



Little Crow

Solar Park

Little Crow Solar Park, Scunthorpe

CONSULTATION REPORT

Revision:
APFP Reg:
PINS Reference:

Submission
5(2)(q)
EN010101

Author:
Date:

Pegasus Group
December 2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Consultation Report details the consultation undertaken by the Applicant before submitting the Application, both formal and informal, including the statutory consultation undertaken pursuant to the 2008 Act. It summarises responses received and explains how the Applicant has had regard to those responses in finalising the proposed scheme.

The statutory minimum timeframe for formal consultation is 28 days. INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd chose to carry out a 91 day consultation period starting on 3 December 2018 and formally closing on 4 March 2019. At the outset of the consultation phase, a newsletter was distributed to over 2580 address points surrounding the site. Three community consultation events were held in December 2018. Consultation documents were deposited and made available to view at four local locations during the consultation period. The relevant local authorities were consulted on 15 January 2019. Prescribed consultees were consulted either on 15 January 2019 or 26 January 2019. This approach allowed for due diligence to be carried out to ensure that all consultees were captured and duly consulted within the statutory consultation timeframe.

In total, only 42 respondents provided comments during the formal consultation period, comprising 15 responses from the community and 27 responses from prescribed consultees, organisations or bodies.

During the informal and formal consultation process the specialist team have liaised closely with the North Lincolnshire Council and other prescribed bodies to refine the development with regards to the supporting assessments, methodology of the assessments and refinement to layout design. The front loading of the design review undertaken during the informal consultation ensured that the key design changes were made prior to the formal consultation phase. Very limited design changes were required to be applied to the development as a result of the comments received during the formal consultation process. Accordingly, it has only deemed necessary to carry out a single phase of formal consultation prior to the submission of the application.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document and its accompanying Appendices¹ (Document Ref 4.2 LC REP) constitute the 'Consultation Report' required by Section 37(3) of the Planning Act 2008 which supports an application for a Development Consent Order which would grant powers to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Little Crow Solar Park.
- 1.2 This document details how the Applicant, INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd, has complied with the provisions of the Planning Act 2008 and associated legislation in relation to its statutory duties for pre-application consultation for the Little Crow Solar Park development proposal.
- 1.3 This Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 37(7)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. It seeks to demonstrate how the applicant, INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd, has followed and complied with its statutory duties under Sections 42, 47, 48 and 49 of the 2008 Act. In that the applicant has: -
- Under section 42, consulted with all relevant parties specified in secondary legislation (as set out in Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms & Procedure) Regulations 2009);
 - Consulted with the relevant local authorities (as defined in section 43);
 - Consulted with landowners or others with an interest in the land (as set out in Section 44);
 - Under Section 47, consulted the local authority on the content of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), published a notice in a local newspaper stating where and when the SoCC can be inspected, made the SoCC available to the public, and consulted the local community in accordance with the published SoCC;
 - Under section 48, publicised the proposed application in the manner prescribed by Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations; and

¹ The appendices are presented in an accompanying document. For continuity, the appendices are referenced using the same numbering as the chapter.

- Under section 49, taken account of relevant responses to the consultation and publicity

1.4 This report also provides details of the non-statutory community engagement undertaken by the applicant prior and post the formal consultation. To avoid duplication in the DCO Application, where documents submitted as part of the Application are referred to in this Consultation Report, the relevant document reference number is provided rather than included in appendices in the Consultation Report.

Overview of the Consultation Process

1.5 This section provides an overview of the phased pre-application consultation process undertaken by and on behalf of the applicant. The main phase of consultation undertaken by the applicant is summarised below.

Table 1.1: Summary of Consultation Phases

Stage of Consultation Phase	Key Dates	Description
Non-Statutory engagement and consultation	December 2017 to November 2018	Non-statutory discussion with public and statutory consultees through extensive informal consultations. Public exhibitions were held in January 2018 which introduced the preliminary designs to the host community.
Agreeing the SOCC	3rd August 2018 to 28th November 2018	The approach to the formal statutory consultation was agreed with North Lincolnshire Council in November 2018.

Statutory Consultation	3rd December 2018 to 4th March 2019	The Statutory pre-application consultation was carried from 3rd December 2018 to 4th March 2019. Duty to consult accorded with the requirement of both section 42 and section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).
Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion	19 December 2018 to 25th January 2019	At the same time as the statutory pre-application consultation, applicant made a request to the Secretary of State, via Planning Inspectorate, for an EIA Scoping Opinion. Planning Inspectorate issued a Screening Direction after consultation with prescribed bodies under regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations 2017.
Post-Statutory Engagement	March 2019 to August 2020	Informal consultation and continued engagement undertaken between March 2019 and August 2020 to keep stakeholders informed of progress and to agree Statement of Common Ground with prescribed consultees.

Document Structure

- 1.6 This Consultation Report is structured to reflect the guidance provided in the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 14 'Compiling the Consultation Report' dated April 2012 (version 2).

1.7 The subsequent sections of this Report are divided into: -

Section 2: Regulatory Context

1.8 Sets out the regulatory duty to consult with regards to applications for Development Consent Order.

Section 3: Informal Non-Statutory Consultation

1.9 Describes the non-statutory 'informal' consultation conducted prior to the formal sections 42, 47 and 48 consultation and publicity stages under the 2008 Act.

Section 4: Approach to Formal Consultation – Section 47(1) and Section 48 of the 2008 Act

1.10 This section highlights how the Section 47 requirements were met through the development and delivery of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

Section 5: Statutory Consultation under Sections 42, 43, 4 & 47 of the 2008 Act

1.11 Section 5 sets out the statutory consultation undertaken in line with the adopted SoCC.

Section 6: Statutory Consultation, Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made

1.12 This chapter of the Consultation Report sets out how the Applicant has complied with its duty under Section 49 of the 2008 Act to take account of consultation responses received under Section 47 of the 2008 Act.

Section 7: Conclusions

1.13 Section 7 provides the applicant's concluding remarks.

Data Protection Act

1.14 To achieve compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 the names of private individuals and their details have been extracted from this document and its supporting appendices.

2. REGULATORY CONTEXT

2.1 The requirement for a Consultation Report is set out in Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008, where it is noted that an application for an order granting development consent must be accompanied by a consultation report.

2.2 Section 37(7) of the Planning Act 2008 defines the consultation report as a document giving details of: -

- What has been done in compliance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 in relation to a proposed application that has become the application;
- Any relevant responses received during the pre-application consultation process
- The account taken by the applicant of any relevant responses.

2.3 This Consultation Report demonstrates how the applicant has compiled with the requirements set out above.

DUTY TO CONSULT UNDER SECTION 42

2.4 Section 42 subsection (1) of the 2008 act (as amended) requires the applicant to consult with the following about the proposal: -

- (a) such persons as may be prescribed,
- (aa) the Marine Management Organisation, in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2),]
- (b) each local authority that is within section 43,
- (c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London, and
- (d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.

Persons as may be prescribed

2.5 For the purpose of section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008, the 'persons as may be prescribed' are those listed in Column 1 of the table 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications; Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. Table 2.1 provides a list of the consultees listed under Column 1 and identifies whether they were consulted or not consulted. A full list of those consulted, i.e. prescribed consultees, is provide at paragraph 5.22 of this report.

Table 2.1 Prescribed Consultees

Consultee	Consulted for Little Crow [yes / no - if no reason provided]
The Welsh Ministers	No, development unlikely to affect land in Wales.
The Scottish Executive	No, development unlikely to affect land in Scotland
The relevant Northern Ireland Department	No, development unlikely to affect land in Northern Ireland
The Health and Safety Executive	Yes
The National Health Service Commissioning Board and the relevant clinical commissioning group	Yes
The relevant Health Board	Yes
Natural England	Yes
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	Yes

The relevant fire and rescue authority	Yes
The relevant police authority	Yes
The relevant parish council, or, where the application relates to land Wales or Scotland the relevant community council	Yes
The Environment Agency	Yes
The Scottish Environment Protection Agency	No, development unlikely to affect land in Scotland
The Equality and Human Rights Commission	Yes
The Scottish Human Rights Commission	No, development unlikely to affect land in Scotland
AONB Conservation Boards	No, development unlikely to affect an AONB.
Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales	No, development unlikely to affect land in Wales.
The National Resource Body for Wales	No, development unlikely to affect land in Wales.
The Homes and Communities Agency	Yes [Homes England]
The Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Yes
Scottish Natural Heritage	No, development unlikely to affect land in Scotland

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency	No, development unlikely to affect the maritime or costal environment or the shipping canal.
The Marine Management Organisation	No, development unlikely to affect marine area in England and Wales.
The Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency	No, development unlikely to affect land in Scotland
The Civil Aviation Authority	Yes
The Secretary of State for Transport	Yes
Integrated Transport Authorities (ITAs) and Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs)	Yes
The relevant Highways Authority	Yes
The relevant strategic highways company	Yes
Transport for London	No, development unlikely to affect transport within, to or from Greater London.
The Passengers' Council	No, development unlikely to affect rail passenger transport.
The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee	No, development not likely to affect access to transport for disabled people.
The Coal Authority	Yes

The Office of Rail and Road and approved operators	Yes
The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority	Yes
The Water Services Regulation Authority	Yes
The Water Industry Commission of Scotland	No, development unlikely to affect the water industry in Scotland
The relevant waste regulation authority	Yes
The relevant internal drainage board	Yes
The British Waterways Board	No, development unlikely to have an impact on inland waterways.
Trinity House	No, development unlikely to affect navigation in tidal waters
Public Health England	Yes
The relevant local resilience forum	Yes
Relevant statutory undertakers	Yes ²
The Crown Estate Commissioners	Yes

² Statutory undertakers included Northern Power Grid, Severn Trent Waters, Anglian waters, BT Openreach, Energetics Gas Ltd, Energy Assets Pipelines Ltd, ESP Connections Ltd, ES Pipelines Ltd, ESP Networks Ltd, ESP Pipelines Ltd, Fulcrum Pipelines Ltd, GTC Pipelines Ltd, Independent Pipelines Ltd, Indigo Pipelines Ltd, Murphy Gas Networks Ltd, Quadrant Pipelines Ltd, National Grid Gas Plc, Scotland Gas Network Plc, Southern Gas Networks Plc, Eclipse Power Network Ltd, Energetics Electricity Ltd, Fulcrum Electricity Assets Ltd, Independent Power Networks Ltd, Leep Electricity Networks Ltd, Murphy Power Distribution, The Electricity Network Company Ltd, UK Power Distribution Ltd, Utility Assets Ltd, Vattenfall Networks Ltd, Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc, National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc

A person who manages any property, rights or interests to which section 90B(5) of the Scotland Act 1998 applies	No, development would not impact on the property, rights and interest managed by person to which section 90B(5) of the Scotland Act 1998 applies.
The Forestry Commission	Yes
The Natural Resources Body for Wales	No, development unlikely to affect the protection of expansion of forestry in wales.
The relevant local health board	Yes
The National Health Service Trusts	No, development unlikely to affect land in Wales.
The Office for Nuclear Regulation	No, development unlikely to affect matters relevant to the ONR.

Local Authorities

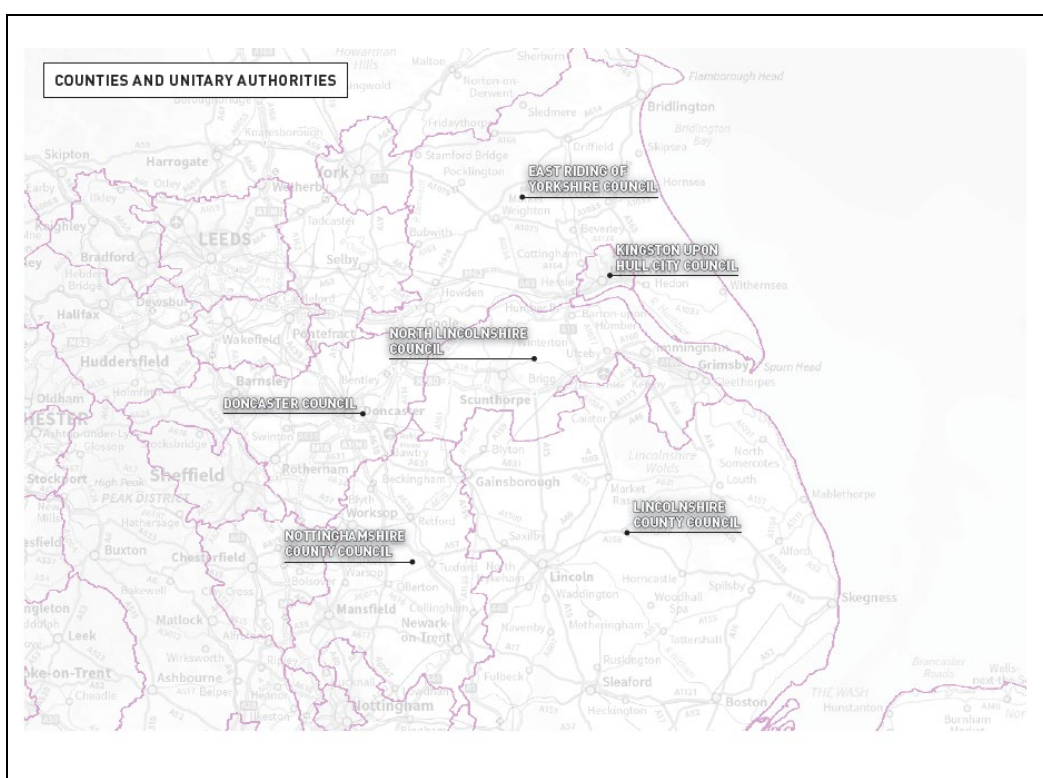
2.6 For the purpose of Section 42(1)(b) of the Planning Act 2008, local authorities are defined as those within which the land to which the proposed development relates is located and all neighbouring local authorities. This includes lower-tier district councils, upper-tier county councils and unitary councils. In this instance the local authorities are identified as: -

- North Lincolnshire Council (local authority classification B³)
- West Lindsey District Council (local authority classification A)
- Doncaster Council (local authority classification A)

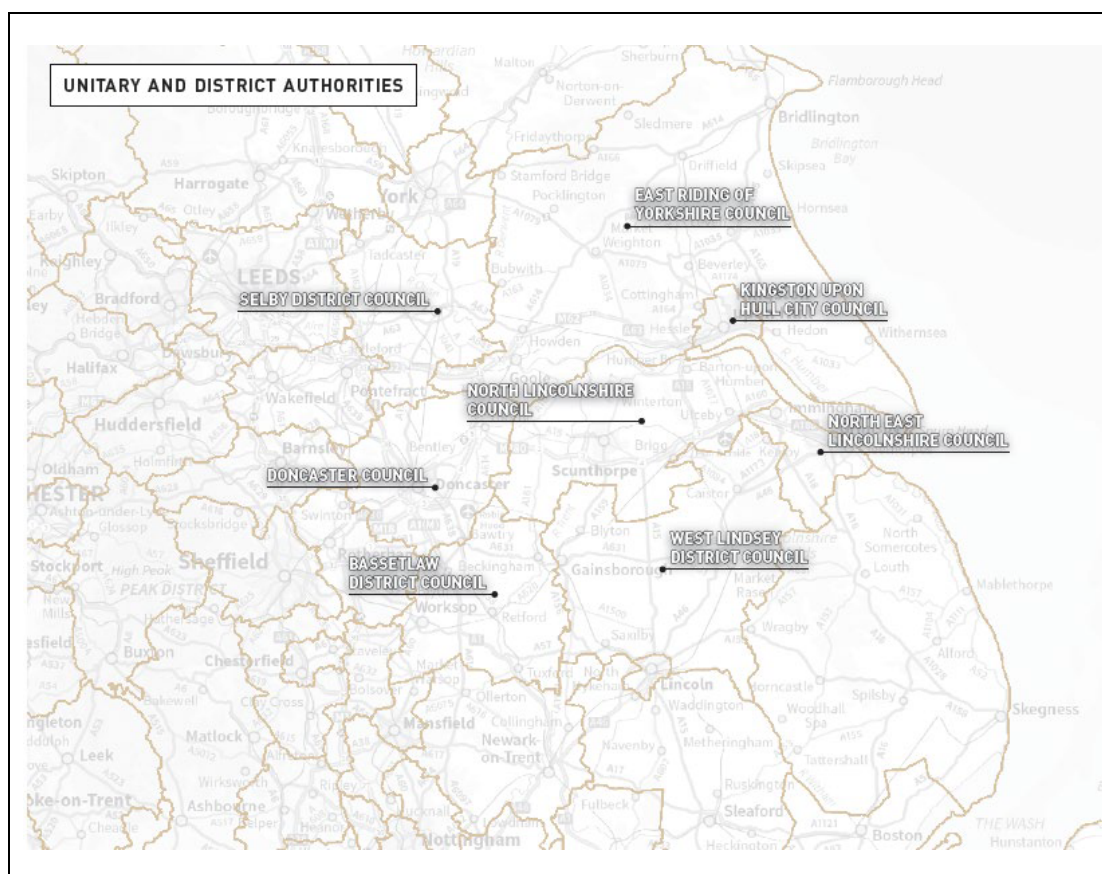
³ Local authorities classifications as prescribed under section 43(1) of the Act.

- Bassetlaw District Council (local authority classification A)
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council (local authority classification A)
- Kingston upon Hull City Council (local authority classification A)
- North East Lincolnshire Council (local authority classification A)
- Nottinghamshire County Council (local authority classification A)
- Lincolnshire County Council (local authority classification A)

2.7 Administrative boundary relationship of the adjoining county and unitary authorities to North Lincolnshire Council are set out below for ease of ref.



2.8 Administrative boundary relationships between North Lincolnshire Council and adjoining unitary and district authorities are set out below.



2.9 Due to proximity of administrative boundaries, consultation was also carried out with Selby District Council.

Each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.

2.10 For the purpose of Section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008, a person is within section 44 if, following due process, the applicant knows that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land (category 1, section 44); is interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land (category 2, section 44(2)); or is entitled to make a relevant claim if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented (Category 3, Section 44(4)). Due to confidentiality and data protection, personal information with regards to individual names and an address is blocked out from this report. As part of due diligence, the applicant carried out a property and land search on two separate occasions prior to the formal consultation to ensure that all those persons who fall within the categories were identified. All those identified were duly consulted.

DUTY TO PREPARE SOCC UNDER SECTION 47

2.11 Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 requires the applicant to: -

- (1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.
- (2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.
- (3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.
- (4) In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).
- (5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).
- (6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must—
 - (za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land,
 - (a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and
 - (b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.
- (7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.

2.12 Section 4 of this report discusses the procedure followed by the applicant in reaching a published Statement of Community Consultation.

3. INFORMAL NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

3.1 This section provides a summary of the 'informal' pre-application activities undertaken prior to the formal consultations and publicity stages under the 2008 Act.

Informal Consultation 2017 / 2018

3.2 The informal consultation comprised: -

- consultation with communities hosting the development including parish councils, key stakeholders, local residents and interested persons;
- consultation with North Lincolnshire Council and statutory consultees.

Informal Public Exhibition

Informal Consultation with Host Community

3.3 Three concurrent days of public exhibitions were held to inform the local community about the proposal and give them the opportunity to talk to members of staff from INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd and members of the project team. Three exhibition events were held to increase the chances that members of the public would be able to attend at least one of the events. The timing of each event was intended to allow people to visit the drop in after normal working hours. The venues were chosen to best serve the distinct geographic areas surrounding the site of Appleby Parish, Broughton Town Council Area and Scunthorpe. This was intended to maximise attendance at the events.

3.4 The Project Team members adopted a proactive stance towards communicating with all visitors to the exhibition. There were at least 3 members of the project team available at each event. Details of the three events were as follows:

- Informal Session 1 – 16th January 2018 14:30 – 19:00, Appleby Village Hall, School Lane, Scunthorpe, DN15 0AS
- Informal Session 2 – 17th January 2018 14:30 – 19:00, Scunthorpe Civic Centre, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe, DN16 1AB
- Informal Session 3 – 18th January 2018 14:30 – 19:00, Broughton Village Hall, 59 High Street Broughton, North Lincolnshire, DN20 0JX

3.5 In order to guide attendees to the correct rooms for each venue, posters were displayed to guide attendees into the exhibition rooms.

3.6 The exhibition materials included: -

- Exhibition Boards – The exhibition boards (Appendix 3.1) covered a wide range of subjects including the background of INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd, the location of the proposal, the need for the proposed development; the envisaged public benefits of the proposal and photo view points from the surrounding area showing the extent of the proposal site. 5 boards in total were provided and evenly spaced around the exhibition hall space.

APPENDIX 3.1 – INFORMAL EXHIBITION BOARDS

- Key Document Printouts – Various key documents were provided to allow the project team to more effectively disseminate information and engage with attendees. This included maps of the area and surrounds at a variety of scales, the proposed route of construction traffic to the site and a draft site layout.
- Feedback Forms – Feedback forms (Appendix 3.2) were made available to all attendees and all attendees were encouraged to fill in and leave the forms at the event.

APPENDIX 3.2 – INFORMAL FEEDBACK FORM

- Leaflet and brochure – Pocket sized information leaflets (Appendix 3.3) and brochures (Appendix 3.4) were available for attendees to take with them from the event. The materials included basic information about the proposals as well as a red line area, contact details for members of the project team and details of the project website where further information is available.

APPENDIX 3.3 - INFORMAL LEAFLET

APPENDIX 3.4 – INFORMAL BROCHURE

- Refreshment bar and seating area – Teas, coffees, snacks and a tabled seating area were made available to provide a suitable environment for visitors to discuss the proposals and fill out feedback forms.

Press Release

- 3.11 To coincide with the release of the leaflet drop and invitation to the public exhibitions, INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd circulated a press release regarding the plans ('Clean Energy Proposals for Scunthorpe'). The press release was sent to the Solar Power Portal and Scunthorpe Telegraph as well as being published on the Little Crow Solar Park website. The press release provided basic information, invited the public to the drop-in session and provided contact details for the project team.
- 3.12 As a result of the press release, the Solar Power Portal featured an article relating to the proposals - '**INRG in pursuit of perfect answer for subsidy-free solar economics**'. The Scunthorpe Telegraph featured a similar article - 'New solar park aimed at providing clean energy proposed for Scunthorpe'.

APPENDIX 3.5 – SOLAR POWER PORTAL ARTICLE

APPENDIX 3.6 – SCUNTHORPE TELEGRAPH ARTICLE

Media Advertisement

- 3.13 The development was promoted through a quarter page advertisement in the general section of the Scunthorpe Telegraph. The advert appeared in one edition of the paper. The newspaper is published weekly (every Thursday) and distributed to the Scunthorpe Area. The advert appeared in the paper on 11th January 2018.

APPENDIX 3.7 – SCUNTHORPE TELEGRAPH ADVERTISEMENT

Website

- 3.14 INRG Solar Ltd are a nationwide organisation that have built and completed solar parks across the country as well as a pipeline of potential new sites. In addition to information on the main INRG website, a dedicated website was set up for Little Crow Solar Park. The website provides accessible, up-to-date information about this proposals and provides contact details for members of the development team. The website address is www.littlecrowsolar.co.uk.

Letter Drop

- 3.15 In addition to local residents, key local stakeholders and third parties were also invited to each event via letter (Appendix 3.8). The letter provided basic

information about the scheme, details of the drop-in sessions and the contact details of the project team where further questions or feedback could be directed. Each letter was sent by Royal Mail recorded delivery (first class).

APPENDIX 3.8 – STAKEHOLDER LETTER AND SCHEDULE OF RECIPIENTS

Informal Briefings and Presentations

3.16 In addition to the above, a series of meetings has taken place with key local stakeholders. This includes:

Meeting	Date	Detail
North Lincolnshire Council Rob Waltham (Leader) and Simon Green (Executive Commercial Director)	14.12.2017	Introduction to the site, proposed development and NSIP procedure.
Broughton Town Council and Appleby Parish Council meetings	18.12.2017	Introduce the site, discuss the proposals, extend invitation to the drop-in events and answer any questions local residents have.
MP Meeting (Brigg and Goole) (Scunthorpe)	19.1.2018	Introduction to the scheme, the developer and an outline discussion of the NSIP procedure.
Lesley Potts	17.1.2018	Meet the Buyer
North Lincolnshire Planning Department	16.1.2018	Introduce the project team, discuss the site and proposed development and discuss NSIP procedural matters.

Table 2: Schedule of informal consultation meetings

Interested Parties Letter

- 3.17 Informal consultation letters (Appendix 3.9) were also sent to all interested parties pursuant to sections 42 and 44 of the Act.

APPENDIX 3.9 –INTERESTED PARTIES LETTER

Results of the Informal Consultation

- 3.18 A significant positive response was received over the development at the local community level. The overwhelming feedback from both public drop in events and follow up emails has been to support the proposals as they were presented during the events (i.e. without changes to the proposal). Details of the responses to the main activities to date are set out below:

Public Exhibition

- 3.19 As stated elsewhere in this report, three separate informal public exhibitions were held across three days all within close proximity to the proposal site. The invitation was extended to over 2,500 addresses surrounding the site and included residential and commercial properties throughout Broughton, Appleby, Wressle and Santon.
- 3.20 A head count was undertaken of all visitors attending each exhibition. The exhibition at Appleby Village Hall was attended by 22 people, 3 attended the Scunthorpe Civic Centre event with 57 people attending the Broughton Village Hall event. The below photographs show how the room was set up and people attending the event at Appleby Village Hall: -



- 3.21 All exhibitions ran from 2:30pm-7pm. Footfall at the Appleby and Broughton event was consistent. Attendance numbers for Scunthorpe were below what was expected with space attendance.
- 3.22 Each event was staffed by at least 3 members of the project team during the session. This ensured that all visitors were able to study the exhibition boards; complete their feedback forms and liaise with the project team at their own speed and leisure.

Analysis of Exhibition

- 3.23 The project team kept track of the feedback and communications they received, both negative and positive, during the exhibition. Following the events, the project team who liaised and integrated with the attendees throughout the duration of the exhibition unanimously agreed there was an overwhelming positive support for the development proposal with most attendees thinking they would not be able to see the solar park once it was built. Concern was expressed over the proposed construction traffic route and the number of deliveries that would be required to be made to the site. Although the project team acknowledged the construction period would cause disruption, it was pointed out that this was a relatively brief part of

the overall project timeline and that once built, the site would generate a very low requirement for traffic generation.

Analysis of completed and returned feedback Forms

3.24 Overall, 9 feedback forms were received across the three informal events (split 4 from Appleby, 1 from Scunthorpe and 4 from Broughton). All feedback received supported the proposals across a broad range of project details with the exception of one form from the Broughton event that expressed some concern.

3.25 These results indicate an overwhelming level of support for the project from those attending the events. The below provides a summary of the recurring themes and comments reflected throughout forms received across the two events:

- Siting – Attendees thought it was positive that the solar park was sited to be surrounded on all sides by significant visual barriers. North, east and southern boundaries are abutted by woodland, the western boundary is boarded by Scunthorpe Steel Works. Attendees said that the visual impact would be minimal when viewed against the steel works site.
- Access – It was seen as a positive that no access was proposed to run through the village of Broughton itself via the B1207 but that there could be a potentially negative impact on residents in terms of construction traffic if the process was not managed effectively. Support was conditional in some instances providing all footpaths are retained.
- Wildlife – Attendees liked that the site would be grazed by sheep during the operational phase and sown with a species mix that would support local wildlife.
- Renewables – Turning to the energy produced itself, attendees expressed support in principle for renewable energy projects and thought it was beneficial there would be less reliance on coal burning in the future. The project was regarded as a ‘great investment’ for North Lincolnshire Council and its residents.

3.26 In terms of the negative feedback received, the issues can be summarised as follows:

- An in principle objection to the size of the site and the effect this could have on local mammal and bird habitats;
- Construction traffic should not run through Broughton;
- That the site is good quality agricultural land and its loss would diminish the amount of food that can be grown locally;
- There was no guarantee that the energy produced would supply local residents; and
- Impact on the existing Right of Way.

Other Responses to Consultation

3.27 In addition to the consultation feedback received at the consultation events, a small number of written responses were sent directly to Pegasus Group. This included an email from the office of Nic Dakin, MP for Scunthorpe County which expressed support for the project and encouraged effective future community consultation.

North Lincolnshire Council

3.28 On 6 August 2018, the applicant submitted its request for informal pre-application advice to NLC. The submission pack comprised the indicative layout drawings, Draft Environmental Statement and draft ES Technical Appendices. North Lincolnshire Council provided its informal non-statutory pre-application response on 30 October 2018. To summarise, the Council considered that, subject to appropriate assessment the proposed development would be acceptable in principle.

APPENDIX 3.10 - INFORMAL NLC PRE-APPLICATION RESPONSE

4. APPROACH TO FORMAL CONSULTATION – SECTION 47(1) AND SECTION 48 OF THE 2008 ACT

4.1 Following the non-statutory consultation, the statutory consultation was delivered in line with the requirements of the PA 2008. This chapter highlights how the Section 47 requirements were met with regards to the development and delivery of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).

4.2 Section 47(1) set out how the applicant must prepare a statement setting out how they will formally consult with the people living in the vicinity of the land and any such strategy must be agreed with the local authority.

4.3 The agreed strategy is presented in the '**Statement of Community Consultation**' and this chapter describes the procedures that accumulated in reaching an agreed Statement of Community Consultation with North Lincolnshire Council.

4.4 This chapter is supported by the following appendices: -

- **Appendix 4.1** - copy of letter issued by Pegasus Group to North Lincolnshire Council on 3 August 2018 asking for their comments on the strategic SoCC.
- **Appendix 4.2** - copy of the strategic Little Crow SoCC
- **Appendix 4.3** - email from North Lincolnshire to Pegasus Group providing comments over the strategic Little Crow SoCC, dated 3 October 2019
- **Appendix 4.4** - copy of email from Pegasus to North Lancashire Council dated 31 October 2018
- **Appendix 4.5** - Little Crow SoCC
- **Appendix 4.6** - email from Pegasus Group to North Lincs council dated 12 November 2018.
- **Appendix 4.7** - copy of updated SoCC.
- **Appendix 4.8** - Copy of North Lincolnshire Council letter of acceptance of the SoCC dated 28 November 2018.
- **Appendix 4.9** - Publication version of the SoCC

- **Appendix 4.10** - Notification letter to PINS
- **Appendix 4.11** – Scunthorpe Telegraph Little Crow Solar Park Notice
- **Appendix 4.12** – Email exchange on 22 November 2018 at 16:54 hrs
- **Appendix 4.13** – Scunthorpe Telegraph Little Crow Solar Park Advert
- **Appendix 4.14** – Email exchange on 23 November 2018 at 13:23 hrs
- **Appendix 4.15** – Copy of Scunthorpe telegraph Proforma Invoice and Payment Details
- **Appendix 4.16** – Scunthorpe Telegraph Order Confirmation
- **Appendix 4.17** – Email exchange on 23 November 2018 at 20:02 hrs
- **Appendix 4.18** - Email dated 3 December 2020 at 10:05 hrs
- **Appendix 4.19** – Copy of The Times Notice
- **Appendix 4.20** – Copy of London Gazette Notice

Development of the Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC)

4.5 Prior to the formal consultation of the SoCC, Pegasus Group prepared an initial strategic draft SoCC document which explained the possible options with regards to community involvement and this presented the basis for opening discussions with North Lincolnshire Council over how the applicant should continue to shape the SoCC strategy for consulting people in the vicinity of the site as part of the formal pre-application process. The strategic draft document discussed a range of topics including: -

- Identification of relevant persons to consult
- Suggested size and coverage of the consultation area
- The appropriateness of various consultation techniques, including electronic-based ones
- The design and format of consultation materials

- Issues which should be covered in the consultation materials
- Suggestions of places / timings of public events as part of the consultation
- Suggested list of local bodies and representative groups who should be consulted; and
- Suggested timescales for consultation.

4.6 The strategic draft SoCC was posted to North Lincolnshire Council on 1 August 2018 and formed part of an informal pre-app submission. The informal pre-app is considered through chapter 3. North Lincolnshire Council provided their observations over the strategic SoCC on 3 October 2018 (copied at appendix 4.3). The comments put forward by NLC over the strategic SoCC are set out in table below.

Table 4.1: North Lincolnshire Comment over the draft SoCC

North Lincolnshire Comment over the draft SoCC	Applicant response
<p><i>Having reviewed the Draft Statement of Community Consultation for Little Crow Solar, I can confirm that the LPA raise no objection to the content and approach of the document as it mainly conforms with the North Lincolnshire Statement of Community Involvement 2018.</i></p> <p><i>However the table under paragraph 4.3, that covers 'Prescribed Bodies' needs updating with the correct contact details for North Lincolnshire. These seem to refer to Lincolnshire.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Environment Agency address needs amending to: Environment Agency, Ceres House, 2 Searby Road, Lincoln, LN2 4DT.</i> • <i>Needs to be Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner, not Lincolnshire. i.e. Police and</i> 	<p>The applicant was pleased to note how North Lincolnshire raised 'no objection' to the working draft document as the contents and approach of the draft document conformed with North Lincolnshire's Statement of Community involvement dated 2018.</p> <p>The final SOCC would include the correct referencing to prescribed bodies as raised by the Council.</p>

*Crime Commissioner for Humberside, The Lawns,
Cottingham, HU16 5SN.*

- *Needs to be Humberside Fire and Rescue and not Lincolnshire. i.e. Humberside Fire and Rescue, Summergroves Way, Hull, HU4 7BB.*

- *NHS / CCG needs to be: NHS - North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Health Place, Wrawby Road, Brigg, DN20 8GS.*

- *The Natural England address should be: Natural England, Hornbeam House, Electra Way, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 8GJ.*

- *Highways needs to be NLC Highways, not Lincolnshire, and the ITA needs checking.*

- *The IDB needs checking and appropriate contact applied.*

Do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter further.

4.7 Taking into account NLC comments, the SoCC was duly updated to provide a succinct document, divided into the following sections: -

- Introducing the Statement of Community Consultation
- The Developer and Development
- The consenting process and nationally significant infrastructure projects
- Classification as an Environmental Impact Assessment Development
- Consultation timetable, scope and responses
- Submitting Feedback and what happens next
- Consultations in addition to community consultation

4.8 The Little Crow SoCC was formally issued to NLC on 31 October 2018.

APPENDIX 4.4 - LETTER ISSUED BY PEGASUS GROUP TO NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL ON 31 OCTOBER 2018 ASKING FOR THEIR FORMAL ACCEPTANCE OVER THE SOCC

APPENDIX 4.5 – LITTLE CROW SOCC FOR ACCEPTANCE

4.9 During the Council's consideration of the SoCC, the document was updated to list the proposed date of the applicant's presentation to the Appleby Parish Council. Council was notified of this amendment on 12 November 2018 (Appendix 4.6) and provided with an updated SoCC for acceptance (Appendix 4.7)

APPENDIX 4.6 - EMAIL FROM PEGASUS GROUP TO NORTH LINCS COUNCIL DATED 12 NOVEMBER 2018.

APPENDIX 4.7 - COPY OF UPDATED SOCC FOR ACCEPTANCE.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOCC

4.10 On 28 November 2018, NLC duly provide a letter which gave their acceptance over the SoCC (Appendix 4.8). NLC also identified a typo in the final section of the report and this was duly corrected (Appendix 4.9).

APPENDIX 4.8 NLC LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE OVER THE SOCC.

APPENDIX 4.9 PUBLICATION VERSION OF THE SOCC

NOTIFICATION OF THE SOCC

4.11 On 30 November 2018, the applicant submitted a letter (Appendix 4.10) to National Infrastructure Planning, which provided the following information: -

- Notification of intention to submit an application to the Secretary of State for Business
- Notification that the applicant intends to provide an Environmental Statement in respect of the proposed development
- Confirmation of North Lincolnshire Council acceptance over the SOCC and enclosed to the letter was a copy of the council's acceptance
- Clarification over when the applicant intended to carry out the formal consultation and the document that would be made available as part of the consultation

- The publication dates for the notices pursuant to Section 48 of the Act (including within the Scunthorpe telegraph, The London Gazette and The Times).
- Request formal acknowledgement with regard to Section 46 notifications.

APPENDIX 4.10 – NOTIFICATION LETTER TO PINS

- 4.12 Following the formal notification of how the applicant intended to provide an Environmental Statement to accompany the application, on Monday 17th December 2018, the applicant duly submitted a request for Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion.
- 4.13 On 25 January 2019, National Infrastructure Planning duly published the Little Crow Scoping Opinion and Report.

PUBLICISING THE APPLICATION AND SOCC

- 4.14 A single notice was published satisfying the requirements of section 47(6) and section 48 of the 2008 Act and Section 4(2) of the APFP Regulations.

Section 47(6) of the 2008 Act

- 4.15 The publication date for the notice is set out below: -
- Scunthorpe Telegraph, paper copy of notice published on 29 November 2018 (weekly edition covering Thursday 29 November to Wednesday 5th December)
- 4.16 A copy of the notice is provided at Appendix 4.11. The notice provides details of where the SoCC can be inspected by the public in a way that it reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the site. The notice identifies how the SoCC can be viewed at four local locations and the project's website.

APPENDIX 4.11 - SCUNTHORPE TELEGRAPH LITTLE CROW SOLAR PARK NOTICE

Section 48 of the 2008 Act & Section 4(2) of the APFP Regulations

- 4.17 In order to ensure that the public were fully aware of the consultation events the applicant placed an advert to publicise the locations and times of the public consultation for the proposed development (the "Advert"). This was sent to the

Scunthorpe Telegraph at the same time as the public notice required under s48 of the 2008 Act (the "s48 Notice"). The Advert was published in the print edition of the Scunthorpe Telegraph for two weeks and the s48 Notice was published in the print edition for one week. Nevertheless, the applicant had also arranged for the s48 Notice to be published on the Scunthorpe Telegraph's online platform. Paragraphs 4.18 to 4.29 below set out the full extent of the publicity the s48 Notice received and the applicant is of the view that these requirements satisfy its obligations under Section 48 of the 2008 Act & Section 4(2) of the APFP Regulations.

- 4.18 Following a preliminary dialogue between Pegasus and Scunthorpe Telegraph, an email exchange on 22 November 2018 at 16.54 hrs (Appendix 4.12) recorded the requirements for publication of the s48 Notice (Appendix 4.11) and the Advert (Appendix 4.13).

**APPENDIX 4.12 - EMAIL EXCHANGE ON 22 NOVEMBER 2018
AT 16:54 HRS**

**APPENDIX 4.13 - SCUNTHORPE TELEGRAPH LITTLE CROW
SOLAR PARK ADVERT**

- 4.19 Through this email it was requested that:

- The s48 Notice was to be published in print edition of the Scunthorpe Telegraph for one edition – 29 November 2018; and
- the Advert was to be published in the print edition of the Scunthorpe Telegraph for two editions, namely 28 November 2018 and 6 December 2018.

- 4.20 In a second email dated 23 November 2018 at 13.23 hrs (Appendix 4.14), the Scunthorpe Telegraph agreed to publish the s48 Notice in the print edition for one week and the Advert in the print edition for two weeks. Two documents were appended to this email namely, a pro-forma invoice and payment details (attached at Appendix 4.15). The email identified how the invoice must be paid before the booking could be actioned and proofs sent back for applicant to check prior to publication.

**APPENDIX 4.14 - EMAIL EXCHANGE ON 23 NOVEMBER 2018
AT 13:23 HRS**

APPENDIX 4.15 - COPY OF SCUNTHORPE TELEGRAPH PROFORMA

INVOICE AND PAYMENT DETAILS

4.21 It goes on to explain how the s48 Notice would be published also on the ScunthorpeLIVE Public Notice Online Portal. The email clarifies how the reference on the pro-forma invoice to www.grimsbylive relates to the publication of the notice on Scunthorpe Public Notice online section. The pro-forma invoice (Appendix 4.15) specifically identifies an online publication between the dates of 5 December 2018 and 29 December 2018.

4.22 An order confirmation (Appendix 4.16) was attached to the email of 23 November 2018 at 20.02 hrs (appendix 4.17) which gave a full breakdown of the booking split into the print campaign and the digital campaign as follows: -

Print Campaign

- Insertion of the s48 Notice in the Scunthorpe Telegraph for 29 November 2018 (bearing Content ID 1TM-225610013-03);
- Insertion of the Advert in the Scunthorpe Telegraph for 29 November 2018 (bearing Content ID 1TM-225610013-01)
- Insertion of the Advert in the Scunthorpe Telegraph for 6 December 2018 (bearing Content ID 1TM-225610013-01)

Digital Campaign

4.23 Insertion of the s48 Notice (bearing Content ID 1TM-225610013-02) on www.grimsbylive.co.uk for 25 days from 5 December 2018 to 29 December 2018.

APPENDIX 4.16 - SCUNTHORPE TELEGRAPH

ORDER CONFIRMATION

APPENDIX 4.17 - EMAIL EXCHANGE ON 23 NOVEMBER

2018 AT 20.02 HRS

4.24 The order confirmation lists the www.grimsbylive.co.uk website as the host for the digital campaign and this is clarified at paragraph 4.21 above. The explanation is corroborated by the email from AA (Trinity Mirror) to JT (Pegasus Group) dated 23 November 2018 13:23 hrs (Appendix 4.14).

- 4.25 An email from the Public Notices Adviser⁴ at the Scunthorpe Telegraph dated 3 December 2020 (Appendix 4.18) confirms that Content ID ITM 225610013-02 specified on the order confirmation (Appendix 4.16), which is shown as appearing on www.grimsbylive.co.uk, refers to the s48 Notice.
- 4.26 A copy of the s48 Notice as published in the printed weekly paper covering Thursday 29 November 2018 to Wednesday 5th December 2018, is provided at Appendix 4.11.
- 4.27 A screenshot of the digital publication of the s48 Notice is not available but the Public Notices Team Adviser⁵ for the Scunthorpe Telegraph has provided written confirmation in her email of 3 December 2020 that the s48 Notice provided at Appendix 4.11 was the notice that appeared in the print copy of the newspaper and also on the online platform for the Scunthorpe Telegraph.⁶ The Public Notices Team Adviser confirms in her email that the s48 Notice correctly appeared on the Grimsbylive website which is where any searches for the Scunthorpe Telegraph are directed. This is 'Scunthorpe Live' and the website contains a public notices section which filters all notices by postcode for a particular area.

Compliance with Section 48 of the 2008 Act & Section 4(2) of the APFP Regulations.

- 4.28 The publication dates for the s48 Notice are set out below:-
- Scunthorpe Telegraph, print edition of notice, in the prescribed form, published on 29 November 2018 (weekly edition covering Thursday 29 November 2018 to Wednesday 5th December 2018)
 - Scunthorpe Telegraph digital notice, published in the prescribed form on the Public Notice Online Schedule from Wednesday 5 December 2018 until Thursday 29th December 2018.
- 4.29 The s48 Notice was published for 30 consecutive days in total and as such the applicant has fulfilled its duty under s48 of the 2008 Act which is to publicise the

⁴ Georgia Cunningham, the Public Notice Adviser who has provided the confirmation, is employed by Trinity Mirror, also known as Reach Plc, Reach plc is a British newspaper, magazine and digital publisher. It is one of Britain's biggest newspaper groups, publishing 240 regional papers, one of which is the Scunthorpe Telegraph (<https://www.reachplc.com/our-brands>).

⁵ See footnote above

⁶ The online platform for the Scunthorpe Telegraph is <https://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/all-about/scunthorpe>

notice in the prescribed manner and section 4(2) of the APFP Regulations which requires (amongst other things) that the notice to be published for at least two successive weeks in a local newspaper.

4.30 The publication dates for the national papers are set out below

- The Times – Monday 3 December 2018
- The London Gazette – Monday 3 December 2018

4.31 A copy of The Times notice is provided at Appendix 4.19

APPENDIX 4.19 – COPY OF THE TIMES NOTICE

4.32 A copy of the London Gazette notice is provided at Appendix 4.20

APPENDIX 4.20 - COPY OF LONDON GAZETTE NOTICE

4.33 On Monday 3rd December 2018, the consultation newsletter was distributed to all 2588 address points within the primary consultation zone and this presented details over the publication of the SoCC. The primary consultation zone is discussed in detail in Chapter 5 (para 5.4) of this Report.

4.34 As set out in the adopted SoCC, all consultation documents were deposited and made available for inspections at the following locations during the period Monday 3 December 2018 until 4 March 2019.

- Scunthorpe Central Library, Carlton Street, Scunthorpe, DN15 6TX
- Park Library, Avenue Vivian, Scunthorpe, DN15 8LG
- Bottesford Library, Cambridge House, Cambridge Avenue, Bottesford, Scunthorpe, DN16 3LG
- North Lincolnshire Council Civic Centre, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe, DN16 1AB

4.35 The SoCC was also made available to view on the project website from Monday 3 December 2018.

Compliance with SoCC

4.36 Section 47(7) requires that the applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement. Summary of how the formal consultation was carried out in accordance with the published SoCC is set out below.

Table 4.2: Applicant's Compliance with the SoCC

Commitment Made in SoCC	Applicant's compliance with SoCC
<p>INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd is committed to ensuring that local communities, residents, businesses and key stakeholders have the opportunity to fully understand the proposal and comment on its proposals. A zoned approach to consultation was proposed, namely primary consultation Zone and wider consultation zone.</p> <p>The statutory minimum timeframe for consultation is 28 days. INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd chose to carry out a 91 day consultation period starting on 3 December 2018 and formally closing on 4 March 2019 with the consultation material providing information over the development area, development description, duration and SOCC</p>	<p>The SoCC was developed in consultation and with the agreement of North Lincolnshire Council. The applicant commenced formal consultation on 3 December and this ran until 4 March 2019.</p>
<p>Requirement to carry out an EIA and prepare an ES to be submitted as part of the DCO application.</p>	<p>The applicant has carried out an EIA and an Environmental Statement forms part of the DCO. Information from the ES, and how the environmental assessments were shaped as a result of consultation is</p>

	<p>discussed in detail in the Environmental Statement and summarised in this report.</p>
<p>To carry out consultation as described in the SoCC</p>	<p>The applicant carried out the formal consultation as prescribed in the SoCC, this included: -</p> <p>All consultation documents were available to view and download on the project website.</p> <p>Hard copies of the consultation material, which included the PEIR, were made available for inspection at three local libraries and the Civic Centre.</p> <p>The applicant presented to Appleby parish Council and Broughton Parish Council on the 8 January and 28 January 2028 respectively</p> <p>Public exhibition was held at three separate venues as detailed in the SoCC</p> <p>Newsletter was circulated to all Royal Mail registered address points located within the primary Consultation Zone.</p> <p>Additional copies of the newsletter were deposited with parish Councils and at local libraries. The wider consultation zone were duly notified by advert in the local press which also announced the dates and venues of the public exhibitions.</p> <p>The applicant issued a press-release to highlights the formal consultation process.</p>

To consult with identified bodies	The applicant consulted with all bodies listed in the SoCC.
Development limits	The maximum development limits of the DCO application is the same as that shown in the consultation materials. The proposed traffic construction route as detailed in the SoCC is the same as contained in the DCO application.
To make methods available by which community and consultees could submit comments	<p>The applicant ensured that comments were able to be submitted by the following methods: -</p> <p>Email to info@littlecrowsolar.co.uk</p> <p>In writing, C/O Pegasus Group</p> <p>By phone: 01454 625 945</p> <p>Via the website: www.littlecrowsolar.co.uk</p> <p>Twitter: @littlecrowsolar</p>
Consideration to all feedback received	The applicant has noted and considered all comments received during the formal consultation period.
Consultation Reporting	The applicant has prepared and submitted this Consultation Report in accordance with Section 37(3) and (7) of the 2008 Act.
Need to reconsult	The SoCC identified that if the project changed then it would be necessary to carry out further consultation. The overall project remains materially the same as that presented during the formal consultation.

	Accordingly, the applicant hasn't carried out any further formal consultation.
Timelines	The SoCC identified how the application may be submitted in 2019. This was not achieved, and applicant has kept North Lincolnshire Council, Parish Councils and landowners updated on progress.

5. STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTIONS 42, 43, 44 & 47 OF THE 2008 ACT

5.1 This chapter details the statutory consultation undertaken in line with the adopted SoCC. This includes: -

- A single and continuous formal consultation phase starting from Monday 3 December until 5pm on Monday 4 March 2019. As part of this single phase of consultation, the applicant duly consulted with the local community (which started on 3 December 2018); local authorities (which started on 15 January 2019); prescribed consultees (which started on 15 January 2019); and other stakeholders and those with land interest within the site (which started on 15 January 2019).
- With regards to duty to consult local community, the applicant held three community consultation events between Tuesday 11 December 2018 and Monday 17th December 2018.
- The Applicant maintained ongoing consultation with local stakeholders, near neighbours, residents and elected members between Monday 3 December until 5pm on Monday 4 March 2019. Consultation continued with local stakeholders until the point of application submission.

5.2 The statutory minimum timeframe for consultation is 28 days. INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd chose to carry out a 91 day consultation period starting on 3 December 2018 and formally closing on 4 March 2019. This prolonged consultation phase ensured that all those consulted during the consultation phase, had appropriate and sufficient time to consider and respond as per legislative requirements.

5.3 This chapter is supported by the following appendices: -

- **Appendix 5.1** Little Crow Newsletter
- **Appendix 5.2** Little Crow Exhibition Display Boards
- **Appendix 5.3** Little Crow Feedback Form
- **Appendix 5.4** Copy of Section 44 Consultation Letter
- **Appendix 5.5** Copy of Section 43 Consultation Letter

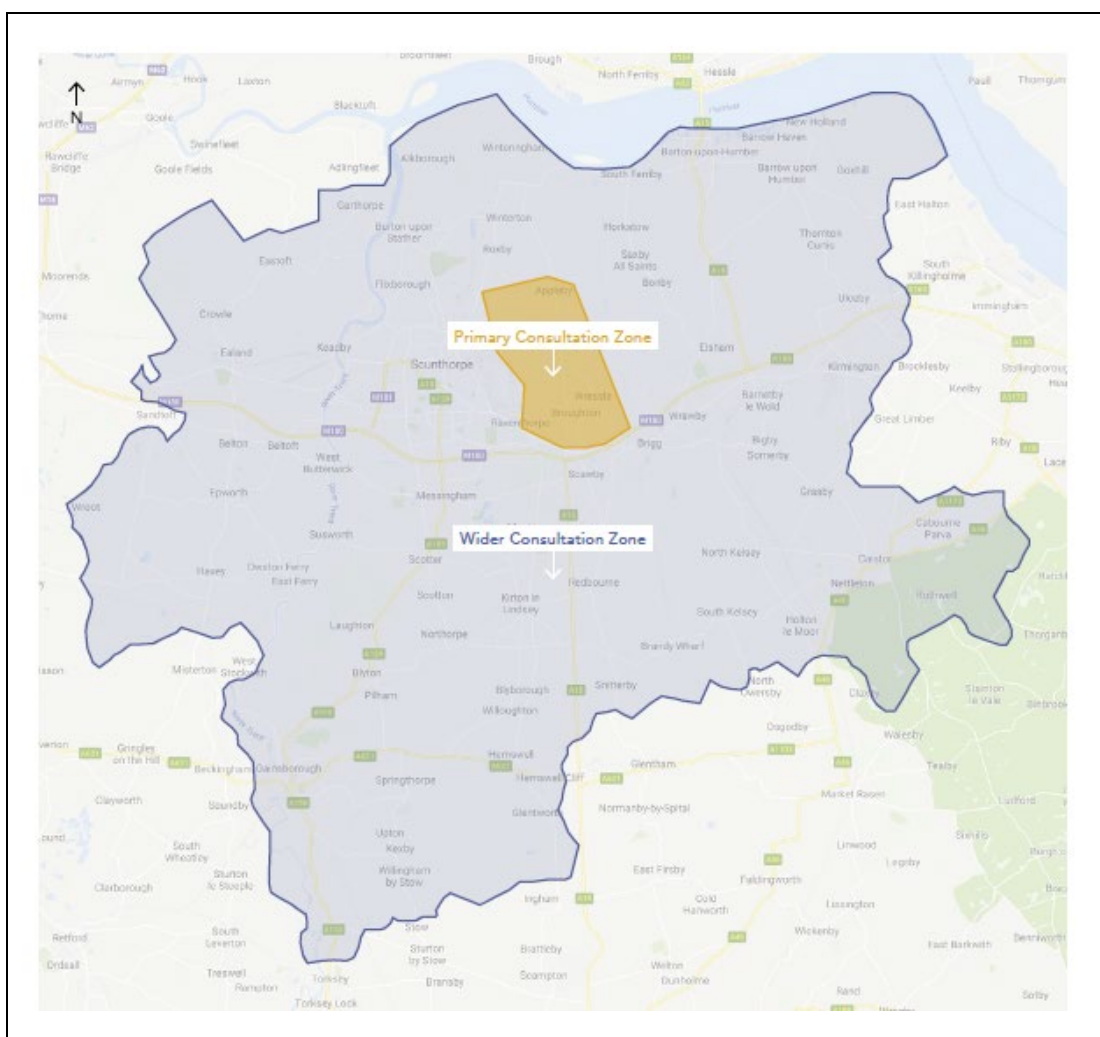
- **Appendix 5.6** Copy of consultee Consultation Letter
- **Appendix 5.7** Appleby Parish Council Minutes
- **Appendix 5.8** Broughton Parish Council Minutes

SECTION 47 DUTY TO CONSULT LOCAL COMMUNITY

5.4 Section 47(1) of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult on the proposed application with people living in 'vicinity' of the land to which the Development relates. This is duly detailed in the SoCC.

Community Consultation Area

5.5 To summarise, a primary consultation zone and a wider consultation zone was established in the approved SoCC. These are differentiated below.



- 5.6 The Primary consultation zone was determined by the location of nearby residents who could be affected by both the build and operational phase of the development. This was presented in the draft SoCC and duly agreed by the North Lincolnshire Council. For the primary consultation zone, the polygon includes 2,588 address points and covers the villages of Broughton, Wressle, Santon, Appleby, High Risby and Low Risby. The size of the area is approximately 3,100 hectares.
- 5.7 The wider consultation zone reflects the main distribution area of the Scunthorpe Telegraph. In addition to the Notice (appendix 4.11) a general advert was placed in the Scunthorpe Telegraph from 29 November 2018 (for two weeks) promoting the consultation and exhibitions.
- 5.8 The following consultation activities took place within the primary consultation zone: -
- Direct mailing of the Little Crow Newsletter (Appendix 5.1) to 2,588 properties and local businesses.
 - Displaying hard copies of the development information at 3 locations
 - Displaying all consultation materials on the project website
 - Placing site notices (erected on Monday 3 December 2018)
 - Providing consultation updates via the project website and twitter
 - Holding ongoing stakeholder meetings
- 5.9 Throughout the wider consultation zone, the following activities took place:
- Displaying hard copies of the development information at 1 additional location
 - Advertise across media channels covering the primary and wider consultation area
 - Engage with wider Lincolnshire media as well as national media through press release.
 - Holding stakeholder meetings throughout the wider consultation area

- Using online and social media techniques, dedicated project website and twitter account.

5.10 On Monday 3rd December 2018, the consultation newsletter (Appendix 5.1) was distributed to all 2588 address points within the primary consultation zone.


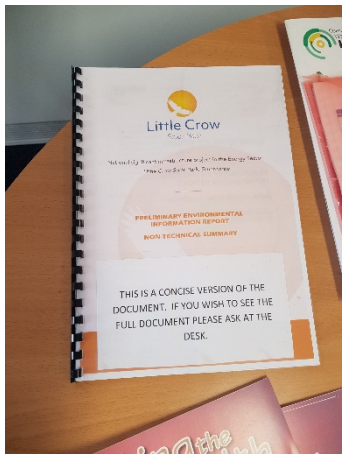

APPENDIX 5.1 – CONSULTATION NEWSLETTER


5.11 The newsletter provided details covering the publication of the SoCC, development description including the need for a temporary diversion to the Public Right of way, details of the local exhibitions, proposed site layout, confirmation that development would be supported by an Environmental Statement; and the locations where hard copies of the documents could be viewed in the locality.

5.12 On Monday 3rd December 2018, the consultation documentation was deposited at four locations. The applicant regularly visited these four locations between Monday 3 December 2018 and 4 March 2019 to ensure that the documentation was complete and remained available for inspection.

Deposit Locations	Documentation available for inspection
Scunthorpe Central Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Crow PEIR Main Statement • Little Crow PEIR Technical Appendices • Little Crow PEIR NTS • Little Crow Newsletter • Little Crow Statement of Community Consultation • Little Crow Section 48 Notice • Little Crow Draft Development Consent Order • Little Crow Layout Drawings
Park Library	
Bottesford Library	
North Lincolnshire Council Civic Centre	

5.13 Photographs showing the consultation pack deposited at local venues is provided below.

	<p>Park Library</p> <p>Photograph showing the consultation pack deposited at the library's information desk.</p>
	<p>For Bottesford library, as space within the library was limited, the librarian only displayed the PEIR NTS and other documents were made available upon request.</p>
	<p>Civic Centre</p> <p>Documentation on display at ground floor of the Civic Centre for public viewing.</p>

	<p>Central Library</p> <p>Photograph showing the consultation pack deposited at the library's information desk.</p>
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5.14 From Monday 3rd December 2018, all deposited materials were made available to view and download on the project website. All documents were made available during the entire consultation period.

Community Consultation Events

5.15 Three community consultation events between Tuesday 11th December 2018 and Monday 17th December 2018.

Event Details	Attendees
Tuesday 11th December 2018, 2.30pm – 7.00pm: Appleby Village Hall, School Lane,	23
Wednesday 12th December 2018, 2.30pm – 7.00pm: Scunthorpe Civic Centre, Ashby Road,	2
Monday 17th December 2018, 2.30pm – 7.00pm: Broughton Village Hall, 59 High Street,	16

5.16 The following project information was available at the events or to take away: -

<p>Documents available at all exhibitions</p>	<p>Location of document if presented in the accompanying</p>
--	---

	Consultation report Technical appendices
Little Crow SoCC (paper copies available to take away)	Appendix 4.9
Little Crow Consultation Newsletter (copies available to take away)	Appendix 5.1
Little Crow exhibition display boards	Appendix 5.2
Little Crow PEIR Main Statement	Not appended – copy can be provided upon request
Little Crow PEIR Technical Appendices	Not appended – copy can be provided upon request
Little Crow PEIR NTS (braille copy also available)	Not provided.
Little Crow Section 48 Notice	Appendix 4.11
Little Crow Draft Development Consent Order	Not appended – copy can be provided upon request
Little Crow Layout Drawings	Not appended – copy can be provided upon request
Little Crow Feedback Form	Appendix 5.3

5.17 The photographs below show the exhibition's set up at Scunthorpe Civic Centre: -



5.18 In total, ten feedback form were completed in response to the formal consultation phase. These are discussed at Section 6 of this report.

SECTION 44 - CONSULTATION WITH THOSE WITH LAND INTEREST

5.19 Turning to those with an interest in the land, under section 44, the consultation letters were issued to the following on 15 January 2019:

Section 44
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
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<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

5.20 The letter (appendix 5.4) provided information regarding development description; details where the consultation material could be viewed both electronically and at local venues; how representations could be made and the deadline for providing those representations. The letter was supported by two enclosures, namely the site location plan and notice.

APPENDIX 5.4 – COPY OF SECTION 44 LETTER

SECTION 43 – CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

5.21 The following local authorities being consulted on 15 January 2019: -

Section 43
North Lincolnshire Council
West Lindsey District Council
Selby District Council
Doncaster Council
Bassetlaw District Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Kingston upon Hull City Council

North East Lincolnshire Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Lincolnshire County Council

5.22 All authorities received letters (Appendix 5.5) enclosed with the following information: -

- A paper copy of a notice pursuant to Section 48 of the 2008 Act and Regulation 13 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009;
- A 'Little Crow' branded USB stick containing:

Preliminary Environmental Information Report & technical appendices;

Non-Technical Summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Statement of Community Consultation

Site Location Plan

Layout drawings; and

Section 48 Notice.

APPENDIX 5.5 – COPY OF SECTION 43 LETTER

Prescribed Consultees

5.23 The following tables contains a full list of the prescribed consultees that were all consulted. The consultation packs were issued either on 15 January 2019 or 26 January 2019. This approach allowed for due diligent to be carried out to ensure that all consultees were captured and duly consulted within the statutory consultation timeframe.

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms & Procedure) Regulations 2009	Date consulted
--	-----------------------

Historic England	15 January 2019
Humberside Fire and Rescue	15 January 2019
Humber Emergency Planning Service	15 January 2019
Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner	15 January 2019
North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group	15 January 2019
Appleby Parish Council	15 January 2019
Bassetlaw District Council	15 January 2019
Broughton Town Council	15 January 2019
The Environment Agency	15 January 2019
The Equality and Human Rights Commission	15 January 2019
Homes England	15 January 2019
The Joint Nature Conservation Committee	15 January 2019
The Civil Aviation Authority	15 January 2019
Highways England	15 January 2019
Integrated Transport Authorities (ITAs) and Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs)	15 January 2019
Stagecoach	15 January 2019
TransPennine Express	15 January 2019

Doncaster Sheffield Airport	15 January 2019
Humberside Airport	15 January 2019
North Lincolnshire Highways Authority	15 January 2019
The Coal Authority	15 January 2019
Transport for the North	15 January 2019
Ofgem	15 January 2019
Ofwat	15 January 2019
Severn Trent Water	15 January 2019
Shire Internal Drainage Board	15 January 2019
Northern Power Grid	15 January 2019
Anglian Water	15 January 2019
BT Openreach	15 January 2019
Cadent Gas Ltd	15 January 2019
The Secretary of State for Transport	15 January 2019
NATS	15 January 2019
The Forestry Commission	15 January 2019
Health and Safety Executive	26 January 2019
NHS England	26 January 2019

The Office of Rail and Road	26 January 2019
Public Health England	26 January 2019
The Crown Estate	26 January 2019
Ministry of Defence	26 January 2019
Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	26 January 2019
Royal Mail Group	26 January 2019
Energetics Gas Ltd	26 January 2019
Energy Assets Pipelines Ltd	26 January 2019
ESP Connections Ltd	26 January 2019
ES Pipelines Ltd	26 January 2019
ESP Networks Ltd	26 January 2019
ESP Pipelines Ltd	26 January 2019
Fulcrum Pipelines Ltd	26 January 2019
GTC Pipelines Ltd	26 January 2019
Independent Pipelines Ltd	26 January 2019
Indigo Pipelines Ltd	26 January 2019
Murphy Gas Networks Ltd	26 January 2019
Quadrant Pipelines Ltd	26 January 2019

National Grid Gas Plc	26 January 2019
Scotland Gas Network Plc	26 January 2019
Southern Gas Networks Plc	26 January 2019
Eclipse Power Network Ltd	26 January 2019
Energetics Electricity Ltd	26 January 2019
Fulcrum Electricity Assets Ltd	26 January 2019
Independent Power Networks Ltd	26 January 2019
Leep Electricity Networks Ltd	26 January 2019
Murphy Power Distribution	26 January 2019
The Electricity Network Company Ltd	26 January 2019
UK Power Distribution Ltd	26 January 2019
Utility Assets Ltd	26 January 2019
Vattenfall Networks Ltd	26 January 2019
Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc	26 January 2019
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	26 January 2019

5.24 All consultees received letters (Appendix 5.6) enclosed with the following information:-

- A paper copy of a notice pursuant to Section 48 of the 2008 Act and Regulation 13 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009;
- A 'Little Crow' branded USB stick containing:

Preliminary Environmental Information Report & technical appendices;

Non-Technical Summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Statement of Community Consultation

Site Location Plan

Layout drawings; and

Section 48 Notice.

APPENDIX 5.6 – COPY OF LETTER TO CONSULTEES

5.25 On Tuesday 8th January 2019, the applicant presented the latest scheme to Appleby Parish Council. Copy of the minutes is provided at Appendix 5.7 and parish was in support of development.

APPENDIX 5.7 - APPLEBY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

5.26 On Monday 28th January 2019, the applicant presented the latest scheme to Broughton Parish Council. Copy of the minutes is provided at Appendix 5.8. The parish council was duly in support of the development proposal.

APPENDIX 5.8 – BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

5.27 Other interested key stakeholders that were consulted on the 15 January 2019, and received the same package of information as those provided for consultees included: -

Other Interested Parties
Campaign to Protect Rural England
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
Andrew Percy MP
Nic Dakin MP
North Lincolnshire Council Environmental Health
North Lincolnshire Council Environmental Health (Contaminated Land)
North Lincolnshire Local Flood Authority
The Mayor of North Lincolnshire
Design Council

6. STATUTORY CONSULTATION, RESPONSES RECEIVED, ISSUED RAISED AND CHANGES MADE

6.1 This chapter of the Consultation Report sets out how the Applicant has complied with its duty under Section 49 of the 2008 Act to take account of consultation responses received under Section 47 of the 2008 Act.

6.2 In total, only 42 respondents provided comments during the formal consultation period between Monday 3 December 2018 and 4 March 2019. Due to the relative limited number of responses, these can be discussed in turn through this chapter.

6.3 The applicant received: -

- Ten completed feedback forms;
- Five community respondents provide comments via letters, emails or phone calls.
- 27 responses from prescribed consultees, organisations or bodies.

6.4 Ten feedback forms were received during the consultation events and 5 additional respondents provided comments by email, telephone and/or by letter. It is noted that the majority of the comments related to the commitment that the applicant introduced following the informal pre-application consultation namely, ensuring that the construction traffic avoided going through the villages of Broughton and Appleby.

Table 6.1: Community feedback

Source of response	Name	Comment	Regard had to response
Appleby Village Hall Public Exhibition Feedback Form	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Re-proposal has been well thought out. It is well-screened from local residents and makes use of the land well for grazing sheep. Footpaths are retained and will probably even be improved with new planting. A good green beneficial construction. I am pleased to note that the junction on the B1027 for the entrance to the site will be improved and monitored to ensure safety. I am also relieved to note that there will be a well signposted route from the M180 around Broughton, meaning heavy traffic will not pass through residential areas (or indeed Appleby or the north of the farm) In support of development	Observation noted.

<p>Appleby Village Hall Public Exhibition Feedback Form</p>	<p>██████████ ██████ ██████████</p>	<p>In general, the proposed solar park looks like a very useful and positive development.</p> <p>Although it seems likely that the proposed solar panels will be powered from the Far East (i.e. China), it would be more acceptable if the panels will be sourced from a non- totalitarian developing country – always allowing that the (non-Chinese) source can provide panels of acceptable quality and longevity.</p> <p>In support of development.</p>	<p>Applicant notes comments on panel sourcing. The emergence of a global solar supply module chain means that identifying a supply chain is not straightforward. Chinese solar panels manufacturers supply companies all around the world whereby other solar manufacturers source parts from China. China benefited (and continues to benefit) from its huge manufacturing base and low production costs. As with most types of electronics and industrial equipment, China are a cost leader in this industry too.</p>
<p>Appleby Village Hall Public Exhibition Feedback Form</p>	<p>██████████</p>	<p>My main concern is of the countryside management of wildlife. As of the site to the south of the proposed (Raventhorpe) I have witnessed the grey partridges disappear there has been a covey, some year’s two on the Raventhorpe side for 17 year’s. I have been actively controlling predators on there as a game keeper. There also must be a drop in lapwing</p>	<p>Observations noted. Consultation has taken place with numerous local ecological bodies including North Lincolnshire Council, the Local Wildlife Trust and Natural England. All matters relating to ecology and biodiversity were considered common ground within</p>

		<p>numbers as well, but I cannot confirm as I can't get access. I can hear the grey partridge calling in spring in early year's before solar panels. I would be please for you to consult the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust.</p> <p>In support of development</p>	<p>various Draft SoCG agreed with Natural England (Document Ref 9.10 LC OTH); Local Wildlife Trust (Document Ref 9.11 LC OTH) and North Lincolnshire Council (Document Ref 9.4 LC OTH)</p>
<p>Appleby Village Hall Public Exhibition Feedback Form</p>	<p>██████ ██████</p>	<p>Well planned, well documented and very informative. The only issue raised is regarding the traffic movements to install 350k solar panels. This issue is the main concern of all residents I have spoken to.</p> <p>In support of development</p>	<p>Observations noted and applicant has tailored the CTMP to safeguard that construction traffic does not go through the nearby villages.</p>
<p>Broughton Village Hall Public Exhibition Feedback Form</p>	<p>██████ ██████</p>	<p>Very well thought out plans taking into consideration environmental issues. Also, consideration for not taking construction traffic through the villages of Appleby and Broughton during the build stage. Fully supportive and we are immediate neighbours to the proposed site.</p> <p>In support of development</p>	<p>Observations noted</p>

<p>Broughton Village Hall Public Exhibition Feedback Form</p>	<p>██████████ ██████</p>	<p>Looks good. Environmentally friendly. Leaving space for people to walk/cycle etc. observe wildlife.</p> <p>In support of development</p>	<p>Applicant confirms that the existing PRoW will not be diverted.</p>
<p>Broughton Village Hall Public Exhibition Feedback Form</p>	<p>██████████ ██████ ██████████</p>	<p>No comments but indicated that they were in support of development</p>	<p>Support noted.</p>
<p>Broughton Village Hall Public Exhibition Feedback Form</p>	<p>██████████</p>	<p>Overall the proposal looks very good, seems to be a good useful use of the area. The only concern I have is the traffic through the Wressle Road and the cross roads/junction on Ermine Street. The corner is not very good at the moment so this will have to be controlled very carefully.</p> <p>In support of development</p>	<p>Management measures are set out in the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Ref 7.36 LC TA9.2)</p>
<p>Broughton Village Hall Public Exhibition Feedback Form</p>	<p>██████████</p>	<p>Well presented. Little impact on locality. Needed for the environment.</p> <p>In support of development</p>	<p>Applicant notes the identified need for development.</p>

<p>Broughton Village Hall Public Exhibition Feedback Form</p>	<p>██████████</p>	<p>No comments but indicated that they were in support of development</p>	<p>Support noted.</p>
<p>Public enquiry received via project website</p>	<p>██████████</p>	<p>Concern that development of solar panels would result in decrease in mobile phone coverage.</p>	<p>Applicant duly responded advising how they are not aware of any specific link between the quality of mobile phone coverage and the installation of ground mounted solar panels. Applicant recommended that respondent make contact with the local network providers to make them aware of the gap in coverage which may be occurring.</p>
<p>Public response received via phone call</p>	<p>██████████</p>	<p>General enquiries regarding equipment – whether any other renewables would be included and if there would be battery storage. Also requested information regarding alternative renewable energy sources and guidance for suppliers for his personal use. Received 03.01.2019</p>	<p>No specific design comments. Applicant provided respondent with</p>

<p>Public enquiry received via project website</p>	<p>██████████</p>	<p>Enquiring as to what type of energy storage/battery is being considered</p>	<p>Applicant duly responded providing additional information on battery technology.</p>
<p>Public enquiry received via letter and email.</p>	<p>██████████ ██████████</p>	<p>The long-term conservation and enhancement of these woods [West and Manby] is the key objective of our ownership and active management of these woods, and so my queries relate entirely to protecting the woodland for now and for future generations.”</p> <p>The letter sets out several observations and queries relating to the woodland edge and protection of the ancient woodland and individual trees including the following, of relevance to Landscape and Visual matters:</p> <p>What is your tree safety policy?</p> <p>Will a tree protection plan be prepared to protect the woodland edge during the construction phase?</p>	<p>As set out in the Arboricultural Survey, Impact Assessment and Protection Plan (Document Ref 7.15 LC TA4.8), It is considered that the development site’s security fencing, to be erected around the periphery of the development site would act as an effective tree protection barrier if erected before any construction works commence on site.</p> <p>The offset from the majority of the woodland is 10m between the Order Limit and the proposed security fence. This offset from the Order Limit is increased to 15m adjacent to the ancient woodland.</p> <p>The proposed panels would be located typically 5m beyond the security fencing and therefore 10m is considered to be a</p>

		<p>The buffer is noted as being 15m – will there be potential to increase this buffer to offer enhanced protection of the ancient woodland?</p> <p>Environmental Mitigation and Buffering</p> <p>It would be useful to receive copies of environmental monitoring records so that I might take account of species and adjacent to the woodland and perhaps adjust my own management prescriptions to the benefit of the species (where they are associated with woodland).</p>	<p>sufficient minimum offset from general areas of woodland increasing to 15m adjacent to the ancient woodland.</p>
<p>Public enquiry received via letter and email.</p>	<p>██████████</p>	<p>Can you please tell me what has happened with the rights of way / Public access where the main proposed access is planned to be? (B1208 meets B1207)</p> <p>There was a sign and map at the entrance outlining rights of ways one being up the lane and across the fields from the wood side prior to the slope from there to the left across the other Public Footpath?</p>	<p>The applicant duly advised the respondent that: -</p> <p>(i) PRowS would only be temporary diverted during construction and demolition period.</p> <p>(ii) discussion with regards to community benefits has been carried out directly with North Lincolnshire Council. INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd have put in place a fund</p>

		<p>I have seen this many times previously whilst out running but now it is missing and there is NO mention to this/these rights of way in your plans?</p> <p>So how will local Broughton Community Organisations benefit directly from this project without having to go through numerous amounts of red tape? You say considerable, what figure is considerable?</p> <p>Wildlife:</p> <p>Whilst out in the area I have witnessed no end of deer (muntjac / roe) on the land you are proposing to develop - they will lose this area for their grazing? You state it will be enclosed and grazed by sheep - this will NOT benefit the deer in the area, they will be driven away?</p> <p>Can you forward your bird surveys which you have conducted, does this include all the Birds of prey in the area? Buzzards, Sparrow Hawks etc</p>	<p>of £250,000.00 which North Lincolnshire Council have agreed to administer for distribution to the community. In terms of mechanisms, a representative from each of the three parish councils will be involved in the governance of the fund. The developer contribution will be made upon completion of construction and connection to the grid.</p> <p>(iii) the requested bird surveys are available to view within the PEIR Technical appendices.</p> <p>(iv) deer fencing is proposed around the solar arrays. However, deer can still traverse the order limits via the ecological corridors and open areas that provide unrestricted access to wildlife going through the site.</p>
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		Why has there been no one from the Town invited to be involved on a more permanent basis through out this project?	
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Section 43 Responses – Local Authorities

6.5 Responses from local authorities are identified below.

Table 6.2: Local Authorities Responses

Local Authority	Comments	Regard Had To Response
North Lincolnshire Council	I have taken the opportunity to review the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and the technical appendices submitted to the authority. Technical consultees within the Council have raised matters which will hopefully advise the final production of the Environmental Statement and support you in making a robust submission to the Planning Inspectorate. I have enclosed these consultation responses for your information, please feel free to discuss these matters with the relevant consultee's and do not hesitate to contact me should you require any contact details for specific individuals. I would be grateful if you could keep me copied into any future	The applicant and its consultant team have prepared the application in consultation with the NLC and a draft SoCG (Document Ref 9.4 LC OTH) has now been agreed with NLC with no matters in disagreement.

	<p>correspondence with technical consultees so that I can project manage this scheme and collate formal responses to you in the future.</p> <p>North Lincolnshire Council does not wish to raise any objection to the principle of the proposed scheme at this moment in time. At the examination stage North Lincolnshire Council will produce a Local Impact Report which will need to be agreed by local members at Planning Committee and as such we do reserve the right to raise concerns at a later stage following consideration of the application by committee members.</p> <p>At this stage of pre-application consultation I would like to make the following observations:-</p>	
	<p>Landscape and Visual Impact</p> <p>Having reviewed Chapter 6 of the PEIR I can confirm agreement to the approach to the assessment and mitigation of landscape and visual impacts.</p> <p>The proposal for planting of new hedgerows along the security fences adjacent to the public right of way through the site and the sowing of wildflower seed in the margins between the path</p>	<p>Observations noted.</p> <p>Further information on the delivery of the Landscape proposals is set out in the outline LEMP which confirms the requirements for hedgerow planting and maintenance and the sowing of and maintenance of the wildflower seed in line with the comments.</p>

	<p>and the hedges is supported on the understanding that the hedging would be of mixed native species and that the wildflower seed is of UK origin as set out in the draft Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP).</p> <p>For it to be worthwhile to sow wildflower seed, a nutrient poor soil is required- ideally with a phosphorus index value of less than 1. If such soils are not present at the moment, then remedial works will be required before sowing wildflower seed. This approach has now been put forward in the LEMP, which is welcomed.</p> <p>It should be noted that for the hedgerows and wildflowers along the Public Right of Way to be of lasting benefit, they will require ongoing management. The council's responsibilities in this respect are limited to way-clearance and maintenance of the route only. The landowner or solar farm operator will therefore need to make provision for ongoing management of the hedgerows and wildflowers for the 35-year lifetime of the project. It is understood that this is now proposed in the LEMP and should be secured through the requirements of the DCO.</p>	
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	<p>Ecology and Nature Conservation</p> <p>Having reviewed Chapter 7 of the PEIR and the comments supplied by the council's ecologist I can confirm that the survey methods used and survey effort deployed is appropriate for the site in question.</p> <p>Section 7.5.2 of the PEIR lists ecological and enhancement measures that are generally acceptable and welcomed. However, it is proposed that the grassland will be grazed by sheep. The local authority's experience with other solar farms is that where grazing has been proposed at the application stage, no grazing has actually taken place on the sites once operational. Therefore, alternative measures to maintain habitat quality should be secured should grazing not be forthcoming.</p> <p>Sections 7.6.14 - 7.6.19 set out appropriate mitigation measures to protect woodland and ancient woodland.</p> <p>Sections 7.6.34 and 7.6.35 detail appropriate mitigation measures to conserve arable plants. Sections 7.6.91 - 7.6.96 detail appropriate mitigation measures to conserve badgers.</p>	<p>All matters relating to ecology and biodiversity were considered common ground within the Council. During the informal and formal consultation process the specialist team have liaised closely with the council's ecologist to refine the ecological studies and biodiversity gains, these include: -</p> <p>(i) An arable plant survey was incorporated into the survey programme for June 2018. Opportunities to deliver enhancements for the noted priority butterfly species as part of the scheme designed and management of the operational site were considered and incorporated.</p> <p>(ii) Ensured enhancement measures for priority butterflies were prescribed within the LEMP.</p> <p>(iii) North Lincolnshire Council agreed with Clarkson and Woods Determination of no significant effects (No HRA needed).</p>
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	<p>Sections 7.6.123 - 7.6.129 detail appropriate mitigation measures to conserve farmland birds.</p> <p>Sections 7.6.155- 7.6.157 detail appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures to conserve invertebrates, including priority species of butterfly. Where possible the deployment of sandy and stony substrates would also benefit these species. In particular the grayling butterfly, within Lincolnshire/East Midlands, only exists on the eastern edge of Scunthorpe and could greatly benefit from such habitat.</p> <p>The other mitigation and enhancement measures set out in section 7.6 are considered to be acceptable.</p> <p>The submitted LEMP is considered to adequately address all of the measures set out above. The LEMP will need to be fully implemented for the lifetime of the project to ensure that the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures achieve the desired outcomes.</p>	
	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>A full and comprehensive Heritage Assessment has been completed for the proposed scheme. Assessment works have included. All works</p>

	<p>The council's Historic Environment Record make comments on the content of Chapter 8 of the Draft ES and these comments are set out in the enclosed consultation response.</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation of the site has been commissioned in line with the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), the NPPF and Local Plan policies CS6 and HE9. Several of the agreed surveys have been completed to date (PEIR appendices 8.2, 8.3 & 8.4) and the proposal for the next stage of evaluation comprising trial trenching is in preparation.</p> <p>The results of the completed archaeological evaluation will inform the assessment of the significance of the heritage assets and any direct and indirect impacts of the proposed development; in turn, this assessment will inform any appropriate mitigation measures to conserve relevant assets either in situ or by record, and/or design and layout measures to avoid harm.</p> <p>The results should inform the EIA. Where results are not available within this timescale the LPA would expect that they will be submitted as addenda to the ES for consideration during the determination process.</p>	<p>were undertaken in dialogue with and with agreement from [REDACTED] Historic Environment Officer at NLC.</p> <p>The possible remains of a prehistoric round barrow have been identified within the central area of the Site as cropmarks on aerial photographs. However, there were no upstanding physical remains identified during the Site visit, and no evidence for the feature was identified in the results of the geophysical survey or trial trench evaluation. It is possible that the feature has been incorrectly interpreted or affected/removed by agricultural processes.</p> <p>Mitigation: a cable route moved to avoid potential impact on this feature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The geophysical survey recorded a curvilinear anomaly to the east of the Site and the archaeological evaluation confirmed the presence of a ring ditch at this location.
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	<p>Notwithstanding the above, it is noted that the proposed Solar Farm layout plan includes an Archaeological Exclusion Zone around the site of Gokewell Priory. The proximity of solar farm structures adjacent to this exclusion zone has the potential to affect future geophysical survey of the priory remains within the exclusion zone boundary and this should be revised to avoid future impact.</p>	<p>Mitigation: a no-dig zone within which concrete pads will be utilised has been agreed around this feature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The geophysical survey revealed a linear anomaly in the north-western part of the Site. Subsequent evaluation confirmed this anomaly relates to a substantial north-east/south-west orientated ditch, likely representing a Middle to Late Iron Age field boundary. No evidence for contemporary activity was found in the area. <p>Although of some archaeology potential the impacts of the scheme on this feature are considered to be limited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of the archaeological fieldwalking at the Site show that there is a potential for the recovery of prehistoric artefacts. However, these are not expected to be in situ and would be of limited archaeological significance.
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		<p>It is not considered likely that the scheme will have any impact on the archaeological interest of these artefact scatters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The line of the prehistoric Jurassic Way trackway from Lincoln to Winteringham has been conjectured as passing through the Site. The location of the Site upon the high ground of a natural ridgeway does suggest a suitable location for an early route of movement but its alignment through the Site is conjectural. <p>If remains were to be encountered, they would be of archaeological interest, however the archaeological investigations did not reveal any remains which could potentially be associated with this routeway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ridge and furrow earthworks have been identified within the south of the Site although there were no upstanding remains identified during the Site visit. Some evidence for post-medieval/modern period field
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		<p>boundaries were recorded in the geophysical survey and trial trenching.</p> <p>Such remains have little potential to contribute towards our understanding of medieval and post-medieval farming practices and would comprise non-designated heritage assets of limited, if any, archaeological interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The site of a Cistercian priory is documented as lying beneath the remains of Gokewell Priory Farm, limited upstanding remains of which are visible within the Site. Whilst the later farm buildings reused the architectural fabric of the priory, leaving no original upstanding remains, it is likely that archaeological remains associated with the earlier priory survive within the area of the farm. <p>Mitigation: The area of the medieval Gokewell Priory has been designated as an archaeological exclusion zone and therefore</p>
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		<p>there will be no impacts associated with installation or operation of the arrays.</p> <p>In addition, a programme of archaeological recording will be implemented during the works within the periphery of the archaeological exclusion zone (i.e. around pylons to the east and during cable trench excavations within the south-east corner).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No cut features or deposits of medieval date were identified during the trial trench evaluation and it is considered that the focus of medieval activity falls within the archaeological exclusion zone defined around Gokewell Priory.• Archaeological fieldwalking and trial trenching identified a small amount of 12th to 16th century pottery. This was focussed in the south of the Site, with some directly south of Gokewell Priory.
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		<p>These artefacts are likely to have been dispersed from their original location through centuries of agricultural activity within the Site and are not expected to be of great archaeological interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An area of limestone extraction pits was recorded in the south-eastern part. <p>Such remains are of limited, if any, archaeological interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A heavy anti-aircraft battery has been recorded in documentary sources as being located within the eastern area of the Site. There is no upstanding evidence to identify the location of the asset, although large pieces of concrete seen within the plough soil may be associated with the structure. <p>Archaeological remains associated with the military use of the Site would be unlikely to be of more than local significance, however</p>
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		<p>no remains of this asset were revealed in the trial trench evaluation and it is unlikely that any associated remains survive at this location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aerial photographs and Lidar analysis have identified three possibly archaeological features within the western and south-western area of the Site. The exact nature and date of these features remains uncertain, although their form and location suggest possible medieval enclosures. <p>Whilst such features, if present would most constitute non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest no anomalies of archaeological potential were identified at these locations in the geophysical survey and no remains were recorded in trial trenches excavated at these locations and in their vicinity. As such, it is unlikely that these cropmarks/earthworks represent features of archaeological interest.</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A large curvilinear ditch closely corresponding to a geophysical anomaly was recorded in the north-eastern part of the Site. Although undated, this ditch likely represents the remains of a large enclosure, with potential internal activity in the form of an L-shaped ditch. <p>These features are considered to comprise non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest. Although of some archaeology potential the impacts of the scheme on this feature are considered to be limited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Proposed Development at the Site is not deemed likely to impact on the settings of any designated assets to an extent that it alters the significance of the asset and as such there are no identified designated sensitive receptors in this respect.
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		<p>General Mitigation Measures: in addition to the specific measures set out above archaeological monitoring (watching brief) will be carried out during ground works within sensitive areas in Fields 7 and 10, and during excavation of the swale to the west of the archaeological exclusion zone.</p>
	<p>Land Quality</p> <p>The council's Environmental Health Officer (EHO) has reviewed the submitted Phase I Ground Conditions Desk Study dated 5 November 2018 (Ref 1844 version 5). This report concludes that, due to the non-sensitive nature of the proposed development and the fact that construction activity will be limited within the uppermost 0.5-1.5m of ground level, the risk of contamination is low.</p> <p>However, in order to adequately categorise the risk from specific features, a limited site investigation is recommended, with outline proposals set out in the Desk Study report. The EHO has confirmed agreement to the outlined approach and recommends a Requirement that would secure the necessary</p>	<p>A comprehensive, targeted ground conditions and contamination risk assessment has been undertaken in the context of the proposed scheme. Phased assessment has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study (Final Version issued as Intégrale Report No. 1844, Version 6, August 2019) • Geotechnical and Phase 2 Contamination Investigation. (Report Final Version issued as Intégrale Report No. 1997/02, Version 2, August 2019).

	<p>site investigation. This suggested Requirement is set out in the enclosed consultation response from the council's EHO.</p>	<p>The scope of intrusive investigation was finalised following consultation with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (Contaminated Land Officers at NLC).</p>
	<p>Operational Noise</p> <p>The submitted information does not make reference to the impact of noise during the construction or operational phase on human receptors. The council's EHO has discussed the outline of a noise impact assessment with Clement Acoustics; however no report has been submitted as part of the PEIR. The council cannot provide further comments in respect of noise until such time as this report has been received.</p>	<p>A noise impact assessments supports the submission (Document Ref 7.16 LC TA4.9). The assessment was prepared in consultation with the EHO.</p>
	<p>Construction and Decommissioning</p> <p>To prevent local residents and other sensitive receptors being affected during the construction of the proposed development the LPA would recommend the inclusion of Requirements to secure an appropriate Construction Environmental</p>	<p>An outline CEMP (Document Ref 7.8 LC TA4.1) is included as part of the application submission which controls the working hours during the construction and decommissioning phases.</p>

	<p>Management Plan (CEMP) and to control the working hours during the construction and decommissioning phases.</p>	
	<p>Highway Safety</p> <p>The council's Highways team has reviewed Chapter 9 of the PEIR and the submitted Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and has raised no objections to the proposed development.</p> <p>It is anticipated that traffic generated during the operational phase of the development will be relatively minor. There will be an impact on the highway network during the construction phase of the development, but this will be temporary in nature.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above the construction of the solar park will result in an anticipated 2,062 deliveries to the site (4,124 two-way movements) the council would expect to see before and after condition surveys of the B1208, with a commitment to making good any damage included within the CTMP.</p>	<p>The application is supported by an outline CTMP (Document Ref 7.36 LC TA9.2) which sets out a commitment towards a pre & post construction works conditions survey and a commitment to making good any damage caused by the development.</p>
	<p>Drainage</p>	<p>Observations noted. Management of the watercourses with the Order Limits would be</p>

	<p>Having reviewed the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy and taking advice from the council's drainage officers I can confirm that the scope and detail of the report is acceptable. Notwithstanding this, it is important that the developer ensures that all watercourses within the development site are maintained throughout the lifetime of the development in accordance with their riparian responsibilities.</p>	<p>managed during the operational lifetime of the development.</p>
	<p>Cumulative Impact</p> <p>With respect to proposals which are not currently in existence and may need to be taken into account as part of a cumulative impacts assessment the only major scheme that I am aware of which may have the potential to have cumulative environmental impacts is PA/2018/1316, a pending application for the retention of an existing wellsite for long-term hydrocarbon production at Lodge Farm, Clapp Gate, Appleby.</p> <p>The council does maintain an up-to-date weekly list of submitted planning applications on its website and we would be able to carry out a search of recent planning approvals and pending planning applications within a specified Zone of Influence should this be required.</p>	<p>Applicant liaised with NLC to establish a list of cumulative developments before the ES was finalised.</p>

	Further to the above, North Lincolnshire Council would be happy to comment on draft requirements when they are available.	Noted. A copy of the draft requirements was provided as part of the PEIR and this comment is repeated from the informal pre-app advice.
West Lindsey Council	Thank you for the above consultation. West Lindsey District Council has no comments to make.	Observations noted.
Hull City Council	<p>I write in response to your written request received on 29th January 2019 for Hull City Council’s consideration, as statutory consultee under Section 42(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.</p> <p>Having reviewed the accompanying Preliminary Environmental Information Report, plans and drawings, and Statement of Community Consultation, the only comments I have to submit at this stage are as follows:</p> <p>The proposed development aligns with the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership’s Clean Energy ambition as set out in its Blueprint for an Industrial Strategy, and has the potential to contribute to aspirations to cement the Humber’s position as the UK’s energy estuary, building upon the sub-region’s</p>	Observations noted and applicant duly acknowledges how development aligns with the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership’s Clean Energy ambition and has the potential to contribute to aspirations to cement the Humber’s position as the UK’s energy estuary, building upon the sub-region’s prominent role in the shift to decarbonise national energy production.

	<p>prominent role in the shift to decarbonise national energy production.</p> <p>The project would augment substantial investment in off-shore wind, biomass, and energy from waste development around the Humber, and deliver additional generation and storage infrastructure in an area accommodating a number of energy intensive industrial sectors.</p>	
<p>North East Lincolnshire Council</p>	<p>I am writing following receipt of your recent planning enquiry relating to the above development.</p> <p>Having reviewed the details submitted and considered the location of the proposal in relation to this Authority and the extent of development proposed I can confirm that there are no principle objections raised to the proposal.</p> <p>I have consulted with the Highways Officer who have provided the following comments:</p> <p>The largest vehicle movements associated with the development will be during the 11 month construction period, however based on the details provided to date, during the</p>	<p>Applicant duly acknowledge how NELC have no principle objections to development.</p>

	<p>construction phase these movements are unlikely to be considered severe for the North East Lincolnshire area.</p> <p>North East Lincolnshire Council would welcome the opportunity to consult on the full planning application when it is submitted to ensure no details have changed.</p> <p>We trust this is of assistance. Please note that these are initial observations based on the information available at the present time; these observations may be subject to review at a later date. These opinions are expressed as an officer of North East Lincolnshire Highways, which will not prejudice the decision of the Local Planning Authority should a formal application be submitted.</p>	
Doncaster MBC	No comments to make, recommend that applicant consult with Doncaster Sheffield Airport.	The applicant duly consulted with Doncaster Sheffield Airport.
Nottinghamshire County Council	NCC advised via telephone call that they won't be providing a consultee response.	-

6.6 The comments provided by prescribed consultees and other bodies and organisations are identified below. These comments were provided as part of the final consultation response. It is noted that specialist discussions have also taken place with consultees

outside the formal consultation window and these are detailed in the relevant topic specific chapters of the Environmental Statement (Document Refs 6.0 LC ES to 6.11 LC ES CH11) and other technical documentation.

Body / organisation	Comments	Regard had to response
The Coal Authority	<p>I have checked the site location plan against our coal mining information and can confirm that the proposed development site is located outside of the defined coalfield.</p> <p>The Coal Authority therefore has no comments or observations to make on this proposal.</p> <p>In the spirit of efficiency of resources and proportionality, it will not be necessary for you to consult the Coal Authority at any future stages of the Project. This letter can be used as evidence for the legal and procedural consultation requirements.</p>	No response required.
Mayor of North Lincolnshire	Confirmed receipt. As a civic mayor this does not concern him	Observations noted.
Ofgem	Thank you for your letter of 18 January addressed to Ofgem's Policy Team. The letter is receiving attention.	Holding email issued but no formal response provided during consultation window.

Equality and Human Rights Commission	Does not respond to all consultations, provides links to Business Plan and Technical Guidance	Observations noted.
Shire Internal Drainage Board	<p>The proposed site falls outside Internal Drainage Board Drainage Districts but surface water drainage from the site will eventually fall either to the west; into the Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board (IDB) Drainage District, or east; into the Ancholme IDB Drainage District.</p> <p>For both drainage routes surface water enters Main River which is the responsibility of the Environment Agency; to the west it will be directed to Bottesford Beck, to the east it will be directed through Broughton and Wressle and into Ella and Moor Beck.</p>	Observations noted and consultation has taken place with the Environment Agency.
CPRE	Confirmed over the phone they would not be formally responding.	Observations noted.
Eclipse Power Networks	Offering commercial services – grid connection works	Observations noted.
ESP Utilities	Thank you for your recent plant enquiry at: Little Crow Solar Park, east of British Steel Works, Scunthorpe.	Observations noted.

	<p>I can confirm that ESP Utilities Group Ltd has no gas or electricity apparatus in the vicinity of this site address and will not be affected by your proposed works.</p> <p>ESP Utilities Group Ltd are continually laying new gas and electricity networks and this notification is valid for 90 days from the date of this letter. If your proposed works start after this period of time, please re-submit your enquiry.</p> <p>Important Notice</p> <p>Please be advised that any enquiries for ESP Connections Ltd, formerly known as British Gas Connections Ltd, should be sent directly to us at the address shown above or alternatively you can email us at: PlantResponses@espug.com</p>	
<p>NATS</p>	<p>NATS does not anticipate any impact on its infrastructure from the proposal and has no comments to make. It will however respond to any formal consultation from PINS on the DCO when this is received.</p>	<p>Observations noted.</p>

	Please update the contact details you have for NATS as per the information below, and note our preference to receive consultation/requests electronically.	
Humberside Fire & Rescue	<p>It is required to provide adequate access for fire fighting. The route and hardstanding should be constructed to provide a minimum carrying capacity of 24 tonnes.</p> <p>Adequate provision of water supplies for fire fighting appropriate to the proposed risk should be considered.</p>	The existing access provision will be upgraded. Passing bays will also be introduced along the access track and would be appropriate to accommodate HGV and fire fighting vehicles alike. A localised water mains runs within the order limits, running parallel with the access track, and provides provision of water supplies should it be necessary.
Anglian Water	<p>Anglian Water would like further discussions with INRG prior to the submission of the Draft DCO.</p> <p>Also attached is a map identifying the major asset affected, a 21 inch iron water main.</p>	The applicant has carried out further discussion with Anglian Waters and both parties are working towards an agreement on a draft SoCG (Document Ref 9.5 LC OTH) and this includes an agreement over the buffer zone required for the water mains that traverse part of the order limits.

<p>Health and Safety Executive</p>	<p>According to the HSE's records there are no major accident hazard sites or major accidents hazard pipelines within the proposed DCO application boundary. Of the proposed Little Crow Solar Farm for this nationally significant infrastructure project. HSE would therefore not advise against the current proposal.</p> <p>Hazardous Substance Consent would be required to store or use any of the Named hazardous Substances or categories of Substances at or above controlled quantities set out in schedule 1 of these regulations; substances may be present in batteries.</p> <p>Explosive sites – HSE has no comments to make, as there are no licensed explosive sites in the vicinity.</p> <p>Electrical safety – no comments from a planning perspective</p>	<p>Observations noted. The applicant drafted a SoCG and this was issued to HSE on 14 May 2019. HSE subsequently advised on 15 May 2019 that since they have no issue with the development they do not see the requirement for either a SoCG or a position Statement.</p>
<p>National Grid</p>	<p>Having reviewed the consultation documents, I would like to make the following comments regarding infrastructure within / in close proximity to the proposed order boundary:</p> <p>Electricity Transmission</p>	<p>Observation noted.</p>

	<p>National Grid Electricity Transmission has no assets within or in close proximity to the proposed order limits.</p> <p>Gas Transmission</p> <p>National Grid Gas has no gas transmission apparatus located within or in close proximity to the proposed order limits.</p>	
<p>Historic England</p>	<p>Thank you for your letter received by us 21st January 2019 and the attached USB stick containing the PEIR, Location and Layout Drawings etc.</p> <p>I am responding on behalf of Historic England the Government's Advisor on the Historic Environment. Further to our functions as advisor on the historic environment we offer the following advice, having examined the consultation material our position remains expressed in our pre-application advice letter dated 21 September 2018:</p> <p>"Thank you for consulting us on this proposal for a c.200ha site at Little Crow, Santon, to the east of Scunthorpe as a solar array and battery storage facility which will be submitted as a Nationally Important Infrastructure Project. Key heritage assets in the area include the non-designated nunnery at Gokewell Farm, a site</p>	<p>Historic England's response to Statutory Consultation dated 4 March 2019 essentially repeats comments made in response of September 2018.</p> <p>The applicant and its consultant team have prepared the application in consultation with Historic England and a draft SoCG (Document Ref 9.8 LC OTH) has now been agreed with no matters in disagreement.</p>

	<p>potentially of national importance depending upon the degree of below ground survival. Whilst the nuns were obedient to the rule as practiced at Cisteaux actual life in individual nunneries was complex and remains poorly understood, their physical structures can be less well funded and more irregular in form than those of comparable male religious houses. It appears from your material that the scheme as proposed avoids the site of the Nunnery and this thus appears a proportionate response provided this balance survives scheme modifications or further discoveries. On the basis of the work done to date (and in the expectation of your on-going positive dialogue with the Local Authority Archaeologist Ms Alison Williams) Historic England anticipates making no objection to the grant of a Development Consent Order for this scheme on heritage grounds. The installation will inevitably have some negative impact upon the significance of the aforementioned heritage asset in terms of its rural landscape setting, however if the scheme as a whole delivers the monument's physical preservation from ongoing cultivation damage then in this specific instance it appears proportionate, provided the case for public benefit can be made."</p>	
<p>Natural England</p>	<p>Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved,</p>	<p>All matters relating to ecology and biodiversity were considered common ground within the Natural England.</p>

	<p>enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.</p> <p>1. We understand that you are consulting us in line with paragraph 67 of the Planning Act 2008 Guidance on pre-application consultation, and that further consultation may be required in line with paragraph 85, particularly if/when the draft Environmental Statement has been prepared. We also appreciate that this consultation under S42 of the Planning Act 2008 also encompasses consultation on the preliminary environmental information, and that some overlap exists between these various requirements. Natural England welcomes both formal and informal pre application consultation and refers you to our annex C to the NID advice note 11.</p> <p>2. The Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note 11, Annex C ‘Working with Public Bodies in the NSIP process’ sets out in detail the legislative basis and scope of Natural England’s role as the Government’s advisory body on developments affecting nationally designated wildlife and geological conservation sites, and nationally protected landscapes. Annex C describes the need for environmental impact assessment, habitat regulations assessment and species licensing and the statutory requirement for</p>	<p>During the informal and formal consultation process the specialist team have liaised closely with Natural England to refine the ecological studies and biodiversity gains. Natural England is duly satisfied with the baseline information in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned.</p>
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	<p>consultation by the developer under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 on these matters. The Advice Note also describes the importance of early engagement as an opportunity to identify and resolve issues that may otherwise delay the approval of the project or that may reduce effort for all parties during the examination stages of the NSIP.</p> <p>http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-11-Annex-C-Natural-England.pdf</p> <p>3. Natural England often provides written representations and attends NSIP hearings. Our experience of the NSIP process is that development proposals with potentially serious impacts can often be resolved if both ourselves and the developer invest time early on in the pre-application phase to understand each other's' concerns. This allows discussion of potential impacts and how they might be reduced through mitigation measures, or collection of further evidence which may allay the concerns. We also support the development of Evidence Plans in appropriate cases, which can give a developer more certainty up front about what environmental evidence it will need to collect to ensure that environmental impacts are considered properly.</p>	
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	<p>4. Natural England welcomes the opportunities for early engagement pursued by the applicant for this project and is particularly grateful to have been given the opportunity to comment on a draft of the Environmental Statement Chapter 7 Ecology and Nature Conservation, Baseline Conditions Report: Extended Phase 1, Interim Bat Survey Report, Breeding Bird Surveys and Wintering Bird Survey reports in your August 2018 consultation through our Discretionary Advice Service.</p> <p>5. Natural England welcomes the Preliminary Environmental Information provided for the Little Crow Solar Park and has the following comments to make.</p> <p>5.1 Designated Sites and habitats</p> <p>5.2 Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) Ramsar and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p> <p>Natural England notes that the proposal lies around 9km from the Humber Estuary SAC, Ramsar and SSSI and 11km from the Humber Estuary SPA. European sites are afforded protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as</p>	
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	<p>amended (the 'Habitats Regulations'). SSSIs are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.</p> <p>In considering the European site interest, Natural England advises that the competent authority, under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations, should have regard for any potential impacts that a plan or project may have¹.</p> <p>Natural England is satisfied with the conclusions reached in paras 7.4.4 to 7.4.6 of the Preliminary Environmental Information (Vol1) that the proposal is unlikely to have any direct impacts on the Humber Estuary designated sites and that the proposal site is not likely to be functionally linked to the designated site for mobile species which are qualifying features of the designations.</p> <p>5.3 Broughton Far Wood SSSI</p> <p>Natural England notes that the proposal site lies 820m from Broughton Far Wood SSSI which is notified for its woodland and grassland habitats and that the B1208 access route lies adjacent to the SSSI.</p>	
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	<p>Natural England is satisfied with the assessment of Broughton Far Wood SSSI and welcomes the mitigation measures set out in section 7.6 of the Preliminary Environmental Information (Vol1).</p> <p>Provided that appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are addressed in the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) we are content the proposed operations are not likely to damage the interest features of Broughton Far Wood SSSI.</p> <p>5.4 Far Wood Ancient Replanted Woodland</p> <p>Natural England notes that the proposal site and access route via B1208 both lie adjacent to land identified as Far Wood Ancient Replanted Woodland on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (for more information see the gov.uk website at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences). Natural England is satisfied that, on the basis of the information provided, that adequate measures will be put in place to protect the neighbouring ancient woodland,</p>	
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	<p>i.e. buffer zones and woodland planting. We are satisfied with the mitigation measures set out in section 7.6 Preliminary Environmental Information (Vol1).</p> <p>5.2 Soils and Agricultural Land Classification</p> <p>Under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (DMPO) Natural England is a statutory consultee on development that would lead to the loss of over 20ha of 'best and most versatile' (BMV) agricultural land (land graded as 1, 2 and 3a in the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system, where this is not in accordance with an approved plan.</p> <p>1 Requirements are set out within Regulations 63 and 64 of the Habitats Regulations, where a series of steps and tests are followed for plans or projects that could potentially affect a European site. The steps and tests set out within Regulations 63 and 64 are commonly referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' process.</p> <p>The Government has produced core guidance for competent authorities and developers to assist with the Habitats Regulations Assessment process. This can be found on the Defra website.</p>	
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	<p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/habitats-review/implementation/process-guidance/guidance/sites/</p> <p>Natural England welcomes para 10.3.10 of the Preliminary Environmental Information (Vol1) which makes it clear that a full soil survey will form part of the final application submission. The final Environmental Statement should provide details of how any adverse impacts on soils can be minimised.</p> <p>From the description of the development this application may impact on 'best and most versatile agricultural land'. We consider that the proposed development will not necessarily lead to significant long term loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, as a resource for future generations. This is because the proposal can be designed in such a way to avoid significant losses, for example the solar panels can be secured to the ground by steel piles with limited soil disturbance and could therefore be removed in the future with no permanent loss of agricultural land quality likely to occur, provided the development is undertaken to high standards.</p>	
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	<p>Although some components of the development, such as construction of a sub-station, may permanently affect agricultural land this would be limited to small areas.</p> <p>However, during the life of the proposed development it is likely that there will be a reduction in agricultural productivity over the whole development area. Your authority should therefore consider whether this is an effective use of land in line with planning practice guidance which encourages the siting of large-scale solar farms on previously developed and non-agricultural land. Paragraph 170 and 171 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that:</p> <p>‘Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <p>recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.’</p> <p>And Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework²; take a strategic approach</p>	
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	<p>to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.</p> <p>Local planning authorities are responsible for ensuring that they have sufficient information to apply the requirements of the NPPF. The weighting attached to a particular consideration is a matter of judgement for the local authority as decision maker. This is the case regardless of whether the proposed development is sufficiently large to consult Natural England.</p> <p>Should you have any questions about Agricultural Land Classification or the reliability of information submitted with regard to BMV land please consult Natural England's Technical Information Note 049 on Agricultural Land Classification. This document describes the ALC system including the definition of BMV land, existing ALC data sources and their relevance for site level assessment of land quality and the appropriate methodology for when detailed surveys are required. We would also draw to your attention to Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (March 2014) (in particular paragraph 013), and advise you to fully consider best and most versatile land issues in accordance with that guidance. General guidance for protecting</p>	
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	<p>soils during development is also available in Defra’s Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites, and should the development proceed , we recommend that relevant parts of this guidance are followed, e.g. in relation to handling or trafficking on soils in wet weather.</p> <p>Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality.</p> <p>5.3 Enhancements</p> <p>Solar farm developments offer excellent opportunities to create new habitats, and especially “priority habitats” listed under S41 of the NERC Act 2006. Natural England therefore expects the planning application to include details of new habitat creation.</p> <p>In particular, solar farms are ideally suited to creating new grassland habitats, which can be created among the rows of solar panels. Details should be provided on the appropriate s41 target grassland habitat, along with a habitat creation plan (which should include measures to create suitable soil conditions / arable reversion techniques), suggested species mix for sowing, and</p>	
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	<p>details of how new habitats will be managed (e.g. grazing / mowing).</p> <p>Other priority habitats that could be created or enhanced depending on site conditions, are hedgerows, ponds, and arable field margins. We suggest that a habitat creation plan also references any existing local sites recognised for their nature conservation interest, such as SSSIs and Local Wildlife Sites.</p> <p>Further guidance is available from Natural England’s Technical Information Notes:-</p> <p>TIN101 – Solar parks: maximising environmental benefits. TIN066 – Arable reversion to species-rich grassland: site selection and choice of methods. TIN067 – Arable reversion to species-rich grassland: establishing a sown sward. TIN068 – Arable reversion to species-rich grassland: early management of the new sward.</p> <p>The following additional notes may also be helpful:- TIN060 – The use of yellow rattle to facilitate grassland diversification. TIN061 – Sward enhancement: selection of suitable sites. TIN062</p> <p>– Sward enhancement: choice of methods. TIN063 – Sward enhancement: diversifying grassland by spreading species-rich</p>	
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green hay. TIN064 – Sward enhancement: diversifying grassland by oversowing and slot seeding. TIN065 – Sward enhancement: diversifying grassland using pot- grown wildflowers or seedling plugs.

5.4 Protected Species

This proposal, as presented, has the potential to affect species protected under European or UK legislation, in particular, badger. Natural England has produced Standing Advice which is available on its website. Whilst this advice is primarily designed to assist local planning authorities better understand the information required when assessing the impact of developments upon protected species, it also contains a wealth of information to help applicants ensure that their applications comply with good practice guidelines and contribute to sustainable development. In particular I would draw your attention to the flow chart which gives guidance on the species that are likely to be present on the application site based upon readily identifiable habitat features. Please refer to this Standing Advice for further information on what information the authority may require in terms of survey and mitigation proposals.

	<p>Further information can also be obtained from The Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, The Bat Conservation Trust and Biodiversity Planning Toolkit for more guidance.</p> <p>We would also advise your authority to apply conditions to secure appropriate agricultural land management and/or biodiversity enhancement during the lifetime of the development, and to require the site to be decommissioned and restored to its former condition when planning permission expires.</p>	
<p>Forestry Commission</p>	<p>The Forestry Commission’s responsibility is to discharge its consultee roles as efficiently, effectively and professionally as possible, based on the forestry principles set out in the UK Forestry Standard (4th edition published 2017). Page 23 “Areas of woodland are material considerations in the planning process and may be protected in local authority Area Plans. These plans pay particular attention to woods listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory and areas identified as Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs).</p> <p>The Forestry Commission has prepared joint standing advice with Natural England on ancient woodland and veteran trees which we refer you to as it notes that ancient woodland is an irreplaceable</p>	<p>Observation noted and appropriate protection to ancient woodland has been incorporated into the design as detailed in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Ref 7.15 LC TA4.8).</p>

	<p>habitat, and that, in planning decisions, Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) should be treated equally in terms of the protection afforded to ancient woodland. It highlights the Ancient Woodland Inventory as a way to find out if woodland is ancient.</p> <p>As highlighted in the Irreplaceable habitats including ancient woodland and veteran trees section of the National Planning Policy Framework (published July 2018). Paragraph 175 – “development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists”.</p>	
MOD	No safeguard objections	Observation noted.
Nic Dakin MP	No concerns and hopes the proposal will progress positively	Observation noted.
Lincolnshire Truest	Wildlife I have however seen Andrew Taylor’s comments from North Lincolnshire Council and I believe he has had discussions with yourselves about the ecology work needed and ideas for enhancements relevant to the area. At this stage I’d be happy with this and there’s probably little else that I would pick up on that	Observation noted.

	<p>Andrew hasn't already. Many apologies for keeping you waiting, I'd be happy to be a consultee when the DCO application goes in.</p>	
<p>Public Health England</p>	<p>Thank you for your consultation regarding the above development. Public Health England (PHE) welcomes the opportunity to comment on your proposals and Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) at this stage of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).</p> <p>Please note that we have replied to earlier consultations as listed below and this response should be read in conjunction with that earlier correspondence:</p> <p>Request for Scoping Opinion 17/01/2019</p> <p>PHE exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities; these two organisational aims are reflected in the way we review and respond to NSIP applications.</p> <p>The health of an individual or a population is the result of a complex interaction of a wide range of different determinants of health, from an individual's genetic make-up, to lifestyles and behaviours, and the communities, local economy, built and natural environments to global ecosystem trends. All developments will have some effect on</p>	<p>A review of Personal Injury Accident data is included within this ES chapter and the Transport Statement. A draft SoCG has been agreed with PHE with no matters in dispute.</p>

	<p>the determinants of health, which in turn will influence the health and wellbeing of the general population, vulnerable groups and individual people. Although assessing impacts on health beyond direct effects from, for example emissions to air or road traffic incidents is complex, there is a need to ensure a proportionate assessment focused on an application’s significant effects.</p> <p>We have assessed the submitted documentation and wish to make the following comments:</p> <p>Environmental Public Health</p> <p>We note that the promoter has not addressed electromagnetic fields that may arise from the proposed development in the PEIR. We therefore recommend to the promoter that they confirm that the electrical equipment associated with the site will not have a public health impact as detailed in the guidance provided in the PHE scoping response.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>With respect to health and wellbeing considerations, we have no additional comments provided that prior to or at the time of the next consultation:</p>	
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	<p>The final ES contains a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan, Construction Traffic Management Plan and decommissioning plan</p> <p>The KSI (Killed and Seriously Injured) rate on the roads should be given due attention in this consultation from planning, through to construction and commissioning of the solar park.</p> <p>The KSI is disproportionately high in North Lincolnshire and as such specific consideration should be given to possible impacts arising from the construction phase of the development and the final documentation should identify any likely impacts and possible mitigation.</p>	
<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>Thank you for consulting us on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) in connection with the above project. We have reviewed the PEIR and have the following comments to make in respect of ground conditions and controlled waters protection.</p> <p>The site overlies numerous geologies, but includes limestones and superficial deposits, which are classified as Principal and Secondary A aquifers respectively. Principal aquifers are geological strata that</p>	<p>Applicants notes how EA accepts that the PEIR provides confidence that it will be possible to suitably manage the risk posed to controlled waters by this development.</p> <p>As part of the consideration between the applicant and EA with regard to a draft SoCG, it is agreed that the desk</p>

	<p>exhibit high intergranular and /or fracture permeability. They usually provide a high level of water storage. They may support water supply and/or river base flow on a strategic scale. Secondary A aquifers are permeable strata capable of supporting water supplies at a local rather than strategic scale and in some cases forming an important source of base flow to rivers.</p> <p>The previous use of the site is largely greenfield, although the area has a history of quarrying and workings and as a result there are possible areas of infill on the site. The site is also adjacent to an historic landfill, Scunthorpe Concast, to the west. The Integrale Report (No. 1844 Version 5, November 2018 included as Appendix 3.2) presents a good conceptual site model and we are in agreement with the conclusions reached in section 4.3 of the report. Targeted intrusive investigation is proposed in the areas of possible infill to add to the conceptual understanding of the site.</p> <p>This report provides us with confidence that it will be possible to suitably manage the risk posed to controlled waters by this development. Further detailed information will however be required before built development is undertaken.</p>	<p>studies, conceptual modelling and intrusive investigation, analyses and monitoring are appropriate for the development context proposed. The relevant information sufficient for the DCO are duly provided by the Application in respect of contaminated land and groundwater.</p>
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	<p>We therefore request the inclusion of the following Requirement in the DCO.</p> <p>Contamination and groundwater</p> <p>(1) No part of the authorised development shall be carried out until details of a comprehensive contaminated land investigation has been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority and until the scope of works approved therein have been implemented.</p> <p>(2) Unless otherwise approved by the relevant planning, the assessment shall include a site investigation to fully and effectively characterise the nature and extent of any land contamination and/or pollution of controlled waters, including a risk assessment that—</p> <p>(a) adopts the Source-Pathway-Receptor principle and takes into account the sites existing status and proposed new use; and</p> <p>(b) where the risk assessment identifies any unacceptable risk or risks, provides a detailed remediation strategy to deal with land contamination or pollution of controlled waters affecting the site</p>	
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	<p>and the site investigation and findings shall be forwarded to the relevant planning authority.</p> <p>(3) Where paragraph (2)(b) applies, no works, other than investigative works, shall be carried out on the site prior to receipt of written approval of the remediation strategy by the relevant planning authority, and remediation of the site shall be carried out in accordance with the approved remediation strategy unless otherwise approved by the relevant planning authority.</p> <p>(4) No occupation of any part of the authorised development shall take place until a verification report (“Verification Report”) demonstrating completion of works set out in the approved written scheme and the effectiveness of the remediation shall be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority.</p> <p>(5) The Verification Report shall include—</p> <p>(a) results of sampling and monitoring carried out in accordance with the written scheme required under paragraph (1), to demonstrate that the site remediation criteria have been met;</p> <p>(b) a plan for longer-term monitoring of pollutant linkages, maintenance and arrangements for contingency action, as</p>	
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	<p>identified in the Verification Report, which shall be implemented as approved.</p> <p>(6) If during development, contamination not previously considered is identified then the relevant planning authority shall be notified immediately and no further work shall be carried out until a method statement detailing a scheme for dealing with the suspect contamination has been submitted to and agreed with the relevant planning authority.</p> <p>Reason To ensure that the water environment is not put at unacceptable risk from, or adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of pollution in line with section 5.15 of the National Planning Statement for Energy (EN-1).</p> <p>We also note that the draft DCO contains (in Part 1) an interpretation of 'commence', which excludes the investigation and remedial works in respect of any contamination or adverse ground conditions from the definition of material operation. We would not wish to see any remedial works relating to contamination excluded from this definition or undertaken prior to any proposed scheme having received our agreement. We, therefore, request that this exception for 'remedial work in respect of any contamination or</p>	
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	<p>other adverse ground conditions' is removed from this interpretation.</p> <p>Please note that the view expressed in this letter by the Environment Agency is a response to a pre-application enquiry only and does not represent our final view in relation to any future planning application made for this site. We reserve the right to change our position in relation to any such application.</p> <p>Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below.</p>	
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6.7 During the informal and formal consultation process the specialist team have liaised closely with the North Lincolnshire Council and other prescribed bodies to refine the development with regards to the supporting assessments, methodology of the assessments and refinement to layout design. The front loading of the design review undertaken during the informal consultation ensured that the key design changes were made prior to the formal consultation phase. Very limited design changes were required to be applied to the development as a result of the comments received during the formal consultation process, and these were restricted to the width of the easement for the water mains which Anglian Water requested as part of their consideration of the SoCG (Document Ref 9.5 LC OTH). Accordingly, it was only deemed necessary to carry out a single phase of formal consultation.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Applicant has carried out comprehensive pre-application consultation on the Little Crow Solar Park pursuant to the 2008 Act. The consultation has met and exceeded the requirements of the 2008 Act and has taken into account the relevant advice and guidance published by the Planning Inspectorate and UK Government.
- 7.2 Overall, the formal consultation process generated very limited number of representations, and the majority of those were provide by prescribed consultees or equivalent organisations. Accordingly, it was only deemed necessary to carry out a single phase of formal consultation.
- 7.3 At a community level, the formal consultation demonstrates that there is support to the development. The key local community concerns were duly considered at the informal consultation phase. No design changes were subsequently required to the development to address any comments provide by the community during the formal consultation phase.
- 7.4 The applicant sought to work in conjunction with North Lincolnshire Council and other prescribes consultees at the outset and this allowed for the application to evolve and design changes to take place prior to the formal consultation. This position is duly reflected by the number of agreement reached with various Statements of Common Ground as detailed in the Statements of Common Ground Overview (Document Ref 9.3 LC OTH).

