary are reproduced below:

- a. Is there anything you would like to see done differently at the next round of exhibitions?
- b. Based on the information at today's event, what comments would you like to make about our proposal?
- c. What further information would you like to be made available about this project?

7.2.17 A number of comments were made in response to question a) relating to provision of more information and explanation on the Project. The comments included, access to maps, additional exhibition, model of the site, better advertising and detail regarding stack height, noise and emissions. Additional information was therefore presented at the statutory consultation events, for example more maps and exhibition boards were made available. Also in response to requests for an additional exhibition venue, MPL ran an exhibition at Ampthill for the statutory phase of consultation (further information is provided in section 7.4 of this Consultation Report).

7.2.18 Respondents also provided comments for question a) referring to underground cables for the Electrical Connection, and also a better idea of visual impact.

7.2.19 Predominantly the responses to question b) were concerned with impact within the landscape as a result of industrialisation, cumulative development and physical attributes of the development such as stack height, especially in relation to minimising stack heights, and screening of the Project. There were also a number of comments about the suitability of the site, both positive comments and negative comments, and comparisons with the Covanta RRF proposals.

7.2.20 Some issues such as cumulative development and general impact within the landscape are assessed with in the EIA. The issue of the stack height was also raised in early discussion with CBC and BBC representatives and has been modelled from an early stage in the process.

7.2.21 Responses to question c) were received across a broad spectrum of issues relating to noise, gas supplies to the village, visual impact of stacks and pylons; and traffic.

7.2.22 A detailed table of responses to these questions as well as how MPL has taken the response into account can be found in Appendix 5.A.

7.2.23 Responses to each survey question have been tabulated and subsequently answered by MPL stating how the response has been taken into account. In summary the majority of responses state that for future exhibitions more project detail is required and supported by visual aids. Comments regarding the proposal vary between the impact of the stacks, site selection, need for the project and comparisons drawn with the Covanta RRF proposals. With regard to the survey question asking what further information is required responses state design, environmental impact and community benefit as some of the key areas.

7.2.24 During the exhibitions many questions were raised by attendees, which were broadly in line with the feedback recorded in the forms. MPL responded to these questions during the exhibitions. In addition, specific comments were raised regarding the location of the AGI; this led to a further meeting with the landowner.

Phase 1 Key Stakeholder Consultation

7.2.25 Key stakeholders provided a range of comments on the Project during meetings and liaison prior to statutory consultation. A summary of the meetings which took place is included in Table 6.1. Responses from MPL during the meetings are provided within the meeting minutes, provided in Appendix 3.F.

7.2.26 In addition, there were specific comments made by a local councillor on the viewpoints to be used in the LVIA methodology, following publication of the EIA Scoping Report. The request largely focussed on the addition of new viewpoints to the methodology.

7.3 EIA Scoping Opinion

7.3.1 An EIA Scoping Opinion (ES Appendix 1.2, Document Reference: 6.1) was received from PINS on 28th July 2014 (Stage 5 of Table 5.2).

7.3.2 The EIA Scoping Opinion included a list of all consultees consulted, as required by Regulation 9 of the EIA Regs, and PINS's comments on the proposed development and the EIA approach and topic areas.

7.3.3 The EIA Scoping Opinion identified the main potential Project issues as:

- Air Quality;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Ecology;
- Water Quality and Resources;
- Geology, Ground Conditions and Land Use;

- Landscape and Visual;
- Traffic and Transport; and
- Cultural Heritage and Archaeology.

7.3.4 The SoS also noted the potential need to carry out an assessment under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

7.3.5 The SoS confirmed the following matters could be scoped out of the EIA:

- Potential odour impacts;
- Emissions to air from the gas and electrical connections;
- Noise and vibration impacts from the gas connections; and
- Impacts on water quality and resources of the gas and electricity connections.

7.3.6 The SoS noted that it is not explicitly stated in the Scoping Report whether the proposed electricity connection will be 132kV or 400kV, although it is indicated that it will connect to a 400kV network. In the event that the connection will be 400kV the SoS did not agree that noise impacts from the electrical connections could be scoped out.

7.3.7 The SoS recommended that further justification be provided for the scoping out of the following elements:

- Operational Noise/Impacts of the Electricity Connection;
- Drainage/Water quality impacts of the gas and electricity connections during the decommissioning phases; and
- Landscape and visual impacts on the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

7.3.8 The Scoping Opinion response has been considered in undertaking the EIA and in the production of the 2014 PEIR, the 2017 PEIR and the ES.

7.4 Phase 1 statutory consultation

7.4.1 A statutory consultation phase commenced on 13th October 2014 and concluded on 16th November 2014, a period of 35 days. This exceeded the minimum statutory period of 28 days by one week.

7.4.2 The statutory phase of consultation consisted of:

- Phase 1 SoCC and 2014 Consultation Plan;
- s47 consultation;

- s48 publicity;
- s42 consultation; and
- s46 notification.

7.4.3 The Project description at the commencement of the statutory phase of consultation was as set out at section 6.3.

Phase 1 Section 42 Consultation

7.4.4 The s42 responses were examined and then split into topic themes. The s42(1)(a); s42(1)(b) and s42(1)(d) responses received are provided in full in Appendix 5.B. In total there were 27 respondents who made comment on the application, which has been broken down into 224 individual comments. Other responses acknowledged receipt of materials, or stated that the Project would not affect them. These verbatim responses are still included in Appendix 5.B for completeness.

7.4.5 In analysing the responses, no ranking or weighting was given to the responses. Instead the verbatim responses were simply split into topics. The result of this exercise is set out in Appendix 5.D (which also contains MPL's response to each thematic point/issue raised). In broad terms, the s42 responses received, when broken down into themes produce the results shown in Figure 7.5.

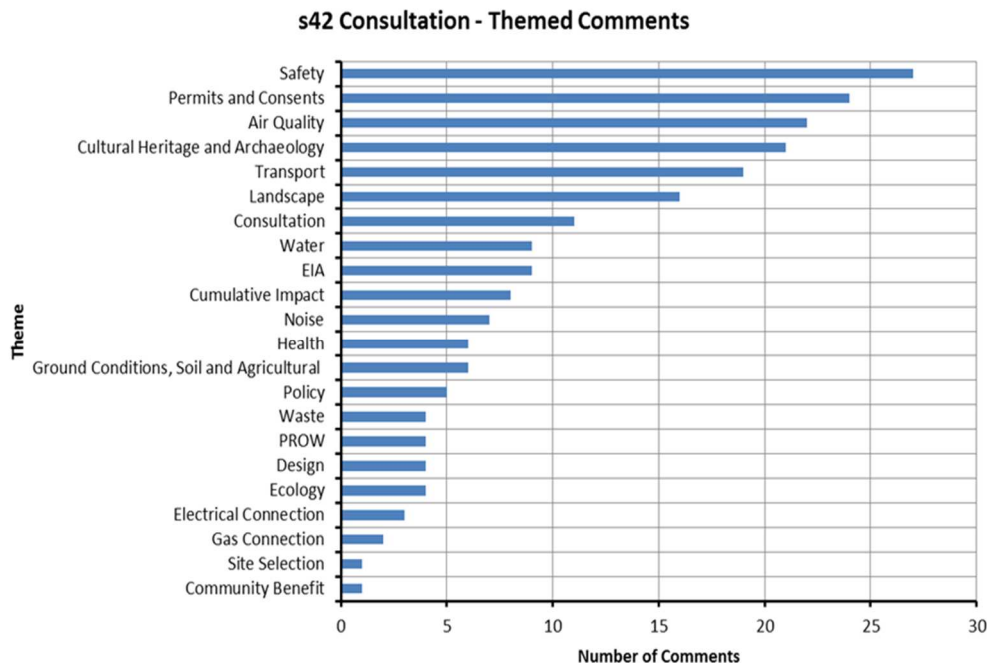


Figure 7.5 s42 comments – themed

7.4.6 The themes that attracted the most comments were:

- Safety
- Permits and consents
- Air quality
- Cultural heritage
- Transport
- Landscape

7.4.7 The S42 responses have been received predominantly from s42(a) parties and also (b) parties. A very small response has occurred from s42(d) parties.

7.4.8 As one would expect, the s42(a) consultees generally have an inbuilt bias towards statutory protective functions of areas of acknowledged interest; for example, service corridors.

7.4.9 There were a number of other general themes which emerged through the s42 responses, related to matters which would be considered within the EIA process such as cumulative effect, noise, landscape and air quality assessment.

Safety, permits and consents

7.4.10 A considerable number of comments relate to operational safety issues such as general safety and other consents or permits that may be required. Issues raised related to operational information from a health and safety standpoint or for example the CAA advising what height of structure has to be advised to local aerodromes. On this occasion despite the fact that no tall buildings are proposed MPL has as a precaution contacted Cranfield aerodrome to advise them of the development.

Air Quality

7.4.11 A number of responses relating to air quality were in relation to the methodology for the EIA, and also one comment on temperature inversions. These comments were considered in the preparation of the EIA and the MPL Draft Order.

Cultural Heritage

7.4.12 Responses were received from BBC, CBC and Historic England (then English Heritage), and predominantly related to the approach to the assessment of cultural heritage in the EIA. These comments were considered in the preparation of the DCO application documents.

Traffic and Transport

7.4.13 CBC made comment about the permissive Public Right of Way (PRoW) that would be provided within the Rookery as part of the LLRS and what the

interactions could be between this and the proposed development. As a result of this a further review of the Project has been undertaken in order to ensure that this issue can be properly addressed.

7.4.14 Stewartby Parish Council raised concerns about construction traffic being routed through Kempston Hardwick along Manor Road; this was due to a concentration of residential properties. There were a number of other comments made by consultees on construction traffic management measures, including routing and access.

7.4.15 Highways England (then Highways Agency) and BBC in their comments refer to the need for a Transport Assessment, and the approach to the assessment.

Landscape

7.4.16 There were a number of comments on landscape, this included a specific comment by CBC on the viewpoints being used for the LVIA. CBC requested that six further viewpoints were added to the LVIA in addition to those added during non-statutory consultation.

7.4.17 There were also comments made by CBC and BBC on the Electrical Connection and it was requested that the minimum number of pylons were used for the Project.

7.4.18 Finally, Covanta who are a s42(d) party have contacted MPL with respect to the juxtaposition of the interests of the two parties on the Rookery South Pit. Discussions are ongoing but MPL has modified their 2014 consultation Red Line Boundary in the location of the Access Road in the Rookery South Pit to ensure both projects can co-exist. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 10.1) provides further details on the modification of the consultation Red Line Boundary that was prepared in October 2014.

7.4.19 The above thematic comments are further detailed in Appendix 5.D where responses are made to each theme.

Phase 1 Section 47 Consultation

Overview

7.4.20 A total of 182 people attended the four public exhibitions held in Marston Moretaine, Stewartby, Ampthill and Lidlington in October and November 2014; 33% of the attendees returned a feedback form (Appendix 3.Y.iii).

7.4.21

7.4.22

7.4.23 Table 7.2 sets out the number of attendees and the feedback form response rate at each of the four public exhibitions.

Table 7.2 Number of attendees at the statutory s47 public exhibitions in October 2014

Date	Exhibition Location and Time	Attendees	Feedback form response rate
Friday, 31st October 2014	Marston Moretaine Village Hall, 1500-1900	39	33%
Saturday 1st November 2014	Stewartby Village Hall, 0900- 1300	71	39%
Monday 3rd November 2014	Ampthill Masonic Centre, 1600-2000	43	30%
Tuesday 4th November 2014	Lidlington Village Hall, 1100- 1500	29	24%

7.4.24 As illustrated in

7.4.25

7.4.26

7.4.27 Table 7.2 the majority of attendees were at the exhibition held at Stewartby Village Hall (39%).

7.4.28 The majority of feedback forms returned were from the exhibition held at Stewartby Village Hall with an overall feedback form response rate from the exhibitions of 39%.

7.4.29 A complete record of all feedback received during the statutory s47 public exhibitions held in October and November 2014 with MPL's response is presented in Appendix 5.F.

Summary of Feedback

7.4.30 Questionnaires were made available to the 182 people who attended the four exhibitions as well as being attached as a freepost response form to the leaflet that was distributed to approximately 10,500 addresses in the CCZ (see Figure 6.1).

7.4.31 The responses included 131 returned forms, 70 via freepost and 61 direct from exhibitions as shown in Figure 7.6. All responses have been analysed and the results of this are discussed below.

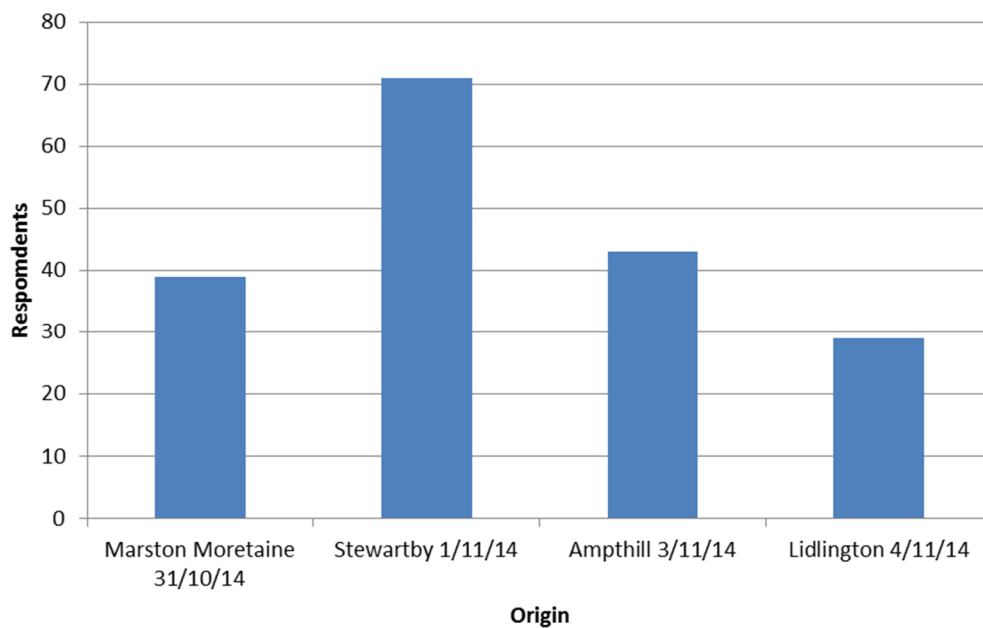


Figure 7.6 Origin of responses

7.4.32 Of those responding to the survey 37% were supportive and 31% opposed. A further 17% were neutral and 15% undecided. This is shown at Figure 7.6.

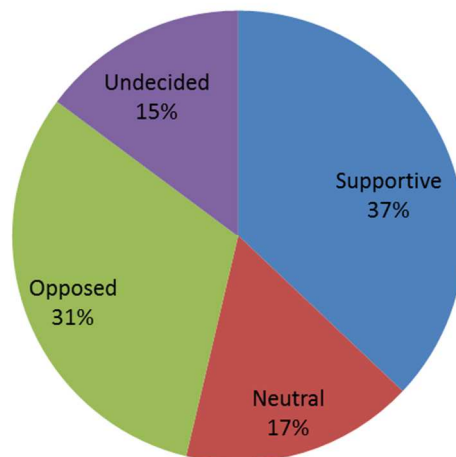


Figure 7.7 Respondents support of project proposals

7.4.33 In order to further examine the 47 responses and to differentiate between issues, each representation was examined in order to ascertain what issues it identified as important.

7.4.34 In total there were 143 responses, this comprised 131 survey responses (both feedback forms received in exhibitions and freepost leaflet responses) and 12 responses via email and posted letter. These responses were examined and then split into topic themes.

7.4.35 In analysing the responses, no ranking or weighting was given to the responses. Instead, the raw data was split into topics. The result of this exercise is set out in Appendix 5.F (which also contains MPL's response to each thematic point/issue raised). In broad terms, the s47 responses received, when broken down into themes produce the results shown in Figure 7.8.

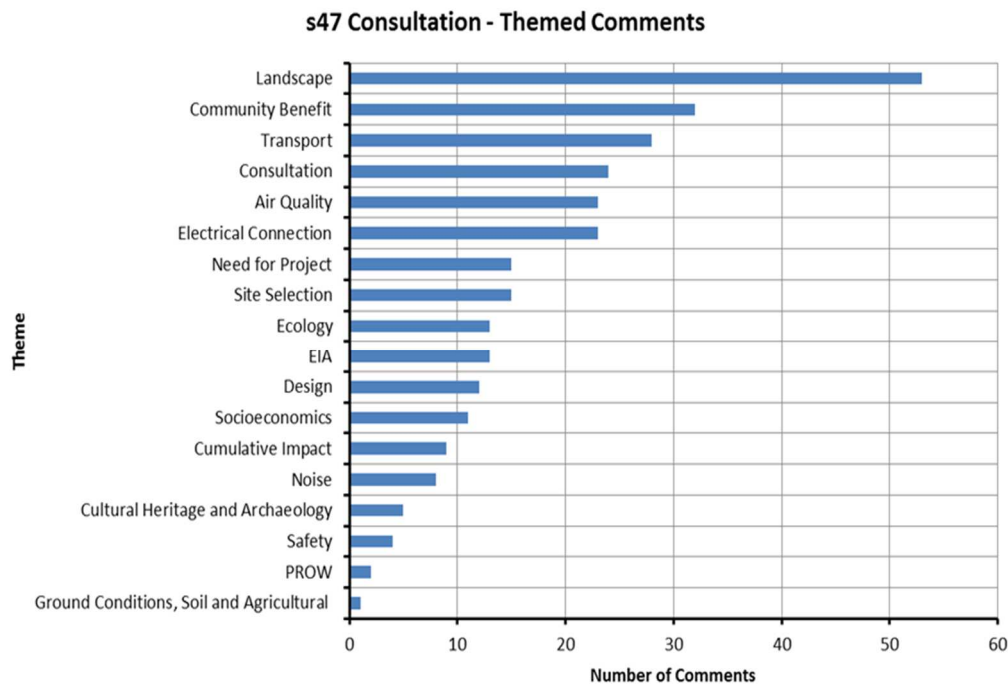


Figure 7.8 s47 comments – themed

7.4.36 The themes that attracted the most comment were:

- Landscape
- Community Benefit
- Transport
- Consultation issues
- Air quality
- Electrical connection.

7.4.37 The above are further detailed in Appendix 5.F where responses are made to each theme.

7.4.38 It should be noted that each response has to be considered on its own merit and that the number of respondents identifying an issue may not correlate directly to the importance of that individual area. So, for example although many more comments were made on landscape than air quality this does not mean that a lesser degree of examination was carried out of air quality issues.

7.4.39 As part of the statutory consultation process, responses under s47 are more focussed than non-statutory consultation reflecting the additional levels of information that were available at that time.

7.4.40 There were a number of themes which emerged through s47 responses. Some of these were general and related to matters which would be considered within the EIA process such as noise, landscape and air quality assessment.

Landscape

7.4.41 There were a range of comments concerned about the visual impact of the Project, in terms of the pylons, stacks and more generally. Some of those comments relating to the pylons refer to the use of underground cables to mitigate the visual impact.

7.4.42 There were a number of responses with respect to the impacts within the landscape and the views from Ampthill Park, and reference to the need for mitigation measures.

Community Benefit

7.4.43 A number of comments referred to the fact that local residents do not have a mains gas connection stating that a connection could be provided to local residents as part of the project, or subsidised or given to elderly residents. In particular, Stewartby is highlighted as a village requiring a gas main.

7.4.44 There were also a number of comments stating that the project will have no community benefit, and the impacts of the Project being large.

Transport

7.4.45 Specific transport issues were raised with respect to traffic impact on settlements and traffic management of the site with reference to the local rail crossing.

7.4.46 Finally, on transport issues, comments were received that there is a project emerging to re-link Oxford and Cambridge by rail and that this may have some impact on the Project.

7.4.47 As a response to this, MPL has met with the representatives of Network Rail and information received confirms that due to the timings of Network Rail's project it would occur later than MPL and would not present any issues.

Consultation issues

7.4.48 There were a range of comments referring to the consultation, including the process and materials. Some refer to the fact that information provided was clear and that MPL answered questions clearly, however, others referred to issues with public communication and information. For instance, a representative from the Friends of Marston Moretaine Station attended an

exhibition and explained that the group were concerned that they had not been formally consulted; this group is engaged as a s47 party.

Air Quality

7.4.49 Comments have been received with reference to the stack height and local weather conditions, one individual in particular had a detailed knowledge of the area and was concerned that the appropriate weather data for the area had been used and that MPL were aware of the fact that temperature inversions were a common occurrence in the Marston Vale. Additional information was sent to the individual by e-mail and MPL's data was verified.

Electrical connection

7.4.50 Site selection was commented on generally and possibility of placing the electrical connection cables underground, rather than overhead, was raised. There were also a large number of adverse comments received on the number of new pylons that the development may require.

Other comments to note

7.4.51 Specific comments were made on the potential noise impact at South Pillinge Farm. These comments related to the noise impact and a desire to see a noise bund at South Pillinge Farm.

7.4.52 A number of other representations were also received which related to establishment of site safety procedures and emergency site access. In the case of the former these will be developed at the appropriate time; however, an emergency access route is already part of the LLRS that will be in place by the start of construction.

Phase 1 Section 48 Consultation

7.4.53 MPL did not receive any consultation responses that identified themselves as responding specifically to s48 publicity. MPL has therefore taken the approach that some s47 responses may also be s48 responses.

7.5 Phase 1 non-statutory consultation (carried out following the Phase 1 statutory consultation)

7.5.1 MPL held an outreach meeting with PINS and local councillors (from CBC and CCZ parish councils), on 26th November 2014 in order to discuss the DCO Application, the latest update on the Project and stakeholder specific issues. One of the constant themes throughout the non-statutory and statutory elements of the consultation exercise and also at this meeting was the perceived impact of the additional electricity transmission Pylons both due to their presence on site and their impact on the local environment. As noted below, this feedback contributed to MPL's decision to proceed with an underground cable in order to connect to the NETS.

- 7.5.2 The meeting held by MPL with CBC, BBC and local parishes on 4th February 2015 were used to provide a general update and to impart the news regarding the decision to proceed on the basis of underground cables.
- 7.5.3 This information was also imparted when MPL issued additional information to s42 Parties and those s47 parties that had requested to be kept informed on 6th and 7th of February 2015 (Appendix 4.N.i).

Consultation on the draft ES

- 7.5.4 MPL entered into a planning performance agreement with CBC in 2014. A draft version of the ES was sent to CBC for comment by PBA in September 2015 and CBC provided comments in October 2015. MPL has taken CBC's comments into account in the preparation of the ES (Document Reference 6.1), specifically those related to noise and cultural heritage.

7.6 Phase 1 Summary and conclusions

- 7.6.1 In summary, MPL undertook a single period of statutory consultation during the Phase 1 consultation combining the requirements under s42, s46, s47 and s48 of the PA 2008. The Phase 1 statutory consultation period commenced on 13th October 2014 and concluded on 16th November 2014, a period of 35 days. MPL received 27 responses from s42 consultees and the majority of these were from s42(a) parties. The themes that attracted the most comments from s42 consultees included: safety, permits and consents, air quality, cultural heritage, transport and landscape.
- 7.6.2 MPL also received 131 responses from s47 consultees. Feedback from the local community was obtained via feedback forms made available at the public exhibitions (61) and freepost feedback back forms included in the leaflet distributed to households within the CCZ (70). The themes that attracted the most comments from s47 consultees included: landscape, community benefit, transport, consultation issues, air quality and electrical connection.
- 7.6.3 Section 11 explains how MPL has had regard to the consultation feedback that it has received.
- 7.6.4 MPL has had regard to all relevant consultation responses received in accordance with s49 of the PA 2008. The tables contained in Appendix 5.D and Appendix 5.F summarise all relevant s42 and s47 Phase 1 consultation comments and set out MPL's response, indicating where consultation comments have resulted in a change to the Project or not.

8 Description of Phase 2 consultation (March 2017 - October 2017)

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This section describes the non-statutory and statutory consultation activities that MPL undertook between March 2017 and October 2017 as part of the Phase 2 consultation.

8.1.2 In March 2015, it was decided by the previous owners of the Project to put it “on hold” primarily because of the then market conditions for new power generation in the UK. However, after acquisition of the Project by Drax in December 2016 (further described in section 2.3 below) the Project was publicly “re-launched” in April 2017. In accordance with the PA 2008 DCLG pre-application guidance (paragraph 73) MPL decided to undertake a second phase of consultation after the Project was relaunched in 2017.

8.2 MPL's approach to Phase 2 Consultation

8.2.1 As was the case for the Phase 1 Consultation, MPL has carried out a variety of non-statutory and statutory consultation with a range of consultees.

8.2.2 Meetings have taken place with key stakeholders prior to, during and after the statutory Phase 2 consultation period, which ran from 29th May 2017 to 2nd July 2017. Meetings held during the Phase 2 consultation period have generally been focused on those with CBC, BBC and the local Parish Councils. Other statutory stakeholders have been liaised with via telephone and email correspondence.

8.3 Phase 2 non-statutory consultation (March 2017 – May 2017)

Non-statutory consultation carried out prior to the Phase 2 statutory consultation

8.3.1 The focus of the Phase 2 non-statutory consultation was to inform those who were not involved with Phase 1 consultation about the Project and to update those who were previously consulted during the Phase 1 consultation on the changes to the Project, as well as to explain why the Project was now progressing again towards submission of a DCO application and to ask for feedback from consultees on the Project.

8.3.2 MPL undertook informal non-statutory consultation with a range of stakeholders prior to the commencement of the Phase 2 statutory consultation period, including:

- Refreshing the Regulation 9 consultation list;
- Meetings with key stakeholders including PINS, regulatory agencies, local authorities and parish councils in the CCZ (see Figure 6.1);

- Informing (via email) the local MP, prospective parliamentary candidates, parish councils in the OCZ and hard to reach groups; and
- Updating the MPL website (www.millbrookpower.co.uk) to advise that further consultation would be taking place in 2017.

Phase 2 Regulation 9 list refresh

8.3.3 The Regulation 9 list provided by PINS in 2014 in respect of the Phase 1 consultation was refreshed and updated in dialogue with PINS and the consultation bodies listed. Where there were named contacts, those contacts were issued an email on 4th May 2017 to enquire whether the contact details (including postal address) remained accurate and appropriate for the issuing of Project statutory consultation material. Those who did not respond by 9th May 2017 were removed as named contacts and registered addresses were used for the purposes of the statutory consultation element of Phase 2 Consultation.

Phase 2 Key Stakeholder Consultation

8.3.4 Non-statutory consultation undertaken with key stakeholders in the lead up to the statutory consultation period commenced in March 2017. Meetings were held with PINS, regulatory agencies, local authorities and parish councils.

8.3.5 MPL engaged with PINS, providing information regarding the re-start of the MPL Project, as well as attending a meeting with PINS on 30th March 2017 to discuss matters including consultation, EIA (including scoping requirements) and preparation of the DCO Application (Appendix 3.H.iii). Table 8.1 below summarises the meetings that MPL held prior to the commencement of the statutory consultation period.

Table 8.1 Key stakeholder meetings March 2017 to May 2017 (pre-statutory consultation meetings)

Date	Activity and consultee	Minutes reference
08/03/2017	Meeting with Covanta to update one-another on progress with respective projects and discuss next steps.	Appendix 3.H.i
22/03/2017	Meeting with CBC Planning Officer to provide an update on the project.	Appendix 3.H.ii
30/03/2017	Meeting with PINS to discuss the re-start of the project including: consultation, EIA (including scoping requirements) and the DCO Application.	Appendix 3.H.iii
31/03/17	Meeting with planning BBC Planning Officer to provide an update on the project.	Appendix 3.H.iv

Date	Activity and consultee	Minutes reference
19/04/17	Meeting with Covanta to discuss project overlap issue.	Appendix 3.H.v
26/04/2017	Meetings to brief BBC Mayor, ward members and planning Officers on the re-start of the Project including changes to the Project.	Appendix 3.H.vi
10/05/2017	Meeting with Network Rail regarding the EWR scheme. The EWR Project Manager explained there are no plans to update the level crossing located near to the Project Site.	Appendix 3.H.vii
10/05/2017	Meeting to brief Stewartby Parish Council on the re-start of the Project including changes to the Project.	Appendix 3.H.viii
10/05/2017	Meeting to brief Cranfield Parish Council on the re-start of the Project including changes to the Project.	Appendix 3.H.viii
11/05/2017	Meeting to brief CBC ward members on the re-start of the Project including changes to the Project.	Appendix 3.H.viii
11/05/2017	Meeting to brief Millbrook Parish Meeting on the re-start of the Project including changes to the Project.	Appendix 3.H.viii
11/05/2017	Meeting to brief Houghton Conquest Parish Council on the re-start of the Project including changes to the Project.	Appendix 3.H.viii
16/05/2017	Meeting to brief Marston Moretaine Parish Council on the re-start of the Project including changes to the Project.	Appendix 3.H.ix
17/05/2017	Meeting to brief Ampthill Town Council on the re-start of the Project including changes to the Project.	Appendix 3.H.ix

8.4 Phase 2 EIA Scoping Consultation

- 8.4.1 MPL met with PINS on 30th March 2017 to discuss various matters relating to the Project, including the validity of the 2014 EIA Scoping Opinion.
- 8.4.2 PINS confirmed that it was not necessary to revisit the 2014 EIA Scoping Report/Opinion and that the Scoping Opinion remained valid for the purposes of the EIA for the Project. In accordance with the transitional arrangements at

Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations 2017, the Project has continued to be assessed under the regime of the EIA Regulations 2009.

8.5 Phase 2 Statutory Consultation (May 2017 – July 2017)

8.5.1 Following the period of non-statutory consultation described above, MPL undertook a series of activities in accordance with the statutory consultation requirements of the PA 2008. Each element of the statutory consultation undertaken fulfilled a particular requirement of the PA 2008 and was undertaken following the structure provided in Figure 5.1. These strands of consultation are explained in more detail in the following section.

Phase 2 Project description

8.5.2 The description of the Project provided for the Phase 2 statutory consultation (as outlined in the 2017 PEIR) was as follows:

- A new Power Generation Plant in the form of an Open Cycle Gas Turbine peaking power generating station, fuelled by natural gas with a rated electrical output of between 50 and 299 MW. This is the output of the generating station as a whole, measured at the point of export into the National Grid Electricity Transmission System (NETS). The Power Generation Plant comprises:
 - generating equipment including one Gas Turbine Generator with one exhaust gas flue stack and Balance of Plant, which are located within the ‘Generating Equipment Site’;
 - a new purpose built access road to the Generating Equipment Site;
 - a temporary construction compound required during construction only;
- A new underground gas pipeline connection to bring natural gas to the Generating Equipment from the National Transmission System. This element incorporates an Above Ground Installation at the point of connection to the National Transmission System; and
- A new electrical connection to export power from the Generating Equipment to the NETS, delivered in one of two ways although both options comprise underground cables and one replacement transmission tower.

8.5.3 Further details of both Electrical Connection options were provided in Section 5 of the s42 cover letter (Appendix 3.Q) and Section 2.5 of the PEIR NTS. It was explained that the Electrical Connection would cover an area of approximately 4.8 ha no matter which option was used.

Phase 2 Section 47 SoCC consultation and publication

8.5.4 As acknowledged in paragraph 6.4.41, s47(1) of the PA 2008 requires that applicants prepare a statement setting out how they proposed to consult local people in consultation with the local authority(ies).

- 8.5.5 In preparing the draft Phase 2 SoCC and 2017 Consultation Plan for the Phase 2 consultation (Appendix 2.E), MPL had regard to the consultation feedback received from CBC and BBC on the Phase 1 SoCC (Appendix 2.B).
- 8.5.6 Pursuant to s47(2) of the PA 2008 the draft 2017 Consultation Plan, together with the draft Phase 2 SoCC and Phase 2 SoCC Notice were sent to CBC and BBC for statutory consultation on 6th April 2017 (cover letters provided at Appendix 2.C.i and Appendix 2.C.ii).
- 8.5.7 The cover letter accompanying the documents explained that in accordance with s47(2) of the PA 2008, MPL must consult the Councils about the content of the Phase 2 SoCC and that MPL therefore requested that the Councils provide comments on the draft Phase 2 SoCC and 2017 Consultation Plan within 28 days from the day after receipt of the draft Phase 2 SoCC.
- 8.5.8 The CBC response was received on 3rd May 2017 (i.e. 26 days into the consultation period) (Appendix 2.C.iv). In its response, CBC confirmed that it had reviewed the draft Phase 2 SoCC and had no further comments to make. The CBC letter stated that: *'the submitted document appears to outline a thorough consultation process to be undertaken prior to the DCO being submitted at the end of the year'*.
- 8.5.9 The BBC response was received on 2nd May 2017 (i.e. 25 days into the consultation period) (Appendix 2.C.v). In its response, BBC made a recommendation that paper copies of consultation documents should be made available for public viewing in the Bedford Council's Customer Service Centre located at 2 Horne Lane, Bedford, MK40 1RA instead of BBC main office.
- 8.5.10 In respect of the content of the draft 2017 Consultation Plan itself, BBC's letter confirmed that the 'draft plan is comprehensive and demonstrates the intention for a significant level of public consultation and involvement to at least the level specified in the council's Statement of Community Involvement'.
- 8.5.11 Following the receipt of comments from CBC and BBC, minor amendments were made to the Phase 2 SoCC to include Bedford Council's Customer Service Centre as a location where consultation documents would be available for public viewing, and to amend the Red Line Boundary to the revised version on the figures showing the CCZ (see Figure 8.1) and OCZ (see Figure 8.2) although this did not change the parishes included within the CCZ and OCZ.

The CCZ and OCZ

- 8.5.12 The Phase 2 SoCC explained that MPL would carry out consultation with the local community in two areas: a CCZ that equates to a 5 km radius from the Power Generation Plant Site (Figure 8.1) and an OCZ that equates to a radius of 10 km (Figure 8.2).
- 8.5.13 The consultation zones were adopted for both non-statutory and statutory Phase 2 consultation activities. MPL focused its primary consultation activities (for example leaflet distribution) within the CCZ (see Figure 8.1) and carried out

less intensive consultation activities (for example media coverage and email correspondence with parish councils) across a wider area, the OCZ.

8.5.14 The distances from the Power Generation Plant Site remained as per the Phase 1 consultation CCZ and OCZ at 5 km and 10 km respectively, since no further comments were received on the proposed CCZ and OCZ in the draft SoCC. However, the OCZ (see Figure 8.2) and CCZ (see Figure 8.1) boundaries differ slightly due to the different Project Site boundaries used at each phase of consultation. The CCZ includes the following parish council areas:

- Wootton;
- Stewartby;
- Houghton Conquest;
- Ampthill;
- Maulden;
- Millbrook;
- Lidlington; and
- Marston Moretaine.

8.5.15 Cranfield does not fall within the OCZ but were regarded as being so by MPL so a meeting was held with the council.

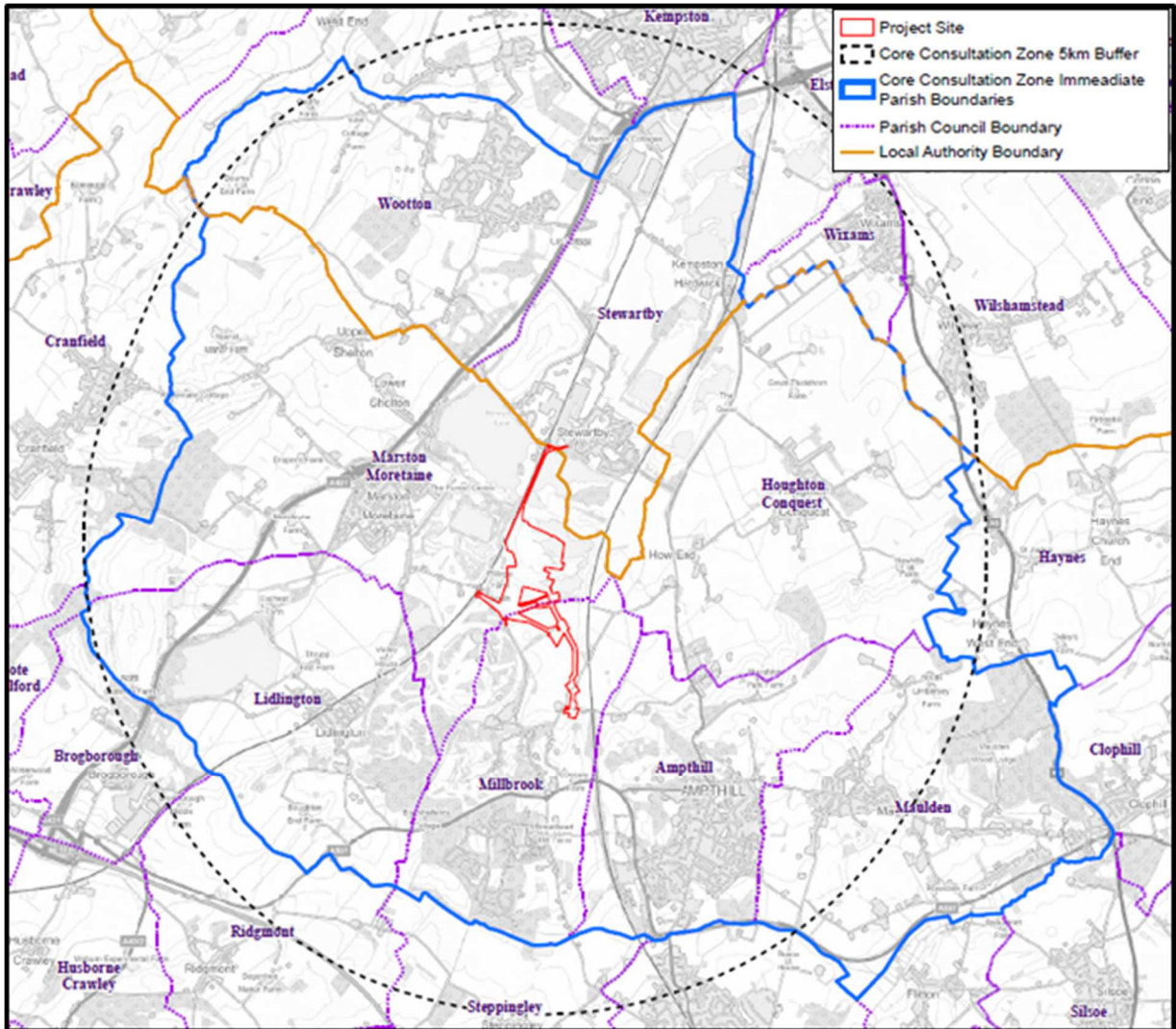


Figure 8.1 Phase 2 Core Consultation Zone (CCZ)

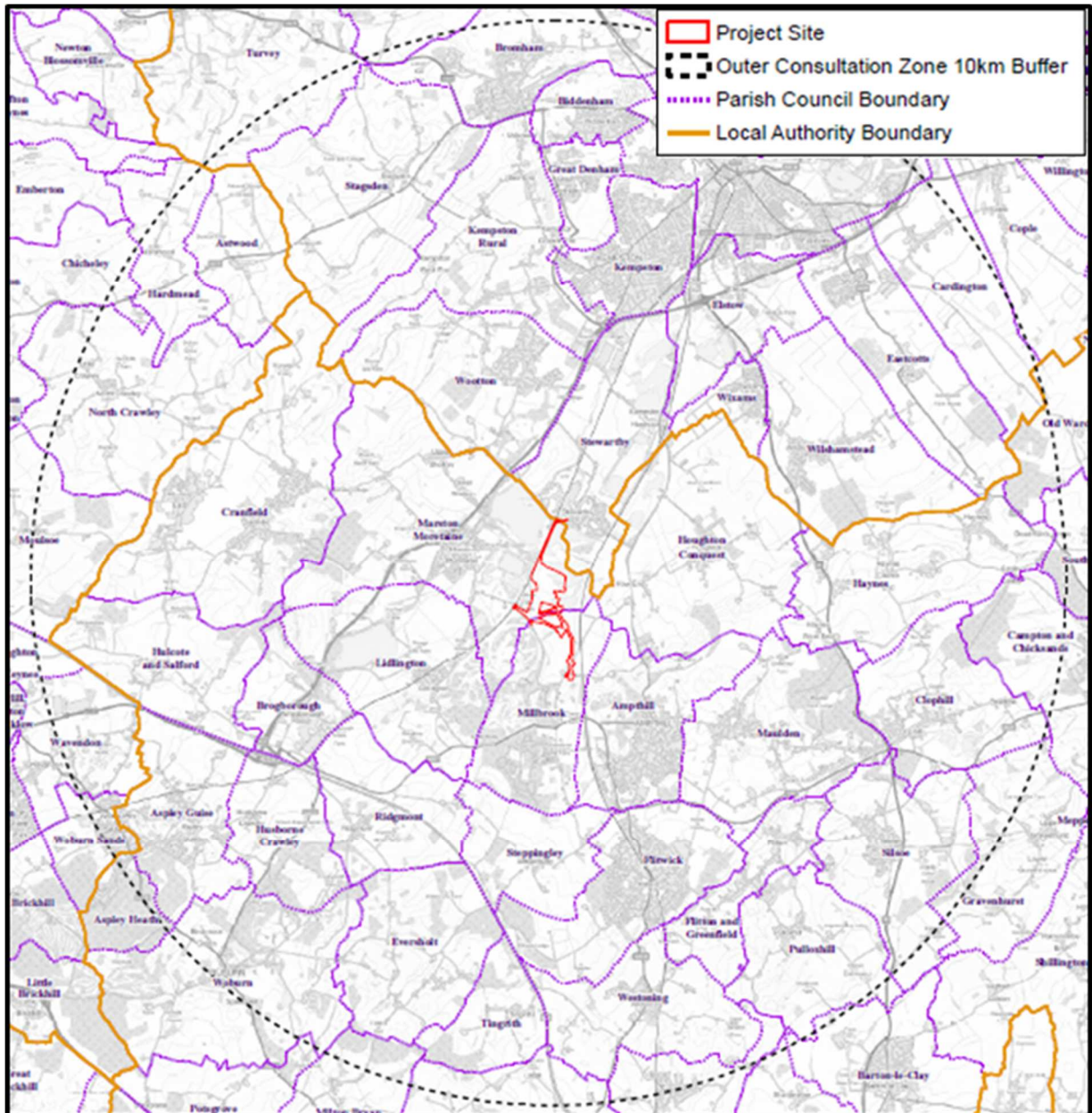


Figure 8.2 Phase 2 Outer Consultation Zone (OCZ)

8.5.16 Pursuant to s47(6), notices relating to where and when the Phase 2 SoCC was available to be inspected were published in local newspapers as described in Table 8.2. Copies of the notices are available in Appendix 3.V.

Table 8.2 SoCC Notices

Publication	Date published
Bedford Times and Citizen	18 th May 2017
Bedfordshire on Sunday	21 st May 2017
Bedford Times and Citizen	25 th May 2017
Bedfordshire on Sunday	28 th May 2017

8.5.17 The final SoCC for the Phase 2 consultation (Appendix 2.E) was published on the MPL website (www.millbrookpower.co.uk) on 8th May 2017 and paper copies were made available for public viewing at the following locations throughout the statutory consultation period (29th May to 2nd July 2017):

Table 8.3 SoCC venues

Venue	Address	Opening hours
Bedford Library	Harpur Street, Bedford, MK40 1PG	Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri 09.00 – 18.00, Thurs 09.00 – 13.00 and Sat 09.00 – 17.00
Amphill Library	1 Dunstable Street, Amphill, Bedford, MK45 2NL	Mon/Wed/Fri 10.00 – 18.00, Thurs 14.00 – 18.00 and Sat 10.00 – 13.00
Wootton Library	Lorraine Road, Wootton, MK43 9LH	Mon/Fri 14.00 – 18.00, Wed 10.00 – 1300 / 1400 -18.30 and Sat 10.00 – 13.00
Bedford Borough Council Customer Service Centre	2 Horne Lane, Bedford MK40 1RA	Mon-Thurs 08:45-17:15 and Fri 08:45-16:45

Central Bedfordshire Council	Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ,	Mon-Thurs 08:00–17:30 and Friday 08:00–5:00
Marston Vale Forest Centre	Marston Moretaine, Bedford MK43 0PR	Mon-Sun 10:00-16:00

Phase 2 Section 46 notification

8.5.18 On behalf of the SoS, PINS received the following information on 23rd May 2017 (despatched 22nd May 2017 for next day delivery) prior to the commencement of the s42 consultation and in accordance with s46 of the PA 2008:

- A covering letter (Appendix 3.M.i);
- A hard copy of the Project Overview Document (Appendix 3.T.ii);
- A hard copy of the Consultation Leaflet;
- A CD containing electronic version of the 2017 PEIR, 2017 PEIR NTS, 2017 PEIR Appendices, 2017 PEIR Figures and Project Overview Document; and
- A hard copy of the 2017 PEIR NTS.

8.5.19 An acknowledgement of receipt was received via email from PINS on 23rd May 2017 (Appendix 3.M.ii).

Phase 2 Section 42 Consultation

8.5.20 Paragraph 6.4.5 to 6.4.6 remain applicable in respect of the Phase 2 Consultation.

8.5.21 Pursuant to s45, statutory consultation under s42 must be a minimum of 28 days from the day after the consultee receives the consultation documents. However, as with the Phase 1 statutory consultation period, and in order to provide a slightly longer consultation window, MPL's statutory consultation period for the Phase 2 consultation commenced on 29th May 2017 and concluded on 2nd July 2017; allowing a period of 35 days.

Consultation under Section 42(1)(a): prescribed persons

8.5.22 Paragraph 6.4.8 to 6.4.11 remain applicable in respect of the Phase 2 Consultation.

8.5.23 The list of prescribed persons consulted under s42(1)(a) of the PA 2008, as part of Phase 2 Consultation, is contained in Appendix 3.O.

8.5.24 The relevant Parish Councils under s42(1)(a) are:

- Stewartby Parish Council;
- Marston Moretaine Parish Council;
- Ampthill Town Council;
- Millbrook Parish Meeting; and
- Houghton Conquest Parish Council.

8.5.25 Although the following Parish Councils are not prescribed consultees under s42 of the PA 2008, MPL delivered materials to and invited these additional Parish Councils to actively participate in the consultation process. This was due to their close proximity to the Project Site:

- Wootton Parish Council;
- Lidlington Parish Council; and
- Maulden Parish Council.

Consultation under Section 42(1)(b): local authorities

8.5.26 The Project lies within both CBC and BBC administrative boundaries. As set out in paragraphs 6.4.15 and 6.4.16, pursuant to s42(1)(b) the Local Authorities falling within s43 that needed to be consulted by MPL included CBC and BBC which are both 'B' authorities for the purpose of s43(2) of the PA 2008. MPL also consulted the local authorities located adjacent to CBC and BBC listed in paragraph 6.4.17 ('A' authorities for the purpose of s43(2) of the PA 2008) in addition to BBC and CBC under s42 of the PA 2008.

Consultation under Section 42(1)(d): s44 persons with an interest in the land

8.5.27 A definition of s42(1)(d) parties is outlined in paragraph 6.4.19.

8.5.28 As part of the Phase 2 consultation process, consultees with interest in the land to which the Project relates were identified by MPL by undertaking diligent inquiries. Initially, plans were submitted to the Land Registry to identify all registered titles. These were then examined to further identify all interests noted against the title in each case.

8.5.29 Further information from each landowner was sought directly by requesting that they complete a full enquiry form for each parcel of land - stipulating the freehold / leasehold interests, the occupiers if any, and other rights on / over the land whether registered or not.

8.5.30 Further site visits were undertaken prior to the Application submission on 10th September and 13th October to reconfirm all boundaries.

Phase 2 Section 42 consultation

8.5.31 The full list of s42 parties consulted during Phase 2 pursuant to s42(1)(a); s42(1)(b) and s42(1)(d) is included as Appendix 3.O. MPL has allocated each s42 consultee a unique reference in order to protect the identity of s42(d) individuals land interests.

8.5.32 The s42 consultation information that was sent out to each consultee comprised:

- A covering letter providing an overview of the Phase 2 statutory consultation (Appendix 3.R.i);
- A paper copy of the 2017 PEIR NTS (Appendix 3.T.i);
- A paper copy of the Project Overview Document (Appendix 3.T.ii);
- A CD containing electronic version of the 2017 PEIR, 2017 PEIR NTS, 2017 PEIR Appendices, 2017 PEIR Figures and Project Overview Document; and
- A paper copy of the consultation leaflet (Appendix 3.Z.iii).

8.5.33 The s42 materials were delivered in a range of formats, depending on the type of consultee, as described below.

8.5.34 With the exception of Natural England and Bedford Hospital NHS Trust South Wing (explained in the paragraph below), all consultees received a CD containing the 2017 PEIR and Project Overview Document and a hard copy of the 2017 PEIR NTS, Project Overview Document and consultation leaflet, as it was considered that not all consultees may have access to the internet or a computer to insert the CD in order to access these key documents.

8.5.35 Natural England received an electronic copy of the s42 documentation via email. Natural England previously informed MPL of its preference to receive consultation information in electronic format and an email address rather than a postal address was provided in the Regulation 9 list issued by PINS. Links were provided to the MPL website in order for Natural England to download the remaining s42 documents.

8.5.36 All hard copy s42 consultation packs (containing the CD, Project Overview Document and 2017 PEIR NTS) were sent by Royal Mail First Class Recorded Delivery; this allowed for proof of delivery.

Proof of Delivery

8.5.37 The majority of s42 consultation packs were dispatched on 22nd May 2017, in advance of the start of the consultation period and Royal Mail's online tracking system was used to monitor delivery. Online tracking records indicate that the majority of packages dispatched by Royal Mail Special Delivery were received prior to the start of the Phase 2 statutory consultation period (29th May 2017). However, proof of receipt was received by 31st May 2017 for all consultees

ensuring that each consultee had more than 28 days to respond to the Phase 2 statutory consultation.

8.5.38 Where proof of receipt was not confirmed by 29th May 2017 this was because s42 consultation packs had to be re-issued to alternative addresses. The approach taken by PBA is described below:

8.5.39 PBA were unable to obtain proof of delivery for the original s42 pack sent to Bedford Hospital NHS Trust South Wing. Following further investigation, it was possible to obtain a named contact and, following discussion with the Bedford Hospital NHS Trust South Wing it was agreed to re-issue the information electronically via email. The s42 information was emailed directly to them on 31st May 2017, with confirmation of receipt received the same day, thereby exceeding the minimum 28-day consultation period.

8.5.40 PBA were also unable to proof of delivery for the original s42 packs sent to four s42d consultees (land interests). As such, additional packs were delivered by hand to either the original or alternative addresses on 31st May 2017 as follows:

- Ref: S42-111: Moreteyne House, Station Lane, Millbrook, Bedford, MK45 2JH.
- Ref: S42-112: 11 Woodley Headland, Peartree Bridge, Milton Keynes, MK6 3PA
- Ref: S42-113: 1 Pillinge Cottages, Station Lane, Millbrook, Bedford, MK45 2JJ
- Ref: S42-136: Park Farm House, Hazelwood Lane, Ampthill, Bedford, MK45 2HF

8.5.41 Proof of delivery to each of the consultees referenced above was received by 31st May 2017 and the enclosed s42 covering letters (Appendix 3.R.i) stated that the closing date for the receipt of consultation comments was the 2nd July 2017, thereby exceeding the minimum 28-day consultation period.

8.5.42 Subsequent to the commencement of the Phase 2 statutory consultation a number of consultees were identified which required consulting under s42 PA 2008. Where consultation packages were not received in time to provide consultees with at least 28-days to respond during the Phase 2 statutory consultation period (29th May – 2nd July 2017) the relevant consultees were given their own consultation period. This approach is described in the following paragraphs.

8.5.43 On 5th June 2017 HSBC was identified as a result of ongoing diligent enquiry as requiring notification under s42(1)(d). The s42 consultation information was immediately issued to HSBC's registered office (8 Canada Square, London, E14 5HQ) on Monday 5th June via same-day courier. However, this package was refused and MPL were provided with an alternative address to which HSBC requested the package to be sent (Securities Processing Centre, HSBC Bank

Plc, Binley, Harry Weston Road, Coventry, CV3 2SH). The s42 consultation pack was duly sent to this address via Royal Mail First Class Recorded Delivery on 5th June 2017 and proof of delivery was received on 6th June 2017. The s42 covering letter sent to HSBC stated that the closing date for the receipt of consultation comments was the 4th July 2017, thereby providing 28 days to respond to the consultation (see Appendix 3.R.ii).

8.5.44 On 9th August 2017 it emerged that PHE and Northern Gas Networks Limited (NGN) had inadvertently not been sent s42 consultation and Regulation 11 notification materials in May 2017. The s42 consultation and Regulation 11 information was immediately sent to PHE via email on 9th August 2017 and proof of delivery was received on 10th August 2017 (Appendix 3.R.iii). A PHE representative previously requested for an electronic copy of the s42 consultation information to be sent to PHE via email during a telephone inquiry. PHE requested additional time to respond to the consultation and MPL duly extended their consultation deadline to 22nd September 2017 thereby providing PHE with 43 days to respond to the consultation. PHE provided a formal consultation response on 19th September 2017 (Appendix 5.C).

8.5.45 The s42 consultation and Regulation 11 information was sent to NGN via Royal Mail First Class Recorded Delivery on 9th August 2017 and proof of delivery was received on 11th August 2017. The cover letter enclosed with s42 information packs received by PHE and NGN asked the parties to provide consultation comments by 15th September 2017 (see Appendix 3.R.iii and Appendix 3.R.iv). On 12th September 2017 PBA made a telephone inquiry to confirm if NGN intended to submit a formal consultation response and during this conversation NGN also requested additional time to respond to the consultation. MPL duly extended their consultation deadline to 22nd September 2017 thereby providing NGN with 43 days to respond to the consultation however NGN did not provide a consultation response.

8.5.46 As such, MPL considers that neither PHE or NGN have been prejudiced by this inadvertent omission to send the Regulation 11 and s42 consultation materials until August 2017.

8.5.47 On 16th August 2017, as a result of ongoing diligent inquiry, Rutland & Partners LLP (a new mortgagee) and consultee s42-162 (a potential occupier of land due to use for stabling horses) were both identified as having an interest in the land. As a result, these parties have been added to the s42(1)(d) list for robustness.

8.5.48 The s42 consultation information was sent to Rutland & Partners LLP and consultee s42-162 via Royal Mail First Class Recorded Delivery on 16th August 2017. Proof of delivery to Rutland & Partners LLP was received on 17th August 2017. The enclosed s42 covering letter stated that the closing date for the receipt of consultation comments was the 22nd September 2017 thereby providing 36 days to respond to the consultation (see Appendix 3.R.v). Following further enquiries, it emerged on 19th September 2017 that Rutland & Partners LLP no longer have a financial interest in the land as they are no longer the registered mortgagee for the Millbrook Proving Ground.

8.5.49 Proof of delivery could not be attained for the first s42 consultation pack sent to consultee s42-162 and so a second s42 consultation pack was sent to an alternative address via Royal Mail First Class Recorded Delivery on 18th August 2017. Proof of delivery to consultee s42-162 was received on 19th August 2017. The enclosed s42 covering letter stated that the closing date for the receipt of consultation comments was the 22nd September 2017, thereby providing 34 days to respond to the consultation (see Appendix 3.R.vi). A consultation response was received from consultee s42-162 on 22nd September 2017 stating that they would need to maintain access to their land over the lifetime of the Project (Appendix 5.C).

8.5.50 As such, MPL does not consider that either Rutland Partners LLP and consultee s42-162 have been prejudiced by receiving the s42 consultation materials in August 2017 (Appendix 5.C and Appendix 5.E).

8.5.51 The following consultees requested additional time beyond the consultation deadline stipulated (2nd July 2017) in order to prepare full responses to the s42 consultation:

- Natural England; and
- Anglian Water Services Ltd.

8.5.52 Whilst both consultees acknowledged that they had received the s42 packs in the timescales outlined above, MPL extended the consultation period for these consultees until 10th July 2017. Responses were received from Natural England and Anglian Water Services on 6th July 2017 and 10th July 2017 respectively.

8.5.53 MPL considers that all those consultees noted in this section have not been prejudiced as a result of the approach to consultation undertaken by MPL. Consultees received the same documentation as those responding during the statutory consultation period (29th May – 2nd July 2017). MPL has had regard to all consultation comments including those received during and following the statutory consultation period in the preparation of the EIA and the MPL Draft Order. Further detail on how MPL has had regard to consultation responses is included in Section 11, and Appendices 5.D, 5.E, 5.F and 5.G.

Phase 2 Section 47 Consultation

8.5.54 MPL undertook statutory s47 consultation with the local community and key stakeholders in accordance with the published Phase 2 SoCC. Four public exhibitions were held on 9th, 10th, 12th and 13th June 2017 in Marston Moreteaine, Stewartby, Ampthill and Lidlington. The Phase 2 SoCC Compliance Checklist (Appendix 4.D) demonstrates how MPL undertook statutory s47 consultation in accordance with the published Phase 2 SoCC (Appendix 2.E).

8.5.55 The statutory s47 consultation phase commenced on 29th May 2017 and closed on 2nd July 2017, representing a period of 35 days, thereby exceeding the statutory 28-day minimum requirement.

8.5.56 MPL issued an information leaflet (see Appendix 3.Z.iii) to residents within the CCZ (see figure 8.1) between the 23rd and 26th May 2017. The leaflet contained details of the Phase 2 consultation and information on the changes to the Project since the Phase 1 consultation in 2014. The CCZ equated to an approximate 5 km radius from the site of the Power Generation Plant and is shown in Figure 8.1. The designation of the CCZ is described in further detail in paragraphs 8.5.12 to 8.5.14.

8.5.57 The leaflet provided details of the forthcoming public exhibitions along with how and when to provide responses to the Phase 2 statutory consultation, and where consultation materials would be made available to view during the statutory consultation period.

8.5.58 The aim of the s47 consultation was to seek the views of the local community and key stakeholders on the following:

- the layout of the Generating Equipment within the Generating Equipment Site;
- the Project as a whole, including changes since the 2014/15 Phase 1 Consultation;
- the interaction between the Project and the Rookery South RRF Project; and
- the findings of the preliminary assessment on the likely significant environmental effects of the Project during construction and operation, as set out in the 2017 PEIR.

8.5.59 However, the local community and key stakeholders were not asked to comment on other elements of the Project, such as the technology choice for the Power Generation Plant or the Project Site location. As set out in the Planning Statement (Document Reference 10.1) this is because the need for the Project is established in National Policy Statements EN-1, EN-2, EN-4 and EN-5.

8.5.60 This Phase of Consultation provided a mechanism for the local community and key stakeholders to influence certain aspects of the Project, such as:

- Layout of the Generating Equipment within the Generating Equipment Site;
- Electrical Connections Options 1 and 2; and
- Community benefits.

8.5.61 During the Phase 2 statutory consultation hard copies of the 2017 PEIR, the 2017 PEIR NTS, 2017 PEIR Figures, Project Overview Document, information leaflet and an electronic copy of the 2017 PEIR Appendices were made available to the public to view at the following locations:

- Bedford Library;
- Ampthill Library;
- Wootton Library;
- Bedford Borough Council Customer Service Centre;
- Central Bedfordshire Council; and
- Marston Vale Forest Centre.

8.5.62 Addresses, opening hours and dates that the materials were available were published in the Phase 2 SoCC (Appendix 2.E). Printed copies of the 2017 PEIR Appendices were available for the public to view at the public exhibitions (as listed in Table 8.5).

Phase 2 Section 47: Advertising and publicity

8.5.63 Four public exhibitions were held on 9th, 10th, 12th and 13th June 2017 in Marston Moretaine, Stewartby, Ampthill and Lidlington, as detailed in Table 8.5 below. These exhibitions were publicised in advance as detailed below.

8.5.64 Posters advertising the consultation events (Appendix 3.X.i) were sent out by MPL to be displayed at community venues within the CCZ (see figure 8.1) prior to the exhibitions, for example parish council noticeboards, local shops, post offices and doctors' surgeries. A list of the locations that were sent posters by MPL is contained in Appendix 3.X.ii.

8.5.65 As set out in paragraph 8.5.56, an information leaflet (Appendix 3.Z.iii) containing an invitation to attend the public exhibitions was delivered to approximately 13,000 households, businesses and institutions in the CCZ, including those groups that are defined as "hard to reach" (e.g. the elderly, young and minority groups). The leaflet included information on the following:

- The Project;
- Planning & Public Consultation;
- Why Rookery South Pit?
- Community Benefits;
- Environment;
- Your views;
- Locations of where more information is available;
- Dates and locations of exhibitions in the local area;

- Information on how to get in touch with MPL; and
- A freepost response form to allow comments about the project to be made.

8.5.66 Community representatives and hard to reach groups in the OCZ were contacted on 18th May 2017 via email. A copy of the email is contained at Appendix 4.B.vii and the email distribution list is contained at Appendix 4.B.viii.

8.5.67 During the exhibitions, MPL received and responded to comments on the proposed Project and its impact on the environment, local communities and the local economy. The responses generated by this phase of consultation are summarised in section 9 of this Consultation Report.

Phase 2 Section 47: Exhibition newspaper adverts

8.5.68 MPL published additional adverts in local papers reminding the local community of the dates of the public exhibitions. These adverts are set out in Table 8.4, and included in Appendix 4.B.

Table 8.4 s47 Exhibition adverts

Publication	Date of notices		
	1 st publication	2 nd publication	3 rd publication
Bedford Times and Citizen	18th May 2017	25th May 2017	1st June 2017
Bedfordshire on Sunday	21st May 2017	28th May 2017	4th June 2017

Phase 2 Section 47 public exhibitions

8.5.69 Public exhibitions were held at the locations and times identified in Table 8.5. The June 2017 public exhibitions were staffed by members of the MPL Project team, who were knowledgeable about the proposals and the intended Project timeline. The team proactively sought to engage with attendees in order to provide information and answer questions.

Table 8.5 Public exhibitions (Phase 2 Consultation)

Date	Time	Location
Friday 9th June 2017	15.00-19.30	Marston Moretaine Village Hall, Bedford Road, Marston Moretaine, MK43 0LD

Date	Time	Location
Saturday 10th June 2017	09.00- 13.00	Stewartby Club, Stewartby Way, Stewartby, MK43 9NB
Monday 12th June 2017	16.00- 20.00	Wingfield Club, 37 Church Street, Amptill, MK45 2PL
Tuesday 13th June 2017	12.30- 15.30	Lidlington Village Hall, High Street, Lidlington, MK43 0RT

8.5.70 At the exhibitions, large information display boards were set up containing information relating to the Project (see Appendix 3.Z.i) and information leaflets were made available (see Appendix 3.Z.iii) including information on:

- the Power Generation Plant;
- Who MPL is;
- The need for gas generation;
- Why Rookery South Pit;
- Community benefits;
- The environment;
- Planning and consultation; and
- Key project milestones.

8.5.71 In total 157 people attended the exhibitions. Attendees were asked to complete a feedback form for return on the day or at later date via free-post (see Appendix 3.Z.iv). The summary of feedback received can be found in section 9 of this Consultation Report.

8.5.72 Table 8.6 refers to the meetings held with key stakeholders between May 2017 and July 2017. The primary intention of the meetings was to update key stakeholders on the Project, changes made since the Phase 1 consultation and to gain further feedback and discuss issues raised during previous engagement.

8.5.73 MPL also responded to individual queries and information requests from consultees via email, letter and phone call.

Table 8.6 Meetings during the Phase 2 statutory consultation period May – July 2017

Date	Activity and consultee	Minutes reference
31/05/2017	Discussion between MPL, Taylor Keogh and Stewartby Parish Council Chairman to discuss changes to the Project since the Phase 1 Consultation.	Appendix 4.L.i
31/05/2017	Meeting to brief Wootton Parish Council on the re-start of the Project including changes to the Project.	Appendix 4.L.i
06/06/2017	Telephone conversation between MPL and Houghton Conquest Parish Council.	Appendix 4.L.ii
09/06/2017	Meeting with Millbrook Vehicle Proving ground to provide project update.	Appendix 4.L.ii
11/06/2017	Email sent from Taylor Keogh ('TK') on behalf of MPL to English Regional Transport Association providing further information on the Project.	Appendix 4.L.iii
30/06/2017	Houghton Conquest Parish Council June newsletter pages 4 and 5.	Appendix 4.L.iv

Phase 2 S47 advertising and publicity

8.5.74 Two press releases about the consultation (including the exhibitions) were issued. Copies of the resulting media coverage of the Project during the Phase 2 non-statutory consultation phase are provided in Appendix 4.J. The following provides a summary of the coverage generated and the matters that were reported during the Phase 2 consultation:

- BBC Three Counties Radio
- Bedfordshire on Sunday News Report (07/06/2017)
- Facebook:
 - Cranfield Parish Council Facebook page post announcing the project (I-MPL-s47-IG-TK-PR-39)
 - Cranfield Parish Council Facebook page post advertising end of statutory consultation period (I-MPL-s47-ST-STG-EatSM-74)
 - Millbrook Village Facebook page post announcing the exhibition (I-MPL-s47-IG-TK-PR-41)

- Stewartby Past and Present Facebook page post sharing Bedford on Sunday article (I-MPL-s47-IG-TK-PR-42)
- Bedford Against Covanta Incinerator Facebook page post sharing exhibition advert (I-MPL-s48-IG-TK-PR-44)
- Bedford Against Covanta Incinerator Facebook page post sharing Bedford on Sunday article (I-MPL-s48-IG-TK-PR-44)
- Bedford Against Covanta Incinerator Facebook page post announcing plans (I-MPL-s48-IG-TK-PR-44)

Phase 2 Section 47 compliance with the Phase 2 SoCC

8.5.75 A checklist for Phase 2 SoCC compliance is provided in Appendix 4.D. There were no inconsistencies between the Phase 2 SoCC and the consultation undertaken.

Phase 2 Section 48 consultation notices

8.5.76 As required by s48 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations, a notice publicising the Project was published once in the London Gazette, once in a national newspaper (The Times) and twice in local newspapers: Bedford Times & Citizen and Bedfordshire on Sunday. Appendix 4.F contains the notices as published.

8.5.77 Table 8.6 sets out the publications and dates that the Phase 2 s48 notice was published.

Table 8.6 The newspapers and publication dates where the s48 notice was publicised (Phase 2 Consultation)

Publication	Date published
Bedford Times and Citizen	18th May 2017
Bedfordshire on Sunday	21st May 2017
Bedford Times and Citizen	25th May 2017
The Times	25th May 2017
London Gazette	25th May 2017
Bedfordshire on Sunday	28th May 2017

8.5.78 As required by Regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations, the content of the notice included:

- The name and address of the applicant;
- A statement that the applicant intends to make an DCO Application to the SoS;
- A statement that the application is EIA development (in accordance with EIA Regulations);
- A summary of the main proposals, specifying the locations and route options of the Project;
- A statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Project were available for inspection free of charge at the places (including at least one address in the vicinity of the Project) and times set out in the notice;
- The latest date (2nd July 2017) on which those documents, plans and maps were available for inspection;
- Whether a charge would be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge;
- Details of how to respond to the publicity; and
- The deadline of 2nd July 2017 for receipt of responses by MPL, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice was last published (i.e. 29th May 2017).

Phase 2 Regulation 11 notification

8.5.79 Under Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations 2009, MPL was required to send a copy of its Phase 2 s48 notice to the consultation bodies (as defined in the EIA Regulations 2009) and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with regulation 9(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations 2009, at the same time as publishing its Phase 2 s48 notice.

8.5.80 Regulation 11 notification was sent via Royal Mail Special Delivery to allow for proof of delivery to all parties listed in Appendix 4.H.i between 16th May 2017 and 22nd May 2017 except for PHE and NGN (see below).

8.5.81 All the parties were sent the cover letter contained in Appendix 4.H.ii which stated MPL's intention to apply to the SoS for a DCO under s37 of the PA 2008. The letter further explained that under s48 of the PA 2008 MPL would be publishing a notice of the proposed applications in the London Gazette, The Times, Bedfordshire on Sunday and the Bedfordshire Citizen. In line with Regulation 11, a copy of the s48 Notice was enclosed with the letter and is also contained in Appendix 4.F.

8.5.82 MPL received confirmation from Royal Mail that all parties (listed in Appendix 4.H.i) received the Regulation 11 notification information except for those explained in paras.8.5.5 – 8.5.8.

8.5.83 The s48 notice was published between 18th May 2017 and 28th May in 2017 as described in paragraph 8.5.76 to 8.5.75.

8.5.84 As noted in paragraph 8.5.44, Regulation 11 notification was inadvertently not sent between 16th May 2017 and 22nd May 2017 to PHE and NGN. On 9th August 2017 it emerged that PHE and NGN had inadvertently not been sent a Regulation 11 notification. As such, PHE and NGN were both sent Regulation 11 notification on 9th August 2017.

8.5.85 NGN were sent notification via Royal Mail Special Delivery whilst PHE was sent notification via email at their request. MPL received confirmation from Royal Mail that NGN received the Regulation 11 notification information (see Appendix 4.H.iii). PHE confirmed receipt via email on 10th August 2017.

8.5.86 Whilst the Regulation 11 notification was, in the case of PHE and NGN not received at the same time as the s48 notice was published, MPL does not consider that this resulted in prejudice to these parties. These parties were contacted several times during the consultation period; PHE subsequently submitted a consultation response (see Appendix 5.C), and although NGN did not submit a consultation response, it is understood by the Applicant following telephone conversations that they are not affected by the Project.

8.6 Phase 2 non-statutory consultation (July 2017 – October 2017) (following Phase 2 statutory consultation)

8.6.1 A number of additional non-statutory consultation activities were undertaken by MPL following the statutory phase of Phase 2 consultation (July 2017 – October 2017).

8.6.2 Following the receipt of Phase 2 statutory consultation responses, MPL held meetings, and corresponded via telephone and email, with statutory stakeholders that had raised issues relating to the methodology for undertaking the EIA. Key meeting and correspondence are detailed in Table 8.7.

Table 8.7 Key stakeholder meetings July 2017 to August 2017 (post -statutory consultation meetings)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity and consultee</i>	<i>Minutes/correspondence reference</i>
04/07/2017	Meeting between PBA, CBC, the IDB and the EA at the Board's office in Stewartby.	Appendix 4.O.i
07/07/2017	Email update sent to BBC, OCZ Parish Councils, Cranfield Parish Council, Millbrook Parish Meeting, Wootton Parish Council and Lidlington Parish Council.	Appendix 4.O.ii
18/07/2017	Meeting with Covanta to discuss interrelationship with the Rookery South RRF Project	Appendix 4.O.iii

Date	Activity and consultee	Minutes/correspondence reference
24/07/2017	Email response sent to Natural England with regard to s42 consultation comments on Soils and Agricultural Land.	Appendix 4.O.iv
24/07/2017	Email response sent to Natural England with to s42 consultation comments on protected species.	Appendix 4.O.v
25/07/2017	Meeting with Forest of Marston Vale at the Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine.	Appendix 4.O.vi
10/08/2017	Meeting with CBC Planning Officers to discuss various matters relating to the project.	Appendix 4.O.vii
10/08/2017	Meeting with BBC Planning Officers to discuss various matters relating to the project.	Appendix 4.O.viii
10/08/2017	Email confirmation from Natural England that it does not intend to make further comments with regards to Soils and Agricultural Land, and recommendation that Defra Guidance ought to be followed.	Appendix 4.O.ix
10/08/2017	Email response from Natural England in relation to protected species, noting mitigation measures for Great Crested Newts should be implemented through the Construction Environmental Management Plan (Appendix 3.2 of the ES (Document Reference 6.2)).	Appendix 4.O.x
18/08/2017	Letter sent to Historic England (by post and email) including a high-resolution copy of 2017 PEIR photomontages, following section 42 consultation response.	Appendix 4.O.xi
31/08/2017	Email correspondence with CBC Environmental Health Officer regarding comments on 2017 PEIR and agreement to additional noise monitoring.	Appendix 4.O.xii
06/09/2017	Meeting with Covanta and O&H to discuss matters relating to both projects.	Appendix 4.O.xiii
08/09/2017	Email issuing a copy of the draft Transport Assessment to relevant consultees: Network Rail; Highways England; BBC; and CBC.	Appendix 4.O.xiv
08/09/2017	Response from BBC Heritage Team with further comments on 2017 PEIR.	Appendix 4.O.xv
14/09/2017	Response from Network Rail, following issue of the Transport Assessment confirming it has no objection to the proposal.	Appendix 4.O.xvi

Date	Activity and consultee	Minutes/correspondence reference
03/10/2017	Email response from Historic England following issue of letter (18/08/2017) and further telephone discussions regarding the Project.	Appendix 4.O.xvii
06/10/2017	Issue of Operational Plant Noise Impact Assessment Report to CBC Environmental Health Officer setting out findings of additional noise monitoring.	Appendix 4.O.xviii
06/10/2017	Response from CBC confirming no comments on the draft Transport Assessment.	Appendix 4.O.xix
09/10/2017	Email correspondence with Historic England to arrange a meeting to discuss the Project scheduled for 1 st November 2017.	Appendix 4.O.xx

- 8.6.3 The email sent to BBC, OCZ Parish Councils, Cranfield Parish Council, Millbrook Parish Meeting, Wootton Parish Council and Lidlington Parish Council provided an update on the Project timetable. The email confirmed that recipients would receive notification of when the application was submitted alongside a copy of the ES and other supporting application documents including details of the consultation responses.
- 8.6.4 On behalf of MPL representatives from PBA attended a meeting with CBC, the IDB and the EA to discuss the preparation of the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) (Document reference 5.4) including the design of the proposed drainage strategy and the FRA method and assumptions.
- 8.6.5 MPL attended a meeting with Covanta and Veolia on 18th July 2017 to discuss the future management of the interrelationship with the Rookery South RRF Project. At this meeting the drafting of protective provisions for the benefit of MPL and reciprocal protective provisions for the benefit of Covanta were discussed. The principal of a Statement of Common Ground and Interface Agreement were also discussed.
- 8.6.6 MPL attended a meeting with the Forest of Marston Vale on 25th July 2017 to discuss the proposed mitigation planting strategy and indicative plant layout and provide an update on the programme up to submission of the DCO application.
- 8.6.7 MPL attended a meeting with CBC Planning Officers on 10th August 2017 to discuss heads of terms for S106 agreement, community benefit, DCO requirements, noise requirement assessment, statement of common ground (SOCG) and adequacy of consultation report.
- 8.6.8 MPL attended a meeting with BBC Planning Officers on 10th August 2017 to discuss various matters relating to the project to discuss BBCs s42 consultation

response, heads of terms for s106 agreement, community benefit, DCO requirements, statement of common ground (SOCG) and adequacy of consultation report.

- 8.6.9 MPL corresponded with other statutory consultees to discuss and, as far as possible, address any comments raised during the Phase 2 statutory consultation. MPL contacted those in particular where comments pertained to EIA methodology, and where it was felt important that approach to the final EIA was discussed ahead of submission of the DCO Application.

9 Summary of Phase 2 Consultation Feedback

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 This section explains the non-statutory and statutory consultation responses received during the Phase 2 Consultation.
- 9.1.2 Throughout the non-statutory and statutory Phase 2 Consultation, MPL has gathered feedback on the Project from consultees via correspondence, meetings and feedback forms. As mentioned in section 2, MPL has sought to maximise consultee involvement in the consultation processes, such that the comments received are representative.
- 9.1.3 For consistency, feedback received from the Phase 2 consultation has been analysed according to the themes used in the analysis of the Phase 1 consultation responses since the Phase 2 consultation did not raise any new themes. Again, where a comment covers more than one theme, this has been accounted for. The detailed content of the comments received is discussed in this section where relevant.
- 9.1.4 Section 11 of this Consultation Report summarises how comments received during Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the consultation have resulted in changes to the Project.
- 9.1.5 The approach taken in reporting on consultation feedback is considered to be consistent with PINS Advice Note 14 which advocates adopting differing approaches to reporting the consultation responses, depending on the nature of consultation and the volume of responses. MPL has adopted an issue-led approach to analysing responses. Appendices 5.E and 5.G respectively group the s42 and s47 responses received during the Phase 2 statutory consultation and set out MPL's response.

9.2 Phase 2 non-statutory consultation feedback

Key stakeholder consultation

- 9.2.1 MPL held a series of meetings with CBC, BBC and Parish Councils before the Phase 2 statutory consultation commenced. A summary of the meetings which took place is provided in Table 8.1 and MPL's response to the feedback received at these meetings is summarised in the meeting minutes provided at Appendix 4.O.

9.3 Phase 2 statutory consultation feedback

- 9.3.1 The Phase 2 period of statutory consultation commenced on 29th May 2017 and concluded on 2nd July 2017, a period of 35 days. This exceeded the minimum statutory period of 28 days by one week.
- 9.3.2 The statutory phase of consultation consisted of:

- Phase 2 SoCC and 2017 Consultation Plan;
- s47 consultation;
- s48 publicity;
- s42 consultation; and
- s46 notification.

9.3.3 The Project description at the commencement of the statutory phase of Phase 2 consultation, as set out in the 2017 PEIR, is included at section 8.3 of this Consultation Report.

Phase 2 Section 42 consultation

9.3.4 MPL sent out s42 consultation information packs to 158 consultees and received 31 responses, equivalent to a response rate of approximately 20%. The s42(1)(a); s42(1)(b) and s42(1)(d) responses received are provided in full in Appendix 5.C. The s42 responses were received predominantly from s42(a) parties as well as a number of s42(b) parties. Only one response was received from a s42(d) party.

9.3.5 The s42 responses were examined and analysed by topic theme in order to identify the key issues arising from the s42 consultation (Appendix 5.C). The 31 responses have been broken down into 158 individual comments. Other responses acknowledged receipt of materials, or stated that the Project would not affect them. These verbatim responses are also included in Appendix 5.C for completeness.

9.3.6 In analysing the responses, no ranking or weighting was given to the responses. Instead the verbatim responses were simply split into themes. The result of this exercise is set out in Appendix 5.E (which also contains MPL's response to each thematic point/issue raised). In broad terms, the s42 responses received, when broken down into themes produce the results shown in Figure 9.1.

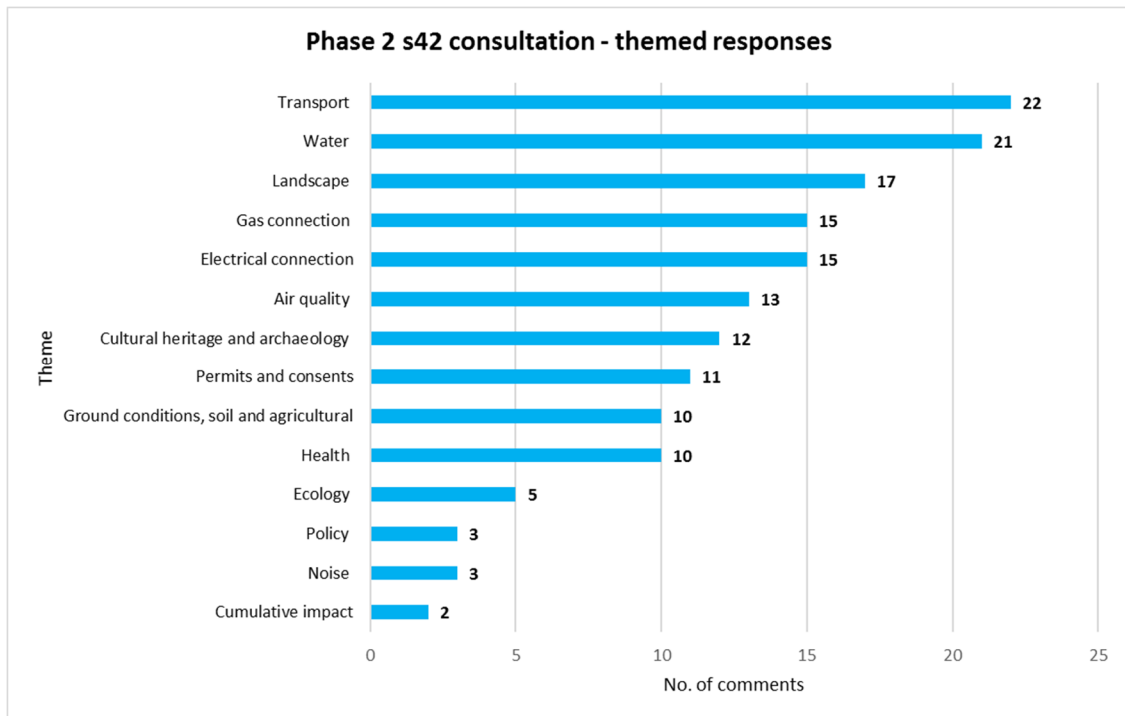


Figure 9.1 Phase 2 s42 – themed comments

9.3.7 The themes that attracted the most comments were:

- Transport (22);
- Water (21);
- Landscape (17);
- Electrical connection (15);
- Gas connection (15);
- Air quality (13); and
- Cultural heritage and archaeology (12).

9.3.8 A considerable number of responses were received from s42(a) parties regarding safeguarding respondent's assets through the inclusion of protective provision in the draft DCO. MPL also received a significant number of comments advising on permits and consents that may be required for the Project if the DCO is granted.

9.3.9 A number of general themes emerged from the s42 responses including cumulative effect, noise, landscape and air quality which are all considered within the EIA process.

Transport

- 9.3.10 Responses in respect of transport and highway safety were received from by BBC, CBC, Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd, Buckinghamshire County Council and Royal Mail Group.
- 9.3.11 The response from Network Rail Infrastructure came from their Manchester team, whilst MPL has historically liaised with Network Rail's Birmingham team. Various issues raised in the response (e.g. potential impacts on the level crossing) have been addressed previously with the Network Rail Birmingham team (through correspondence in 2014). MPL has subsequently liaised with both the Birmingham and Manchester teams to address the issues raised, which have been considered alongside the other responses from CBC, BBC, and Royal Mail Group.
- 9.3.12 All of the comments provided in respect of transport have been considered in the preparation of the DCO application documents.

Water

- 9.3.13 Responses in respect of water were received from the Environment Agency, Anglian Water Services Limited, Bedford Group of Internal Drainage Boards and Houghton Conquest Parish Council.
- 9.3.14 The Environment Agency response included various comments and recommendations in respect of flooding, sewerage, surface water and drainage.
- 9.3.15 Houghton Conquest Parish Council raised concerns regarding the attenuation pond, whilst responses from Anglian Water Services Limited included a request for various protective provisions to be included within the DCO.
- 9.3.16 All of the comments provided in respect of water have been considered in the preparation of the DCO application documents.

Landscape

- 9.3.17 Additional viewpoints were requested by Historic England, BBC and the Chilterns Conservation Board.
- 9.3.18 Each of the viewpoints requested were considered by MPL. Not all of the requested viewpoints were added to the assessment methodology and the reasons for this are set out in chapter 11 of the ES (Document Reference 6.2).
- 9.3.19 Comments were received from Historic England and the Chilterns Conservation Board with regard to the proposed methodology in respect of landscape and visual impact assessment. Historic England made comments with regard to the quality of the photomontages presented. The comments made in respect of landscape and visual impact assessment have been considered in the preparation of the DCO application documents.

Electrical and Gas Connections

- 9.3.20 Comments were received from NGET and NGG in respect of the proposed electrical and gas connections. These comments were predominantly technical in nature with regards to safeguarding the respondent's assets and other safety requirements. Where appropriate these comments have been considered in the preparation of the DCO application documents. Other detailed requirements will be addressed/observed at the later stages of the Project (e.g. during construction).
- 9.3.21 Houghton Conquest Parish Council requested clarification in respect of the installation options for the electrical and gas connections. Further clarification was provided by MPL on 6 June 2017 (Appendix 4.L.ii).
- 9.3.22 CBC advised that details of cabling within the public highway and any gas connection should be included with the application.
- 9.3.23 The above comments have been considered in the preparation of the DCO application documents.

Air Quality

- 9.3.24 Comments in respect of air quality impacts were received from the Environment Agency, Bedford Borough Council, Houghton Conquest Parish Council and Marston Moretaine Parish Council.
- 9.3.25 The comments were largely general in nature and did not raise significant concerns with regard to the proposed methodology of assessing air quality impacts arising from the Project. These comments have been considered in the preparation of the DCO application documents.

Cultural heritage and archaeology

- 9.3.26 Comments in respect of cultural heritage and archaeology were received from Historic England and CBC.
- 9.3.27 Historic England had comments with regard to the assessment methodology and the quality of the photomontages. Both Historic England and CBC requested additional viewpoints to be included in the EIA. Each of the viewpoints requested were considered by MPL. Not all of the requested viewpoints were added to the assessment methodology and the reasons for this are set out in chapter 11 of the ES (Document Reference 6.2).
- 9.3.28 The comments have been considered in the preparation of the DCO application documents.
- 9.3.29 The thematic comments summarised above are further detailed in Appendix 5.E where responses are made to each comment.

Phase 2 s47 consultation

Overview

9.3.30 A total of 157 people attended the four public exhibitions held on 9th, 10th, 12th and 13th June 2017 in Marston Moretaine, Stewartby, Ampthill and Lidlington. 33% of the attendees returned a feedback form either on the day or by freepost (Appendix 3.Z.iv). Table 9.1 sets out the number of attendees and the feedback form response rate at each of the four public exhibitions.

Table 9.1 Phase 2 statutory s47 public exhibitions attendance in June 2017

Date	Exhibition Location and Time	Attendees	Feedback form response rate
Friday 9 th June 2017	Marston Moretaine Village Hall, 15:00-19:30	44	52%
Saturday 10 th June 2017	Stewartby Club, 09:00-13:00	43	14%
Monday 12 th June 2017	Wingfield Club, Ampthill, 16:00-20:00	41	32%
Tuesday 13 th June 2017	Lidlington Village Hall, 12:30-15:30	29	34%

9.3.31 Attendance at the public exhibitions was spread relatively evenly although the most-attended exhibition was held at Marston Moretaine Village Hall, with 28% of visitors attending that exhibition.

9.3.32 The Marston Moretaine Village Hall exhibition also had the highest feedback form response rate at 52% compared to an average response rate from the public exhibitions of 33%.

9.3.33 A complete record of all feedback received during the Phase 2 statutory s47 public exhibitions held in June 2017, with MPL's response, is presented in Appendix 5.G.

Summary of feedback

9.3.34 S47 feedback was collected from the local community via two primary sources:

- feedback forms completed at the public exhibitions or returned by freepost following the public exhibitions (Appendix 3.Z.iv); and
- leaflets distributed to the local community which included a freepost feedback form (Appendix 3.Z.iii).

9.3.35 Feedback forms were made available to 157 people who attended the four exhibitions. The responses included 52 returned forms, 6 via freepost and 46 direct from exhibitions as shown in Figure 9.2. MPL also received 100 leaflet feedback forms via freepost.

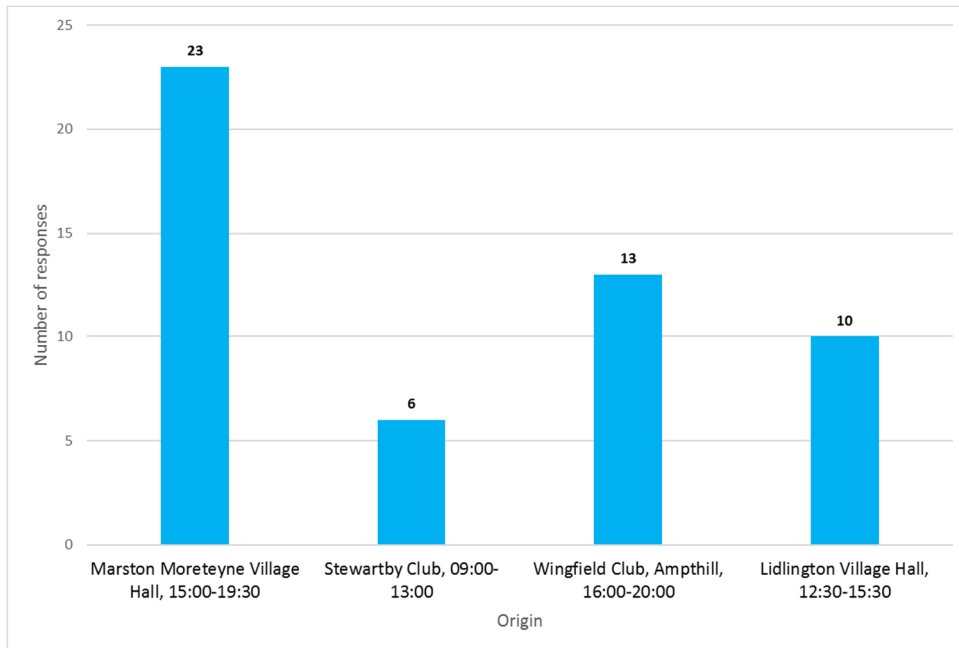


Figure 9.2 Phase 2 s47 exhibitions- origin of responses

9.3.36 Figure 9.3 summarises the views of respondents who attended the public exhibitions.

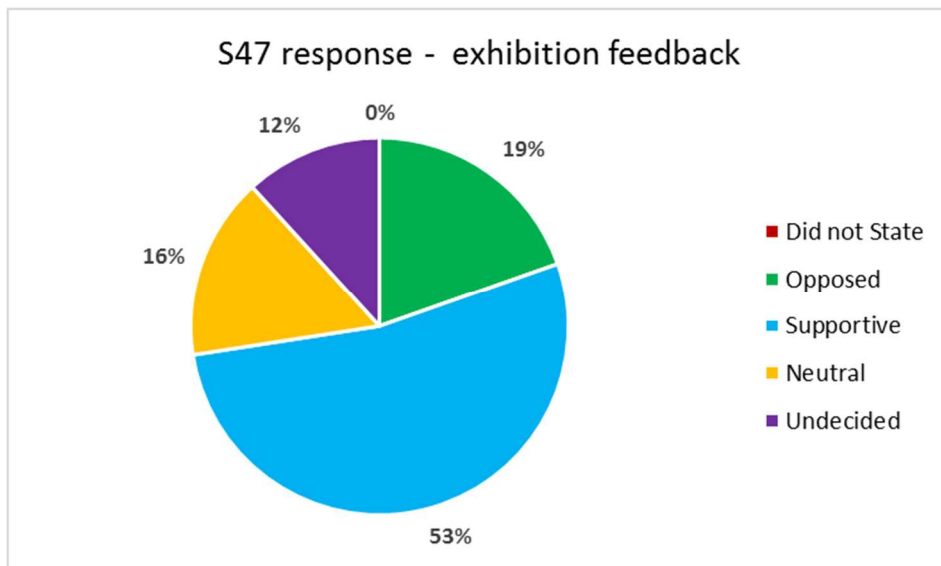


Figure 9.3 s47 exhibition feedback form - respondents support of the Project

9.3.37 Figure 9.4 summarises the views of respondents who returned the leaflet feedback forms via freepost.

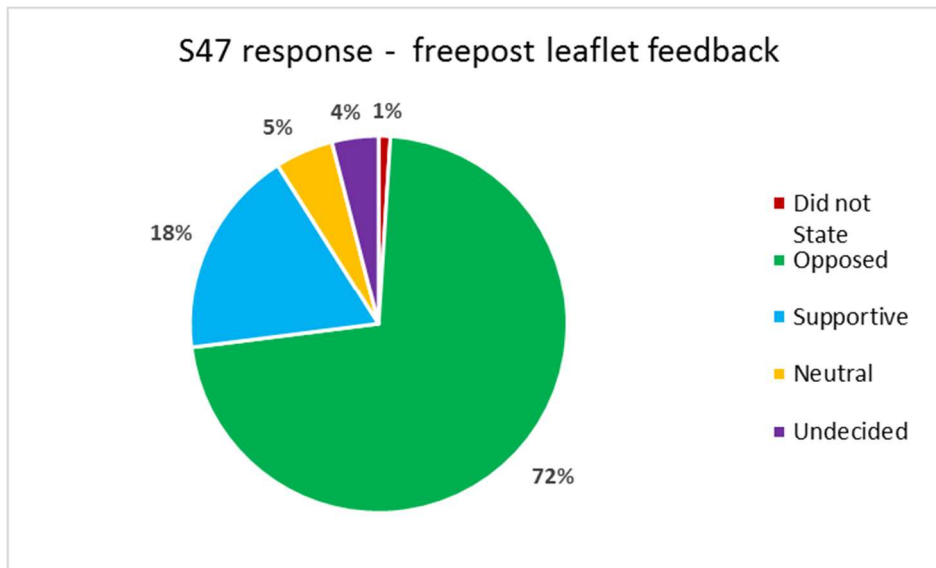


Figure 9.4 s47 freepost leaflet - respondents support of the Project

9.3.38 Comparing Figure 9.3 and Figure 9.4 it is clear that a much higher proportion of respondents who attended the public exhibitions supported the scheme (53%) compared to respondents who returned the leaflet feedback forms (18%). Conversely, a much higher proportion of respondents who returned the leaflet feedback forms opposed the scheme (72%) than those who attended the public exhibitions (19%). Furthermore, those who attended the public exhibitions were more likely to have a neutral view of the Project (16%) than those who returned the leaflet feedback forms (5%).

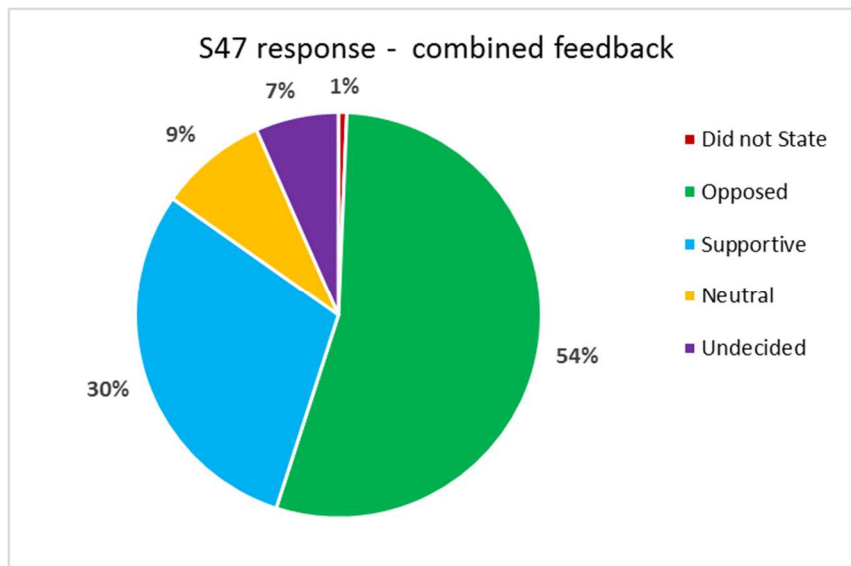


Figure 9.5 s47 combined - respondents support of the Project

9.3.39 Figure 9.5 summarises all s47 respondents' level of support for the Project; 30% of respondents were supportive and 54% opposed. A further 9% were neutral and 7% undecided while 1% of respondents did not state their views on the Project.

9.3.40 Figure 9.8 shows the response to the question 'Millbrook Power is committed to ensuring that the Project will bring broader benefits to the community. How would you like to see us supporting the community?' In total 113 responses were received to this question and the responses are summarised below. Figure 9.8 shows that the most popular response was supporting local environmental initiatives (31%), followed by (27%) local facilities, then local education (19%) and then Sporting or Cultural Events in the Area (13%).

9.3.41 MPL also received a range of 'other' responses (10%) which included the following suggestions: give 1 on 2 KWh to local households, contribute to the upkeep of Amphill Park, improve and enhance the bridleway for horses and other users, ensure as near zero emissions as possible, community buildings, projects for young people, Marston Vale Park and community forest enhancement.

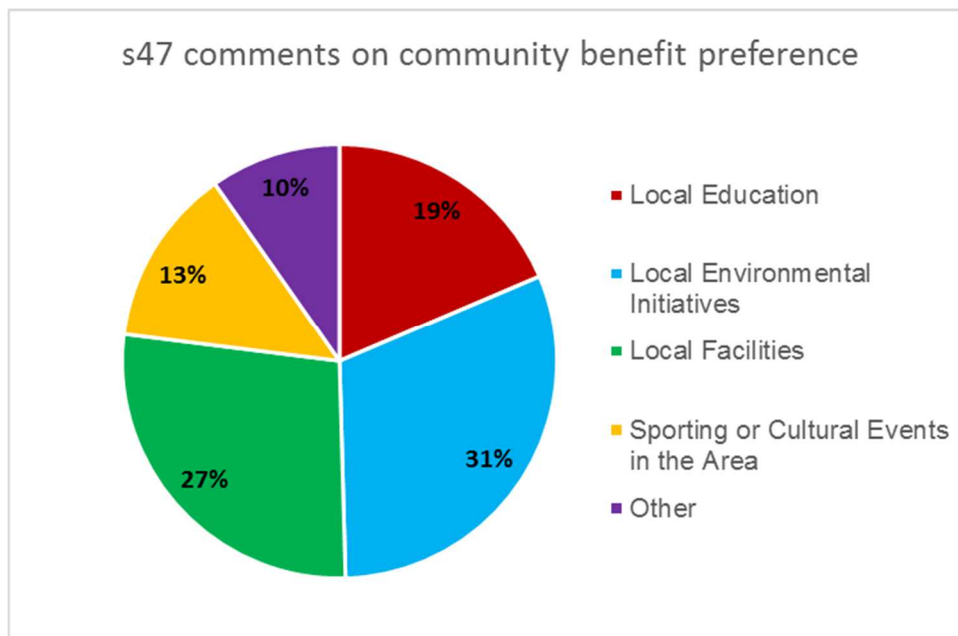


Figure 9.6 s47 comments – community benefit preferences

9.3.42 Figure 9.9 shows the combined responses from the questions which asked respondents to provide comments on the 2017 PEIR findings and any other comments about the Project.

9.3.43 In total there were 152 responses to these two questions, this comprised of 52 exhibition feedback forms (46 returned in exhibitions and 6 via freepost) and 100 leaflet feedback forms distributed to households and businesses within the CCZ (see Figure 6.1).

9.3.44 In order to identify the key issues arising from the s47 consultation, each response was examined and the responses were summarised by topic theme. The result of this exercise is set out in Appendix 5.G (which also contains MPL's response to each thematic issue raised). In broad terms, the s47 responses

received, when broken down into themes produce the results shown in Figure 9.7.

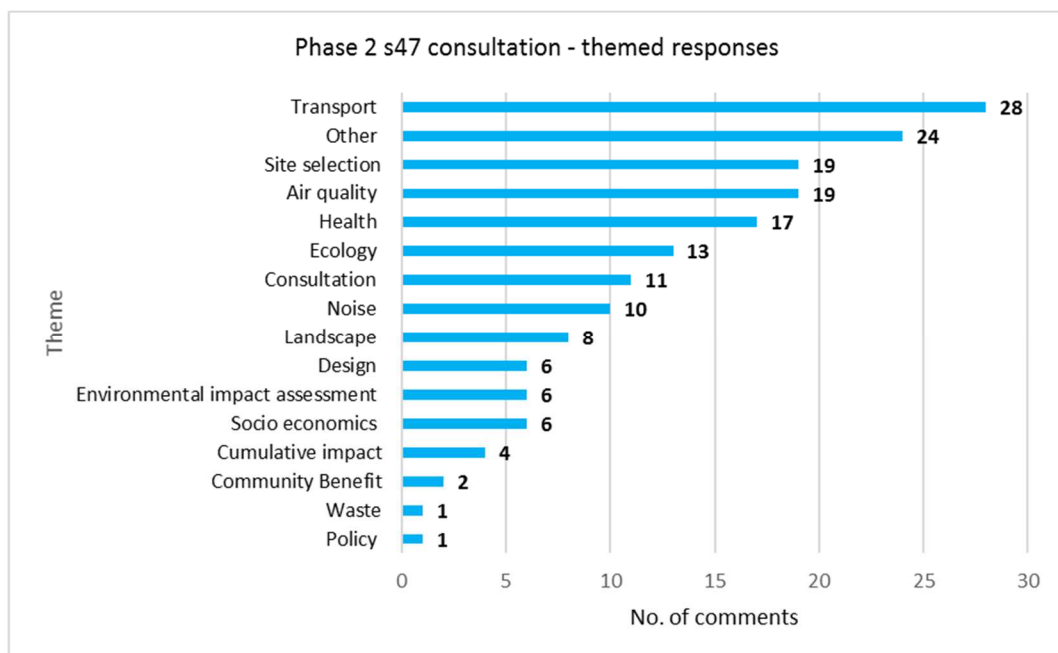


Figure 9.7 s47 comments - themed

9.3.45 Further details of the comments received and MPL’s response under each of the above themes are provided in Appendix 5.G. The themes that attracted the most comments were:

- Transport (28);
- Other (24);
- Site selection (19);
- Air quality (19); and
- Health (17).

9.3.46 It should be noted that each response has to be considered on its own merit and that the number of respondents identifying an issue may not correlate directly to the importance of that individual area. So, for example, although many more comments were made on air quality than health this does not mean that a lesser degree of examination was carried out on the health issues.

9.3.47 A number of general themes emerged through s47 responses. Some of these related to matters which are considered within the EIA process such as noise, landscape and air quality assessment. MPL also received a significant number of responses which did not relate to any of the Phase 1 themes. These responses are considered under the ‘other’ sub-heading.

Transport

9.3.48 A number of comments expressed concern that the local transport network would not be able to cope with the cumulative transport impacts of the Project and other new development in the local area (including new housing development and the Rookery South RRF Project). A number of respondents stated that increased vehicles movements would have an adverse impact on air quality. A number of comments expressed the wish for construction traffic to avoid routing through the local villages.

9.3.49 MPL has considered all comments received in relation to transport in the preparation of the DCO application documents including proposed mitigation.

Other

9.3.50 MPL received a range of other responses from s47 consultees which did not relate to any of the Phase 1 consultation themes. A number of consultees submitted comments stating they were generally in support or opposed the Project. One comment was also received regarding the applicant (Drax) and one comment on financial considerations.

9.3.51 MPL has considered all of the above comments in the preparation of the DCO application documents.

9.3.52 Five comments were received commenting on the need for the proposed power generation plant. These comments have not been directly taken into account in the preparation of the DCO Application since the need for the Project is already established in National Policy Statements EN-1, EN-2, EN-4 and EN-5.

9.3.53 A number of consultees submitted comments about the Rookery South RRF Project to MPL's consultation.

9.3.54 These comments have not been directly taken into account in the preparation of the DCO application documents since they do not relate to the Project. However, these comments have highlighted the requirement to ensure that consultees understand the relationship between the Project and the Rookery South RRF Project. MPL has provided detailed drafting in both the MPL Draft Order (Document Reference 3.1) and the Explanatory Memorandum (Document Reference 3.2) to explain this relationship. Section 3.4 and Appendix 5 of the Planning Statement (Document Reference 10.1) also provides an explanation of the two projects and their relationship.

Site selection

9.3.55 MPL received a number of comments which oppose the site selection for a variety of reasons including; too much new development in the local area; the Project should not be located in proximity to existing homes and communities and towns; and the Project should be located along the coastline. Respondent's also requested that MPL consider alternative sites for the Project.

9.3.56 MPL has considered all comments received regarding site selection. The rationale behind the site selection for the Project and an explanation of the alternatives considered by MPL is set out in Chapter 5 of the ES (Document Reference 6.1).

Air Quality

9.3.57 A number of comments stated that the estimated air quality impacts would have an adverse effect on human health and ecology. Respondent's also questioned if the Project would meet the relevant national air quality standards, particularly given the cumulative impacts of the Rookery South RRF Project.

9.3.58 Comments received regarding the baseline data used in the air quality impact assessment including that the method should take account of the fact that historically, pollution from the brickworks affected air quality in Ampthill and baseline data provided by Covanta is not considered to be accurate.

9.3.59 MPL has considered all comments received in relation to air quality in the preparation of the DCO application documents.

Health

9.3.60 A number of respondents expressed concern that emissions from the operation of the Project and increased vehicle movements would have an adverse impact on the health of the local population. All comments received in relation to health impacts have been considered in the preparation of the DCO application documents. An assessment of the likely significant effects on health is contained in chapter 15 of the ES (Document Reference 6.1)

Phase 2 s48 consultation

9.3.61 MPL received two consultation responses that identified themselves as responding specifically to s48 publicity. Both of these responses, from BBC and Milton Keynes Council, stated that the consultees had no comments on the s48 consultation material.

9.3.62 MPL has therefore taken the approach that some s47 responses may also be s48 responses.

9.4 Feedback from Phase 2 non-statutory consultation (carried out following Phase 2 statutory consultation)

9.4.1 MPL held a meeting with Covanta on 18th July 2017 to discuss MPL's proposed amendments to the existing RRF Order and protective provisions to be included in the MPL Draft Order for the benefit of Covanta.

9.4.2 MPL corresponded with Network Rail, Highways England, CBC and BBC on the draft Transport Assessment for the Project. CBC responded to confirm they had no comments on the draft Transport Assessment; and Network Rail responded to confirm they have no objection to the Project.

- 9.4.3 MPL contacted Natural England and Historic England to clarify points raised with regards to the EIA within their s42 consultation responses. Natural England confirmed the position set out during Phase 1 consultation that it agreed with MPL's conclusions of the No Significant Effects Report (Document Reference 5.7); the parties discussed the comments regarding European Protected Species and agreed appropriate mitigation will be captured in the CEMP (Appendix 3.2 of the ES, Document Reference 6.1); and corresponded on points raised in relation to soils and agricultural land and Natural England confirmed it had no further comments to make. MPL sent a response to Historic England addressing the points raised with regards to viewpoints in its s42 consultation response; discussions with Historic England are ongoing.
- 9.4.4 MPL issued a technical note to CBC in relation to further noise modelling and monitoring to be undertaken to inform the EIA. The Environmental Health Officer at CBC agreed the approach to further modelling and monitoring; the results have informed the noise assessment presented in the ES (Document Reference 6.1) and the mitigation secured through the CEMP (Appendix 3.2 of the ES, Document Reference 6.1) and the MPL Draft Order (Document Reference 3.1).
- 9.4.5 Phase 2 non-statutory consultation has been taken into consideration by MPL in undertaking the final assessments for the EIA of the Project; the final assessments are presented in the ES (Document Reference 6.1).

9.5 Summary and conclusions

- 9.5.1 In summary, MPL undertook a single period of statutory consultation during the Phase 2 consultation combining the requirements of s42, s46, s47 and s48 of the PA 2008. The Phase 2 statutory consultation period commenced on 29th May 2017 and concluded on 2nd July 2017, a period of 35 days (save from where extensions to that period were granted either to ensure that consultees had the statutory minimum of 28 days to respond or, in the case of Anglian Water and Natural England, to ensure that the views of statutory consultees wanting to submit a response beyond the deadline could be included in the consultation).
- 9.5.2 MPL received 31 responses from s42 consultees, equivalent to a 20% response rate. The majority of responses received were from s42(a) parties. The themes that attracted the most comments from s42 consultees included: transport; water; landscape; electrical connection; gas connection; air quality; and cultural heritage and archaeology.
- 9.5.3 MPL received 152 responses from s47 consultees. Feedback from the local community was obtained via feedback forms made available at the public exhibitions (52) and freepost feedback back forms included in the leaflet distributed to households within the CCZ (100). The themes that attracted the most comments from s47 consultees included: air quality; transport; site selection; noise; ecology; and health.
- 9.5.4 MPL has had regard to all relevant consultation responses received in accordance with s49 of the PA 2008. The tables contained in Appendix 5.E and Appendix 5.G summarise all relevant s42 and s47 Phase 2 consultation

comments and set out MPL's response, indicating where consultation comments have resulted in a change to the Project or not.

10 The Interaction between the Project and the Rookery South RRF Project

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 The Covanta RRF Project was granted development consent pursuant to the PA 2008 by virtue of the Rookery South (Resource Recovery Facility) Order 2011 (the "RRF Order"). MPL has an interest in certain parts of the land that is covered by the RRF Order, through an option granted to it by the landowner, O&H Properties Limited ("O&H"). O&H have also granted an option agreement to Covanta for the acquisitions of land required for the Rookery South RRF Project.

10.1.2 Following early meetings with both CBC and BBC who both noted the existence of the RRF Order and advised that the consultation zones for the Project should be of broadly similar size to those of the RRF Order (paragraph 6.2.15 to 6.2.19), it was recognised by MPL that during both non statutory and statutory consultation phases, the juxtaposition of the two nationally significant infrastructure projects would need to be dealt with transparently and openly in order to ensure that the community and those with an interest in the land were aware of the effects of both projects constructing and operating in similar timeframes. This Consultation Report describes how MPL undertook a phased approach to consultation on the Project as follows:

- The Phase 1 consultation took place between April 2014 and March 2015 and during this period non-statutory consultation activities took place prior to and after the Phase 1 statutory consultation period (October 2014 – November 2014).
- The Phase 2 consultation took place between March 2017 and October 2017 and during this period non-statutory consultation activities took place prior to and after the Phase 2 statutory consultation period (May 2017 – July 2017).

10.2 Non-Statutory Consultation (Phase 1 and Phase 2 consultation)

Phase 1 non-statutory consultation

10.2.1 In recognition of the need for clarity expressed above, MPL representatives at all exhibitions were specifically instructed to ensure that in conversation they made it quite clear that there was a possibility that (subject to consent) both the Covanta RRF Project and the MPL Project could both be implemented and operate at the same or similar times. Subsequent information showed that this possibility was of concern to residents and that is discussed at paragraph 7.2.19 of this Consultation Report.

10.2.2 Early non-statutory consultation occurred in early June 2014 as described in Section 6.2 of this Consultation Report and feedback received from this consultation exercise relating to the RRF Order is recorded at Appendix 3.F.

- 10.2.3 In particular, in response to the consultation question: “Is there anything you would like to see done differently at the next round of exhibitions?” Responses were made with respect to the Covanta RRF Project that there was concern over the “Relationship with Covanta and creep of subsequent growth”; and a request to “keep us informed over future proposals on the old Covanta project”.
- 10.2.4 In response to the above remarks, additional consultation material was prepared for the Phase 1 statutory consultation.

Phase 2 non-statutory consultation

- 10.2.5 MPL held an early meeting with Covanta at the start of the Phase 2 Consultation period (on 8th March 2017) so that MPL and Covanta could update one-another on progress of respective projects and discuss the next steps to ensure that both Projects could co-exist in Rookery South Pit. Minutes of this meeting are enclosed at Appendix 3.H.i.

10.3 Statutory Consultation (Phase 1 and Phase 2 consultation)

Phase 1 statutory consultation

- 10.3.1 In order to be clear about the potential for more than one DCO development being carried out within Rookery South Pit, the briefing materials at the Phase 1 statutory consultation (s47) exhibitions made it clear that the Project and the RRF Order could both be implemented / operated at the same time if the MPL Project is granted consent. The issue of cumulative impact was dealt with where appropriate in the text of the explanatory exhibition boards which are enclosed at Appendix 3.Y.i.
- 10.3.2 In addition to the above the consultation material (photomontages) (Appendix 3.Z.ii) demonstrated the joint effect of the Project and the Covanta RRF Project.
- 10.3.3 The 2014 PEIR, which formed part of the statutory consultation materials, recognised and explained the juxtaposition of the Project and the RRF Order at chapter 2 (‘Project and Site Description’). Cumulative impact with the Covanta RRF Project was generally addressed in chapter 4 (‘Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology’) and then specifically throughout the topic chapters.
- 10.3.4 Covanta responded specifically to the s42 consultation on the 10th November 2014 and its response is included at Appendix 5.B. This acknowledges the MPL proposal and Covanta’s willingness to discuss protective provisions.
- 10.3.5 MPL has engaged with both Covanta and O&H throughout the development of the Project and has proposed drafting in the MPL Draft Order in order to allow both projects to successfully co-exist.
- 10.3.6 Other comments were received from consultees demonstrating knowledge of the juxtaposition of the two projects. For example, English Heritage commented that the proposal was modest in comparison with the Covanta building (the RRF Order) but that the accumulation of impacts was potentially significant. The

issue of cumulative EIA is addressed at section 4 of the ES (Document Reference 6.1).

- 10.3.7 Further comments were made in response to Phase 1 s47 consultation. Four comments were made to the effect that the RRF Order has already been permitted and that the Project (MPL) would add to the cumulative impact in the area. Comment was also made that if choice were available then the Project (MPL) would be preferred.
- 10.3.8 Within Appendix 5.D there is a specific section which addresses consultation responses received in relation to cumulative impact; this in turn cross refers to the ES (Document 6.1) as appropriate.

Phase 2 statutory consultation

- 10.3.9 Briefing materials presented to members of the public at the s47 public exhibitions held during the Phase 2 statutory consultation period made clear that the Project and the Covanta RRF Project could both be implemented / operated at the same time should the Project (MPL) be granted consent. The issue of cumulative impact was dealt with where appropriate in the explanatory text of the exhibition boards which are enclosed at Appendix 3.Z.i.
- 10.3.10 Photomontages showing the potential cumulative visual impact of the Project and the RRF Order were displayed at the public exhibitions (see Appendix 3.Z.ii).
- 10.3.11 The Phase 2 statutory consultation materials, sent to s42 consultees and published as part of the s47 consultation, also included a Project Overview Document (Appendix 3.T.ii) which further explained the relationship between the two projects.
- 10.3.12 The 2017 PEIR, which formed part of the statutory consultation materials, explained the juxtaposition of the Project and the Covanta RRF Project at chapter 3 ('Project and Site Description'). Cumulative impact with the Covanta RRF Project was generally addressed in chapter 4 ('Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology') and then specifically throughout the topic chapters 6-15.
- 10.3.13 Covanta and O&H were both consulted under s42 of the PA 2008 during the Phase 2 statutory consultation. Delivery records show that Covanta and O&H both received s42 consultation information packs on 23rd May 2017 however neither responded to the s42 consultation. MPL have been engaging with Covanta and O&H outside of the statutory consultation period as explained in the Section 10.2 and Section 10.4 of this Consultation Report.

10.4 Non-Statutory consultation activities following the Phase 1 and Phase 2 statutory consultation

Phase 1 non-statutory consultation (following statutory consultation)

- 10.4.1 Non-statutory consultation continued after the Phase 1 statutory consultation. During the Phase 1 consultation, a number of meetings were held with stakeholders including an outreach meeting at the forest centre on the 26th November 2014. At that meeting it was agreed not to use background data from the Covanta application which was out of date (see Appendix 4.M.ii).
- 10.4.2 MPL also issued two information updates (see paragraph 6.5.5 to 6.5.11 of this Consultation Report) to the local community and prescribed consultees which explains the key changes made to the Project since statutory consultation, some of which were changes to ensure both projects could co-exist.
- 10.4.3 The second information update issued on 20th March 2015 is contained within Appendix 4.N.iii and dealt specifically with an amendment to the Project's redline boundary which was consulted on in October/November 2014. This amendment was made in order to ensure that both the Project (MPL) and the Covanta RRF Project could co-exist in Rookery South Pit (see paragraph 6.5.8 to 6.5.9 for full details). Additionally, the information update informed consultees of amendments to the RRF Order which MPL proposed to make.

Phase 2 non-statutory consultation (following statutory consultation)

- 10.4.4 MPL held meetings with a number of stakeholders after the Phase 2 statutory consultation as detailed in Table 8.7. MPL held meetings with Covanta on 18th July 2017 and with Covanta and O&H on 6th September 2017 to discuss interrelationship with the Covanta RRF Project including the scope of protective provisions to be included in the MPL Draft Order for the benefit of Covanta, and the amendments to the RRF Order proposed by MPL. Copies of the meeting notes are enclosed in Appendix 4.O.iii and Appendix 4.O. xiii.

10.5 Management of the Interrelationship with the RRF Order

- 10.5.1 In order to manage the interrelationship between the two projects, MPL has included two sets of Protective Provisions within the MPL Draft Order (Document Reference 3.1)
- 10.5.2 The set of protective provisions which benefit Covanta is contained within Schedule 10 to the MPL Draft Order. This drafting has been discussed directly with Covanta and will continue to be negotiated following submission of the DCO Application, as is the case with the other sets of protective provisions contained within Schedule 10 for the benefit of statutory undertakers.
- 10.5.3 The second set of protective provisions are contained in Schedule 11 of the MPL Draft Order and would be inserted into the RRF Order in the event that the MPL Draft Order is made by the SoS. These protective provisions would protect MPL in the context of Covanta exercising its powers under the RRF Order over

the land which is contained within the MPL Order limits. Again, this drafting has been discussed directly with Covanta and will continue to be negotiated following submission.

- 10.5.4 The Explanatory Memorandum (Document Reference 3.2) provides further explanation of Schedules 10 and 11. The Project Overview Document (Appendix 3.T.ii) and Appendix 5 of the Planning Statement (Document Reference 10.1) provide a more detailed explanation of the interaction between the two projects.
- 10.5.5 The inter-relationship between the two nationally significant infrastructure projects has been recognised from early on in the life of the Project and the cumulative impact of both projects together has been openly set out in and acknowledged during public exhibitions and discussions, as well as the consultation materials for both statutory and non-statutory consultation in Phase 1 and Phase 2 Consultation. MPL has engaged over a period of many months with the landowner (O&H), the relevant local authorities and Covanta through meetings and correspondence, regarding the proposed amendments to the RRF Order that MPL proposes to make. In addition, during Phase 1 an information update was sent to prescribed consultees and the local community which notes the changes that have been made to the Project following consultation feedback (some of these changes assist with the co-existence of both nationally significant infrastructure projects) and also explained that MPL proposed to make amendments to the RRF Order.
- 10.5.6 As such, MPL considers that both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 non-statutory and statutory phases of consultation have clearly set out the interactions between the two projects. Following acceptance of the MPL DCO Application, the local community and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to make relevant representations on the proposed Protective Provisions and have those considered through the examination process in the normal way. In addition, MPL will continue to engage directly with Covanta, O&H and the local authorities regarding the interaction between the two projects, including discussing the detailed drafting that is set out in the draft MPL Draft Order (Document Reference 3.1).

11 Evolution of the Project in Response to Consultation Feedback

11.1 Introduction

- 11.1.1 Since the start of consultation in January 2014, the Project has undergone a number of significant changes. The pre-application consultation for the Project informed several important aspects of the Project, resulting in a revised consultation approach, design interventions and mitigation commitments.
- 11.1.2 At each stage of consultation MPL has reviewed feedback received and, in accordance with s49 of the PA 2008, had regard to the comments made. Where possible, MPL has sought to refine its proposals in response to the feedback from the consultation process. MPL has, in other cases, taken account of the responses in the preparation of the ES (Document Reference 6.1), the draft Order (Document Reference 3.1), and other DCO Application documents.
- 11.1.3 In summary, feedback received during the Phase 1 and Phase 2 consultation informed the development of the Project in the following ways:
- Undergrounding of electrical connection resulting in no additional pylons;
 - Consultation Zones modified; CCZ expanded from 3km radius to 5km radius;
 - Air dispersion modelling to determine stack heights was brought forwards and undertaken in May 2014
 - Additional viewpoints added for the LVIA;
 - Confirmation of the preferred Gas Connection route, following comments from consultees;
 - Changing the AGI location to address landowner's concerns;
 - Reduction in stack height from 60m (at scoping stage) to 35m (in DCO Application);
 - Improved access arrangements, traffic management measures and routing during construction; and
 - Commitment to landscape and ecology mitigation strategy.
- 11.1.4 The remainder of this section explains how consultation feedback has influenced the Project in terms of consultation approach, Project design and mitigation. Finally, this section addresses feedback that did not lead to Project changes.

11.2 Consultation approach

SoCC

11.2.1 The approach to undertaking consultation with the local community was influenced by early discussions with CBC and BBC as part of the Phase 1 non-statutory consultation. Following discussions with CBC and BBC before the Phase 1 statutory consultation began, the size of the CCZ (see Figure 6.1) was increased from a proposed 3 km to 5 km. Local council members felt that 5 km would be a more appropriate extent for the CCZ, following the precedent set by the Rookery South RRF Project. This change was reflected in the final Phase 1 SoCC as well as being carried through into the final Phase 2 SoCC.

Public exhibitions

11.2.2 A number of the comments received during the Phase 1 non-statutory public exhibitions focussed on the availability of information. As acknowledged by DCLG's guidance on pre-application consultation, there is an inherent tension between consulting early and providing sufficient information to enable consultees to comments. MPL sought to balance the availability of information with its desire to raise early awareness and knowledge, and gain local feedback on its outline proposals.

11.2.3 However, some respondents indicated during the Phase 1 consultation that more information was needed on the Project at the non-statutory consultation stage. MPL explained that the non-statutory exhibitions and material were intended to introduce the Project and the MPL development team to the local community and that more detailed proposals (and consultation on these) would follow. Early engagement would enable discussions of aspects of the Project at an early stage in the design development process when a number of options were still under consideration. Early consultation therefore provided opportunities for consultees to influence subsequent design and environmental assessment work, albeit MPL recognises that this early engagement inevitably meant that there was not as much detailed information available as at statutory consultation when more refined proposals were put forward for consideration.

11.2.4 In response to these views from non-statutory consultees, MPL committed to providing further detailed information presented in a variety of formats at the subsequent Phase 1 statutory consultation exhibitions, notwithstanding the statutory information requirements, including:

- Additional exhibition boards;
- More extensive visual information on the Project;
- Printed copies of all documents issued so far; and
- Printed copies of the 2014 PEIR its appendices and figures to Parish Councils.

- 11.2.5 The equivalent information, in the same format as set out in paragraph 11.2.4. above, was subsequently provided for the purpose of the Phase 2 s47 consultation and exhibitions (Appendix 3.Z).

Education

- 11.2.6 Feedback received from the Phase 1 non-statutory public exhibitions highlighted an interest in MPL supporting local education. In response to this, MPL arranged a presentation to 6th form students at the Kimberley STEM College on 4th November 2014 and offered the same during Phase 2 Consultation.

11.3 Project design and mitigation

Stack height

- 11.3.1 Feedback from the Phase 1 non-statutory consultation revealed that a number of consultees did not want to see large stacks introduced into the landscape. MPL received comments requesting that lower stack heights be used on the Generating Equipment Site.
- 11.3.2 For the purposes of the Phase 1 non-statutory consultation process the worst case maximum stack height was assumed to be 60 m (measured from the base of Rookery South Pit). In response to the comments received during that process and in order to give more certainty in the statutory consultation, the atmospheric dispersion modelling process (which determines the required height for the stack) was brought forward in order to inform the production of the 2014 PEIR. The findings of the modelling showed that satisfactory results could be achieved with reduced stack heights in the range of 30 m to 40 m.
- 11.3.3 Feedback from the Phase 1 statutory consultation revealed that design and landscape matters continued to be a concern for consultees. Consultees were pleased that the maximum stack height had been reduced since the Phase 1 non-statutory exhibitions.
- 11.3.4 Following finalised atmospheric dispersion modelling, it was determined that the overall height of the Stack could be further reduced and refined to between 32.5 m to 35 m in height above the base of the pit. These have therefore been used as the maximum and minimum parameters assessed within the ES (Document Reference 6.1).
- 11.3.5 Comments received from s47 consultees during the Phase 2 Consultation where the Stack was mentioned predominantly related to air quality emissions. Three comments were received which explicitly supported the reduction in stack height.
- 11.3.6 All consultation responses received are summarised in Appendices 5.D, 5.E, 5.F and 5.G.

Pylons and overhead lines

- 11.3.7 Feedback from the Phase 1 non-statutory consultation revealed that consultees expressed concerns about the visual impact of additional pylons in the landscape and asked why the connection could not be made via underground cables.
- 11.3.8 Due to the manner in which NGET's design scheme works, it was not possible to ascertain what connection option(s) would be included in any offer to MPL and therefore the realistic worst case of seven new pylons (one of which would replace an existing pylon) had to be assumed at this initial stage and reported later on in the 2014 PEIR.
- 11.3.9 Feedback from the Phase 1 statutory consultation demonstrated that consultees remained very concerned about the number of additional pylons proposed for the Electrical Connection. At a height of up to 45 m, the top of these structures is considerably higher than that of the stacks especially when considering the depth of Rookery South Pit (15 m), and again consultees asked whether the connection could be made using underground cables.
- 11.3.10 MPL undertook further non-statutory consultation on how to address the visual impact of the pylons and overhead lines.
- 11.3.11 MPL held an outreach meeting with PINS and local representatives on 26th November 2014 where attendees continued to express concerns about the visual impact of any proposed pylons. During the meeting, stakeholders asked whether MPL could confirm within the DCO Application, the number of turbines and stacks that would be constructed as part of the Project.
- 11.3.12 In response to feedback received from the 26th November 2014 meeting, MPL met with NGET on 17th December 2014 and agreed that the electrical connection, for which consents would be applied for, could be reduced in complexity. The revised connection design could require a maximum of four new pylons (where again one would replace an existing pylon) rather than seven as proposed in the 2014 PEIR. Furthermore, it was agreed that underground cabling might be a viable option, and that consent should also be applied for to allow such a solution to be constructed.
- 11.3.13 Following the 17th December 2014 NGET meeting and after due consideration, MPL took the decision to only seek consent for an underground electrical connection. This would only require one new pylon that would replace an existing pylon (meaning that the net number of pylons would remain exactly the same as is presently the case), and up to two SECs adjacent to the existing overhead line. The rest of the connection would be made by an underground cable. The decision to underground the Electrical Connection was reflected in the 2017 PEIR project description and preliminary assessment of effects, which presented two electrical connection options (both of which comprised underground cabling), which were referred to as Option 1 and Option 2.

11.3.14 MPL engaged with NGET during the Phase 2 consultation on the preferred choice of Electrical Connection from the MPL site to the 400kV NETS to the south. Following these discussions, it has been decided that Electrical Connection Option 2 is no longer suitable. This means that Electrical Connection Option 1, comprising one underground double circuit Tee-in and two SECs (located on each side of the existing transmission line), is now the sole option proposed in respect of the Electrical Connection. This option is reflected in Chapter 3 of the ES (Document Reference 6.1) and has been assumed for the purpose of the EIA. The consideration of the alternatives as described above is set out in Section 5.5 of the ES (Document Reference 6.1).

Viewpoints

11.3.15 During the Phase 1 non-statutory consultation a number of comments were received regarding the choice and appropriateness of viewpoints used in the LVIA. As a result of this, the viewpoints were reviewed to ensure that they were adequate. A number of additional viewpoints were added and the preliminary environmental assessment of these was included in the 2014 PEIR.

11.3.16 During the Phase 1 statutory consultation one s42 respondent (CBC) requested six further viewpoints to be added to the LVIA, in addition to those added following non-statutory consultation. MPL considered the viewpoints suggested, and agreed to add one additional viewpoint from the eastern boundary of the Millennium Country Park to the EIA. The other viewpoints requested were considered by MPL to be addressed by viewpoints already included in the LVIA, or considered beyond the zone of visual impact.

Landscape Mitigation

11.3.17 During the Phase 1 non-statutory consultation comments were made on the need to screen the development. Within the 2014 PEIR, landscape mitigation was considered as part of the preliminary assessment.

11.3.18 During both the Phase 1 Phase 2 statutory consultation MPL received a number of comments on the effects of the Project on landscape. In response to these comments, MPL has committed to prepare and implement a Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Management Strategy (LEMMS) which will include screen planting and creation of ponds. This is secured via Requirement 3 in Schedule 2 of the MPL Draft Order (Document Reference 3.1), and an Outline LEMMS is presented in Appendix 11.3 of the ES (Document Reference 6.1).

Gas Pipeline Route and AGI

11.3.19 A meeting was held with the relevant landowner to discuss the proposed gas pipeline route and AGI location on 9th September 2014. The landowner did not have any concerns about the pipeline route; however, they considered that the proposed AGI location would result in the sterilisation of a considerable amount of land. They suggested an alternative site some 350 m further south. In response, on 18th September 2014 MPL commissioned Parsons Brinkerhoff to

extend the conceptual design work to include this option which was included in the 2014 PEIR.

- 11.3.20 Following the non-statutory consultation with the landowner regarding the AGI location options, MPL did not receive any further comments on this matter during the Phase 1 statutory consultation. Therefore, the alternative location as suggested by the landowner has been adopted as MPL's AGI location. No further comments on the AGI location options were received during the Phase 2 Consultation.

Traffic and Transport

- 11.3.21 The 2014 PEIR consulted on during the Phase 1 statutory consultation included a number of route options for construction traffic associated with the Electrical Connection and Gas Connection to access those areas. Both s47 and s42 (Stewartby Parish Council) responses suggested that two of those routes (via Sandhill Close and Manor Road) were not suitable because of a number of sensitive residential dwellings. As a result, MPL removed those options from the DCO Application documents.
- 11.3.22 An outcome of the Phase 1 statutory consultation was the production of a detailed Transport Assessment and further consultation on the same with CBC and BBC. The Transport Assessment indicated that the creation of an improved Junction between the main Access Road and Green Lane and also the access arrangements for installation of the Gas Connection and Electrical Connection would adhere to an approved traffic management plan which will include road safety measures. The final Traffic Management Plan will also include a routing agreement during construction. Consultation with CBC and BBC confirmed this. Provision of a Construction Traffic Management Plan is secured via a Requirement in Schedule 2 of the draft DCO.
- 11.3.23 Another outcome of the Phase 1 statutory consultation revealed that temporary access points were likely to be required for installation of the Gas Connection and Electrical Connection. Consultation has occurred with the Millbrook Proving Ground in respect to this issue because one of the temporary access points will affect their land (Appendix 4.L.iii).

Air Quality

- 11.3.24 Air quality remained an issue of concern for the general public during the Phase 1 statutory consultation. The emissions from the stack will be strictly limited by the EA as part of an operational Environmental Permit and will not cause harm to people and the environment. The Power Generation Plant will be operational for up to 17% of the year on a five year rolling average (and maximum of 26% of the year in any one year, subject to the five year rolling average restriction).
- 11.3.25 Attendees at the Phase 1 public exhibitions were reassured that detailed atmospheric dispersion modelling had been undertaken, and that this showed that there is no significant effect on receptors (see the Section 6 of the ES). One attendee in particular had some expert knowledge of the area. In response to

points made by this consultee' additional queries were made by MPL regarding the background data for the atmospheric dispersion modelling to ensure that the correct meteorological data had been used. This data is reflected in both the 2017 PEIR and the ES that accompanies the DCO Application.

Mitigation measures

- 11.3.26 Throughout MPL's consultation there has been a considerable amount of interest in how the impacts of the Project will be mitigated. Having regard to these responses, MPL has included a series of Requirements in Schedule 2 to the MPL Draft Order which secures various of the mitigation measures referred to in the ES (Document Reference 6.1). In addition, MPL has prepared a Statement of Proposed Heads of Terms for an Agreement Pursuant to s106 of the TCPA 1990 (Document Reference 10.3) in order to secure the mitigation measures which are more appropriately secured outside of the Requirements in the MPL Draft Order.
- 11.3.27 Under a s106 Agreement, MPL would propose to submit a local service provider engagement scheme to CBC and BBC for approval covering the measures that MPL would take in order to ensure that opportunities for local organisations to bid for contracts during the construction period and operational period are advertised locally. MPL would also deliver an education scheme. This includes a commitment that:
- MPL will undertake a proposed programme of visits to schools within the CBC and BBC area to explain the Project and how it fits in with providing energy for the UK. MPL has already visited Kimberley STEM College to explain the Project (in November 2014).

11.4 Other feedback

- 11.4.1 During both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 consultation MPL received a number of comments which did not lead to any Project changes for the reasons set out below.
- 11.4.2 A number of s47 responses from the Phase 1 statutory consultation asked MPL whether a domestic gas supply could be provided in Stewartby as part of the Project. MPL has explained that this is not within the Project remit. MPL did provide local council members with contact information for the appropriate local gas supplier.
- 11.4.3 At the Phase 1 statutory public exhibitions, some attendees asked about the provision for combined heat and power. MPL explained that this technology is not compatible with a Peaking Plant (see ES Appendix 5.1, Document Reference 6.2).

11.5 Post DCO Submission

- 11.5.1 MPL is committed to continued engagement with the local community and key stakeholders following submission of the DCO Application, as well as

throughout the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Project should a DCO be granted.

- 11.5.2 Following submission of the DCO Application, providing it is accepted for examination by PINS, MPL will undertake statutory notification under s56 of the PA 2008. The s56 notification will include publication and advertisement of the accepted application, and information on how to register as an interested party for the purpose of involvement in the Examination process. Interested parties will have the opportunity to review the application, and to provide Relevant Representations (consultation responses) to PINS in relation to the application. Engagement with statutory bodies and other interested parties will continue through the Pre Examination and Examination periods to ensure all matters are addressed during that time.
- 11.5.3 Alongside statutory and non-statutory consultation during the Examination process, MPL will continue to progress any ongoing landowner negotiations with a view to reaching voluntary Option Agreements.
- 11.5.4 In the early stages of non-statutory consultation, MPL raised the possibility of a Community Liaison Group in which a number of respondents expressed an interest. Should a DCO be granted, MPL is committed to maintaining a dialogue with the local community through the period of construction and potentially into operation. MPL will maintain on-going engagement with key stakeholders, the local authorities and the local parish councils.

12 Conclusion

- 12.1.1 The PA 2008 sets out statutory requirements for applicants to engage in pre-application consultation with local communities, local authorities and those who would be directly affected by a project.
- 12.1.2 This Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with s37(7) of the PA 2008 and seeks to demonstrate how MPL has complied with its various duties under the relevant sections of the PA 2008.
- 12.1.3 The following provisions of the PA 2008 are relevant to statutory consultation:
- s42: duty to consult certain categories of person;
 - s43: Local authorities for purpose of s42(1)(b);
 - s44: categories for the purposes of s42(1)(d);
 - s45 timetable for consultation under s42;
 - s46: Duty to notify the SoS of proposed application (and to provide s42 consultation materials to the SoS);
 - s47: duty to consult the local community (people living in the vicinity of the land);
 - s48: duty to publicise the proposed application; and
 - s49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity.
- 12.1.4 MPL undertook two phases of statutory pre-application consultation, between 13th October 2014 and 16th November 2014 (Phase 1 Statutory Consultation), and between 29th May 2017 and 2nd July 2017 (Phase 2 Statutory Consultation). Both phases aligned sections 42, 47 and 48 requirements to run in parallel across an extended, 35-day consultation period.
- 12.1.5 Under s42, the bodies prescribed by Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations, local authorities under s43 of the PA 2008, and those who fall under s44 of the PA 2008, were consulted about the proposed application. The full list of s42 parties is included as Appendix 3.N for the Phase 1 Consultation, and Appendix 3.O for the Phase 2 Consultation. The s42 information sent out to each consultee is set out in section 6 and section 8 of this Consultation Report, and included the preliminary findings of the EIA (in the form of the 2014 PEIR and the 2017 PEIR).
- 12.1.6 MPL undertook non-statutory engagement with CBC and BBC throughout the phased consultation; early engagement was used to inform the development of the Project's first Statement of Community Consultation (i.e. the Phase 1 SoCC). This Phase 1 SoCC set out how MPL would consult with the local community under s47 of the PA 2008. BBC and CBC were given 28 days to

comment on the Phase 1 SoCC. The final copies of the Phase 1 SoCC and 2014 Consultation Plan were made available from 23rd September 2014.

12.1.7 The finalised Phase 1 SoCC and Phase 1 Consultation Plan (Appendix 2.D) were made available on the Millbrook Power website (<http://www.millbrookpower.co.uk>) from the 23rd September 2014. Hard copies were also provided for inspection by the local community, and notices were published in the Bedford Times and Citizen on the 2nd and 9th of October 2014 and in the Bedfordshire on Sunday on the 5th and 12th of October 2014 saying when and where the Phase 1 SoCC could be inspected. Copies of the notices are at Appendix 3.U. A press release about the Phase 1 SoCC publication (and the dates for exhibitions) was issued by email on 24th September to local media and to parish councils for inclusion on their websites or in their newsletters.

Table 12.1 Project changes generated by consultation responses

Response Received	Key Output	Pre development	Construction	Operation and maintenance	De-commissioning	Consultation Report paragraph reference
Consultation Zones	CCZ extended from 3km radius to 5km radius	•				6.2.15 to 6.2.19
Stack modelling	Air dispersion modelling for stack height brought forward	•				1.4.10
Gas connection	Choice of option 1 for Gas Connection corridor		•	•		6.5.5
Gas connection	Location of AGI changed		•	•		11.3.9 to 11.3.20
Stack height	Reduction of stack height from 60m to 35m		•	•	•	11.3.1 to 11.3.6
Review of viewpoints	Additional viewpoints added to the LVIA	•				11.3.15 to 11.3.16

Site access route to Generating Equipment Site, Gas Connection and Electrical Connection	Ensuring that villages and town centres would be avoided		•		•	11.3.21 to 11.3.22
Landscaping strategy and ecology mitigation strategy	Commitment to deliver strategies		•	•	•	11.3.17 to 11.3.18
Electrical Connection	Undergrounding of the Electrical Connection cable, resulting in no additional pylons		•	•	•	11.3.7 to 11.3.14
Section 106 agreement	Commitment through s106 agreement to education scheme, and local services scheme.		•	•		11.3.26 to 11.3.27
Extension of the 2014 consultation Red Line Boundary	Revised Red Line Boundary to accommodate limits of deviation for the Access Road to allow both the Rookery South RRF Project and the Project to co-exist		•	•	•	6.5.5 to 6.5.7

12.1.8 Due to the Project being ‘on hold’ for a period following the 2014/2015 consultation MPL produced a second SoCC (Phase 2 SoCC) ahead of the 2017 statutory consultation (Phase 2 Consultation). CBC and BBC were consulted on the Phase 2 SoCC (Appendix 2.E) and given 28 days in which to provide comment on MPL’s proposed approach to the Phase 2 Consultation. The final copy of the Phase 2 SoCC and SoCC Notice were made available from 8th May 2017.

12.1.9 In accordance with s48 of the PA 2008, notices publicising the Project were published once in the London Gazette, once in a national newspaper (The Independent- Phase 1 Consultation and The Times - Phase 2 Consultation) and twice in local newspapers (Bedford Times & Citizen, Bedfordshire on Sunday). The notice explained when and where the consultation documents could be viewed, and the deadline for responses. In addition, press releases were issued

to local media to inform the Phase 2 Consultation and Drax posted messages on twitter.

- 12.1.10 On behalf of the SoS, PINS received a copy of the information and documentation that MPL were consulting on, ahead of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 statutory consultation periods. These submissions were in accordance with s46 of the PA 2008.
- 12.1.11 The requirements of the PA 2008 have been more than met by the programme of non-statutory and statutory consultation undertaken by the applicant.
- 12.1.12 The feedback received throughout both the non-statutory and statutory consultation phases has been analysed according to the themes that are represented by the comments received. Where a comment covers more than one theme, this has been accounted for. Where relevant, the detailed content of the comments received is also discussed.
- 12.1.13 Sections 6, 7, 8 and 9 of this Consultation Report explains how MPL's engagement and consultation influenced the development of the Project. Table 12.1 highlights the key outputs generated by the various consultation responses received, and how these correspond to the various development stages of the Project (being construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning) (the 'key project decisions').
- 12.1.14 This Report demonstrates that the Project generated significant levels of interest and participation from a broad spectrum of consultees. Furthermore, and importantly, many of the most significant design and Project decisions, summarised in Table 12.1, were either directly or indirectly influenced by consultation.
- 12.1.15 MPL has taken seriously its obligations under the PA 2008 regarding consultation and has delivered both Phase 1 and Phase 2 consultation in accordance with the requirements of that Act. This Consultation Report provides details of:
- a. what has been done in compliance with sections 42, 46, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008 in relation to the DCO Application;
 - b. the relevant responses received; and
 - c. the account taken of the relevant responses received (MPL has also set out how it has had regard to non-statutory consultation responses, as well as those received as part of its statutory consultation).
- 12.1.16 MPL looks forward to continuing to engage with the local community, relevant local authorities, statutory consultees and those with an interest in the land as its DCO Application for the Project moves forward.
-