



SLOUGH MULTIFUEL EXTENSION PROJECT

Planning Inspectorate Ref: EN010129

The Slough Multifuel Extension Order

Land at 342 Edinburgh Avenue, Slough Trading Estate, Slough

Document Ref: 5.1 – Consultation Report

The Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009 – Regulation 5(2)(q)



Applicant: SSE Slough Multifuel Limited

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Author	Rob Booth (RB)		
Signed	RB	Date	07 29.1109.22
Approved By	Geoff Bullock (GB)		
Signed	GB	Date	07 29.1109.22
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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1) has been prepared on behalf of SSE Slough Multifuel Limited ('the Applicant'). It forms part of the application (the 'Application') for a Development Consent Order (a 'DCO'), that has been submitted to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, under Section 37 of 'The Planning Act 2008' (the 'PA 2008').
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is seeking development consent for the extension of the consented Slough Multifuel Facility (the 'Consented Development'), an energy from waste electricity generating station, on land at the Slough Trading Estate, Slough (the 'Site').
- 1.1.3 A DCO is required for the extension (the 'Proposed Project') as it falls within the definitions and thresholds for a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' (a 'NSIP') under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1)(2)(a) and (c) of the PA 2008, being the extension of an onshore electricity generating station in England, which when extended will have a capacity of more than 50 megawatts ('MW').
- 1.1.4 The nationally significant infrastructure planning regime under the PA 2008 has an emphasis on pre-application consultation and publicity. Government guidance¹ explains this is designed to ensure a more transparent and efficient examination process. In this way the planning of major infrastructure is a 'front-loaded' process whereby the applicant's proposals are the subject of statutory consultation and engagement before making an application.
- 1.1.5 Prior to the submission of an application for a DCO, the promoter must carry out the consultation and publicity activities prescribed by Sections 42, 46, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008, and associated provisions of 'The Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure Regulations 2009' (the 'APFP Regulations') (as amended) and 'The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017' (the 'EIA Regulations') and have regard to government guidance². This includes consulting with the local community and certain prescribed persons and bodies (prescribed by regulations, such as local authorities and technical consultees and affected and potentially affected land interests).
- 1.1.6 Section 37 of the PA 2008 requires an application for a DCO to be accompanied by a 'consultation report' explaining how the promoter has complied with the statutory, regulatory and policy requirements. The report must also set out (in accordance with Section 49) how the applicant has had regard to the responses received to the consultation. This document is the consultation report for the purposes of Section 37.
- 1.1.7 This Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 37 of the PA 2008 and Government guidance and the Planning Inspectorate's ('PINS') advice³ and provides information in respect of the Applicant's staged pre-application consultation on

¹ Planning Act 2008: guidance on the pre-application process, DCLG March 2015: paragraph 6 [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418009/150326_Pre-Application_Guidance.pdf]

² Planning Act 2008: guidance on the pre-application process, DCLG March 2015

³ Advice note fourteen: Compiling the consultation report (April 2012) version 2, The Planning Inspectorate

the Proposed Project and the analysis of the comments and feedback that has been received to the pre-application consultation.

1.2 The pre-application consultation process

1.2.1 A staged approach was taken to pre-application consultation on the Proposed Project. This involved two main stages of consultation as follows:

- Stage 1 (Non-statutory) Consultation – to introduce the Proposed Project and seek comments/feedback on the early proposals.
- Stage 2 (Statutory) Consultation – providing more detailed information on the Proposed Project and preliminary environmental information ahead of the submission of the DCO Application.

1.2.2 Table 1.1 below provides a summary of the pre-application consultation on the Proposed Project.

Table 1.1: Summary of the Applicant’s pre-application consultation process

STAGE	OVERVIEW OF CONSULTATION	TIMESCALES
EIA Scoping	Submission of a request for an EIA Scoping Opinion to the SoS and receipt of EIA Scoping Opinion.	November – December 2021
Stage 1 Consultation (non-statutory)	Non-statutory consultation with the local community and key stakeholders within the vicinity of the Proposed Project.	15 November to 17 December 2021
Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC')	Statutory consultation with the host local authority, Slough Borough Council ('SBC').	22 February to 22 March 2022
Stage 2 Consultation (statutory pursuant to Sections 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008)	Section 42 'Duty to consult': consultation with prescribed consultees, host and other relevant local authorities, potentially affected land ownership interests and non-prescribed consultees.	5 May to 17 June 2022

1.2.3 The key stages of the pre-application process are summarised below.

1.3 Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

1.3.1 A Stakeholder Engagement Strategy ('SES') was developed early in the pre-application process (Autumn 2021) to provide a framework for pre-application consultation on the Proposed Project, in particular, the Stage 1 (Non-statutory) Consultation.

1.3.2 The SES set out the proposed approach to pre-application consultation, including the objectives of the consultation; when this would take place; what would be consulted upon; who would be consulted (including the proposed extent of an inner and outer Public Consultation Zone (or 'PCZ')). The Strategy also set out the proposed methods to be employed for the pre-application consultation and how comments would be recorded, analysed and reported.

- 1.3.3 The PCZ defined in the SES featured an Inner Consultation Zone ('ICZ') extending around the immediate Trading Estate and local residences to the north of the Proposed Project Site. An Outer Consultation Radius ('OCZ') was also applied to the wider area of residential areas to the north, east and west of the Site, a zone based on the consultation radius used for the original 2014 planning application (submitted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) for the Consented Development. The ICZ was considered to represent the areas where the greatest interest would be received from the local community in terms of their capacity to be affected by the Proposed Project, while the OCZ represented a wider catchment of residential addresses and ensured that those previously addresses consulted previously with regard to the Consented Development, were consulted once again for this extension.
- 1.3.4 The SES was developed further and updated following the Stage 1 Consultation and formed the basis for the preparation of the Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') ahead of the Stage 2 (Statutory) Consultation.
- 1.3.5 Further detail is provided at Section 5 of this Report.

1.4 Stage 1 Consultation

- 1.4.1 The Stage 1 Consultation was used to:
- inform local stakeholders on the proposed DCO Application, its purpose and timescales;
 - inform stakeholders of the rationale behind the proposed DCO Application, what it means for the plant and any potential impacts of the extension; and
 - allow local stakeholders to provide their comments and ask questions on the proposals.
- 1.4.2 People were consulted in a number of ways, including through a newsletter (sent to residential and business addresses within the ICZ), newspaper notices (including newspapers circulating across the OCZ) and Local Liaison Group meetings. In addition, a Project Website was promoted which contained details on the Proposed Project along with information on how to submit comments.
- 1.4.3 A total of two completed comments forms were received in relation to the Stage 1 Consultation.
- 1.4.4 Further detail is provided in Sections 6 and 7, including details of the responses received.

1.5 Statement of Community Consultation

- 1.5.1 The Applicant prepared, consulted upon and published a SoCC setting out how they proposed to consult on the Proposed Project including with people living within the vicinity of the Site. The preparation of the SoCC was informed by the SES and reused its OCZ as the sole Public Consultation Zone for the purposes of the Stage 2 'statutory' Consultation.
- 1.5.2 The Applicant consulted the host local authority (Slough Borough Council or 'SBC') on a draft of the SoCC on a non-statutory basis in February 2022. No comments were received. The Applicant then undertook statutory consultation with SBC on an updated draft of the SoCC on 22 February 2022, allowing a period of 28 days (until 22 March 2022) for the host local authority to return comments. SBC confirmed they had no comments to make on the document, via email on 23 March 2022.
- 1.5.3 The SoCC detailed numerous methods by which the Applicant proposed to consult the local community, including exhibition events, a virtual exhibition, online webinars, newsletters, a project website and freephone.

1.5.4 A SoCC Notice was published in the Slough Observer on 1 April 2022. The SoCC Notice confirmed that the SoCC could be viewed free of charge on the project website, it also explained how hard copies of the SoCC or a USB device containing it could be requested.

1.5.5 Further information on the preparation of and consultation on the SoCC is provided in Section 8 of this Report.

1.6 Stage 2 Consultation: Identifying Consultees

1.6.1 Section 42 consultees were identified by reference to Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations, which lists all prescribed persons and other bodies and the circumstances when they must be consulted about a proposed application for a DCO. In reviewing Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations, the Applicant had regard to PINS Advice Note 3 'EIA consultation and notification' (August 2017), which provides advice and guidance on the identification of prescribed persons. Where there was any uncertainty or doubt as whether or not to include a person, the Applicant took a precautionary approach and included that person on the list of those to be consulted.

1.6.2 The Applicant also reviewed and took account of the list of consultation bodies at Appendix 1 of the EIA Scoping Opinion issued by PINS on 23 December 2021, which followed a request under EIA Regulation for an EIA Scoping Opinion dated 17 November 2021.

1.6.3 Relevant local authorities to consult were identified by reference to Section 42 of the PA 2008.

1.6.4 In addition, the land referencing company employed by the Applicant undertook diligent inquiries, including issuing 'Request for Information' ('RFI') letters and forms to identify statutory undertakers with apparatus and/or interests in land and also other persons with land interests within or adjoining the proposed Site Boundary to be used for the purposes of the consultation.

1.6.5 The Applicant also identified and took the decision to consult a number of 'non-prescribed persons' who, although there was no statutory duty to consult, it was considered may be interested in the Proposed Project.

1.6.6 The Applicant's approach to identifying consultees for the Stage 2 Consultation is set out in detail at Section 9.

1.7 Stage 2 Consultation: Section 42 'Duty to Consult'

1.7.1 The Stage 2 Consultation in accordance with Section 42 on the Proposed Project ran from 5 May 2022 to 17 June 2022. The Applicant consulted the Section 42 consultees and non-prescribed persons identified at Section 9 of this Report.

1.7.2 The Stage 2 Consultation was used to consult on the Applicant's more developed proposals, including:

- a more detailed look at the works associated with the Proposed Project, including a 3D model of the physical extension works proposed;
- the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') work undertaken at that stage, presented in the form of a Preliminary Environmental Information ('PEI') Report; and
- an update on the anticipated submission date for the DCO Application and key milestones for the Proposed Project going forward.

1.7.3 The Section 42 consultees and non-prescribed persons were consulted by letter sent by Royal Mail First Class, accompanied by a USB that had the consultation documents, including a Site Boundary Plan, a Preliminary Environmental Information ('PEI') Report and its Non-Technical Summary and a Section 48 Notice (see below and Section 13 of

this Report). Letters were also emailed where email addresses were available. Notices were also placed around the Site Boundary to make people aware of the Stage 2 Consultation.

1.7.4 A total of 14 responses were received from the Section 42 and non-prescribed consultees either prior to or following the close of the Stage 2 Consultation. The majority of responses were from Section 42 consultees.

1.7.5 Further detail is provided in Section 10, including an analysis of the responses received and how the Applicant has had regard to those responses.

1.8 Stage 2 Consultation: Section 46 ‘Duty to Notify Secretary of State of Proposed Application’

1.8.1 The Applicant notified PINS of their intention to commence the Stage 2 Section 42 consultation on 4 May 2022. PINS were provided with the same information as was to be sent to the Section 42 and non-prescribed consultees. The notification of PINS took place before the consultation commenced on 5 May 2022. PINS formally acknowledged receipt of the Applicant’s Section 46 notification on 16 May 2022.

1.8.2 The Applicant therefore complied with Section 46 of the PA 2008 in respect of the Stage 2 Section 42 consultation. Further detail is provided at Section 11.

1.9 Stage 2 Consultation: Section 47 ‘Duty to Consult Local Community’

1.9.1 The Stage 2 Consultation in accordance with Section 47 on the Proposed Project ran from 5 May to 17 June 2022. The consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published SoCC and involved consulting the local community across the Public Consultation Area (a newsletter was sent to over 6,000 residential and business addresses in the PCZ) in addition to local political representatives. As confirmed above, in relation to the Stage 2 Section 42 consultation, the consultation was used to consult on the Applicant’s more detailed proposals.

1.9.2 A number of methods were used to consult people:

- Newsletters issued to all residential and business addressed within the PCZ.
- Newspaper Notices in a local and national newspaper.
- Posters erected at various locations around the PCZ.
- Two exhibition events held at the SSE Slough Multifuel Project office in Stirling Road, on the Slough Trading Estate (advertised using the Newsletters).
- Live webinars that people could join via computer or phone.
- A virtual consultation room on the Project Website, replicating a consultation event for those unable to attend the physical events held.
- Project Website.
- Freephone number manned during working hours.

1.9.3 People were able to submit comments and feedback in a number of ways, including by the Freephone number, email, post (using a Freepost address), hard copy or online using the ‘SmartSurvey’ Comments Form via the Project Website.

1.9.4 A total of 3 people attended the two exhibition events held during May 2022 and 14 Comments Forms were received during the Stage 2 Consultation.

1.9.5 Further detail is provided in Sections 12, including an analysis of the responses received and how the Applicant has had regard to those responses. Table 12.1 in Section 12 sets

out how the Section 47 Stage 2 consultation undertaken complied with the published SoCC.

1.10 Stage 2 Consultation: Section 48 ‘Duty to Publicise’

1.10.1 Early in the Stage 2 Consultation the Applicants published a Section 48 Notice for one week in The Telegraph (a national newspaper), the London Gazette and for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper (the Slough Observer) circulating within the vicinity of the Site and beyond. The Section 48 Notice provided the information required by APFP Regulation 4 and clearly stated the deadline (17 June 2022) for the submission of comments and feedback.

1.10.2 Details of the newspapers and other publications used for the Section 48 Notice and the publication dates are provided in **Table 1.2** below.

Table 1.2: Newspapers and Publications used for the Section 48 Notice

Newspaper	Dates
The Telegraph	5 May 2022
London Gazette	5 May 2022
Slough Observer	6 and 13 May 2022

1.10.3 The Applicant therefore complied with Section 48 of the PA 2008.

1.10.4 EIA Regulation 13 places a requirement on applicants, where a DCO application is for EIA development, to, at the same time as publishing the Section 48 notice, send a copy to the relevant consultation bodies (the ‘EIA consultation bodies’) as defined by the EIA Regulations. This was done at the start of the Stage 2 Consultation. The letters that were sent to Section 42 consultees, who were also EIA consultation bodies, included the Section 48 Notice.

1.10.5 Further detail is provided at Section 13 of this Report.

1.11 Section 49 ‘Duty to take account of responses to Consultation

1.11.1 Section 49 of the PA 2008 requires applicants to have regard to any relevant responses received to the consultation and publicity carried out in accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008.

1.11.2 A relevant response for the purposes of Section 49 is a response received by an applicant before the deadlines set in relation to the Section 42, 47 and 48 consultation and publicity. Notwithstanding this, the Applicant considered any responses received after the stated deadlines and gave them equal weight to those received before the deadlines.

1.11.3 The themes/topics and issues raised by the local community in response to the Stage 2 Consultation were, for the most part, centred on impacts to air quality and transport. Several of the responses received raised issues which would have been relevant to the Consented Development, as opposed to the Proposed Project. Issues raised by the Section 42 consultees and non-prescribed persons tended to comprise references to standard guidance and the scope of the environmental and other assessments being carried out to support the Application.

1.11.4 The approach taken by the Applicant to comments received to the Stage 2 Section 47 Consultation from the local community has been to review and provide a response to each one, on the basis that only a handful of the 14 comments forms received provided substantive comments or queries. The responses provided at Section 12 of this report

also confirm if any changes were made to the Proposed Project/Application and/or if there is the relevant Application Document Ref. No for each one.

1.11.5 The tables at Section 13 provide a summary of the consultation responses and details how the Applicant has had regard to these.

1.12 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Consultation

1.12.1 The Applicants carried out the following EIA consultation activities:

- Notifying PINS of their intention to carry out an EIA; applying to PINS for a Scoping Opinion as to the topics to be covered by the EIA.
- Consultation with technical consultees regard the preparation of the PEI Report.
- Notifying EIA consultation bodies in accordance with EIA Regulation 13 (sending them a copy of the Section 48 Notice).
- Consultation with technical consultees on the draft chapters of the Environmental Statement ('ES').

1.12.2 Further detail is provided at Section 14.

1.13 Next Steps

1.13.1 The Applicant is committed to continued engagement with the local community, host local authority and key stakeholders following the submission of the Proposed DCO Application, as well as throughout the construction and operation of the Proposed Project, should the DCO be made by the SoS.

1.13.2 The Applicant will issue updates on the Proposed Project and the Proposed DCO Application process via the Project Website and local liaison group.

1.13.3 In addition to the above, there are statutory notification and publicity requirements pursuant to Section 56 of the PA 2008 that the Applicant will need to fulfil following acceptance of the Application for examination by the SoS. This will provide an opportunity for people to register as an interested party in the DCO application process and be involved in the examination of the Application.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 This Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1) has been prepared on behalf of SSE Slough Multifuel Limited (the 'Applicant'). It forms part of the application (the 'Application') for a Development Consent Order (a 'DCO'), that has been submitted to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ('BEIS'), under Section 37 of 'The Planning Act 2008' (the 'PA 2008').
- 2.1.2 The Applicant is seeking development consent for the extension of the consented Slough Multifuel Facility (the 'Consented Development'), an energy from waste electricity generating station, on land at the Slough Trading Estate, Slough (the 'Site').
- 2.1.3 A DCO is required for the extension (the 'Proposed Project') as it falls within the definitions and thresholds for a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' (a 'NSIP') under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1)(2)(a) and (c) of the PA 2008, being the extension of an onshore electricity generating station in England, which when extended will have a capacity of more than 50 megawatts ('MW').

2.2 The Applicant

- 2.2.1 The Applicant, SSE Slough Multifuel Limited ('SMF') is a 50:50 joint venture between SSE Thermal and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners ('CIP').
- 2.2.2 SSE Thermal, part of the FTSE-listed SSE plc, is a leading developer, owner and operator of flexible generation, energy-from-waste, and energy storage assets, with over 600 direct employees across the UK and Ireland. SSE Thermal's vision is to become the leading provider of flexible thermal energy in a net-zero world. SSE Generation Limited was granted planning permission in June 2017 to construct the Consented Development at the Site. SSE currently operates the existing Slough Heat and Power Plant at the Slough Trading Estate through a company called Slough Heat and Power Limited.
- 2.2.3 CIP was founded in 2012 and is a fund management company specialising in offering tailor made investment in energy infrastructure assets globally, in particular within the renewable energy sector. CIP is a renewable market pioneer with involvement in some of the World's largest offshore wind projects and other major energy infrastructure projects in North-Western Europe, North America, and Asia Pacific. CIP has extensive biomass and energy from waste experience in the UK.

2.3 The Proposed Project Site

- 2.3.1 The Proposed Project Site (the 'Site') lies entirely within the administrative boundary of Slough Borough Council, a unitary authority, and is located either side of Edinburgh Avenue within the Slough Trading Estate (National Grid Reference SU 953 814) approximately 2.5 kilometres north west of Slough Town Centre.
- 2.3.2 The Site extends to approximately 2.8 hectares in area and was acquired by SSE in 2008. It forms part of the original Slough Heat and Power Plant site.
- 2.3.3 The Consented Development was originally consented in June 2017 under 'The Town and Country Planning Act 1990' (the 'TCPA') (under Planning Permission Refs. P/00987/051 (being a Section 73 variation of P/00987/024 and P/00987/035) and P/00987/025, P/00987/052 and P/19876/000). Construction of the Consented Development at the Site is well advanced and is currently expected to be completed by Quarter 4 2024.
- 2.3.4 A more detailed description of the Site and its surroundings is provided at Chapter 4 'Existing Site Conditions' of the Environmental Statement ('ES') Volume I (Document Ref. 6.2).

2.4 The Proposed Project

- 2.4.1 The Proposed Project is an extension of the Consented Development comprising the carrying out of the following physical works (Work No. 1 at Schedule 1 'Authorised Development' of the draft DCO, Document Ref. 2.1) to increase the efficiency and gross installed capacity of the generating station from just under 50MW to circa 60MW:
- a boiler primary air preheating system comprising heat exchanger bundles, pipework, valves, pipe supports, thermal insulation, instrumentation, cabling and containment;
 - a boiler secondary air preheating system comprising heat exchanger bundles, pipework, valves, pipe supports, thermal insulation, instrumentation, cabling and containment; and
 - mechanical modifications to the actuated steam turbine inlet control valve to allow steam capacity to be increased.
- 2.4.2 The physical works comprised in the extension are 'engineering operations' and therefore 'development' for the purposes of Section 31 of the PA 2008.
- 2.4.3 As is set out more fully in the Explanatory Memorandum (Document Ref. 2.2), it is only the extension which is the NSIP pursuant to Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) of the PA 2008, and the development forming part of the extension (being the Authorised Development) which requires development consent pursuant to Section 31 of the PA 2008. The Consented Development is consented and being constructed pursuant to the TCPA. It is not an NSIP, nor does it form part of one.
- 2.4.4 Separately, the extended generating station requires an ancillary authorisation to 'operate' at over 50MW pursuant to Section 36 of 'The Electricity Act 1989', and this is included within the DCO. This is further explained within the Explanatory Memorandum.
- 2.4.5 The Proposed Project also includes associated development within the meaning of Section 115(2) of the PA 2008, including temporary construction laydown areas, contractor facilities, vehicle parking and cycle storage facilities.
- 2.4.6 The Proposed Project will not increase the throughput of waste, vehicle movements, emissions or operating hours at the Slough Multifuel Facility, and will not alter the scale or external appearance of the consented buildings and structures.
- 2.4.7 A more detailed description of the Proposed Project is provided at Schedule 1 'Authorised Development' of the draft DCO and Chapter 2 'Proposed Project' of ES Volume 1 (Document Ref. 6.2) and the area within which the physical works are to occur is denoted by the hatched area on the Work Plan (Document Ref. 4.3).

2.5 The Purpose and Structure of this Document

- 2.5.1 Section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008 requires an application for a DCO to be accompanied by a 'consultation report'. Section 37(7) confirms that a consultation report means a report giving details of:
- what has been done by the applicant to comply with Sections 42 ('Duty to consult'), 47 ('Duty to consult local community') and 48 ('Duty to publicise') of the PA 2008;
 - any 'relevant responses' to the consultation under Sections 42, 47 and 48; and
 - the account taken by the applicant of any relevant responses as required by Section 49 ('Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity') in developing the application from proposed to final form.
- 2.5.2 A 'relevant response' is defined by Section 49(3) as:

- a response from a person consulted under Section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by Section 45 ('Timetable for consultation under section 42') in that person's case;
- a response to consultation under Section 47 that is received by the applicant before any applicable deadline imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under Section 47 (the 'Statement of Community Consultation'); and
- a response to publicity under Section 48 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed in accordance with Section 48 in relation to that publicity.

2.5.3 This Consultation Report describes the approach taken in respect of the pre-application consultation for the Proposed Project, including the methods employed. It sets out what was done for the pre-application consultation, including the statutory consultation required by the PA 2008 and related regulations.

Table 2.1: Consultation Report Structure

SECTION	TITLE	OVERVIEW
Section 2	Legislative Context, Relevant Guidance and Compliance	Provides a summary of the legislative requirements of the PA 2008 and relevant regulations (including APFP Regulations and the '2009 EIA Regulations) relating to pre-application consultation and includes a 'checklist' based upon PINS Advice Note 14 setting out how the Applicant's pre-application consultation has complied with those requirements. The checklist is intended to provide PINS with a 'quick guide' as to how the Applicant has complied with the legislative requirements for pre-application consultation and where this is referenced within the Consultation Report.
Section 3	SSE's Approach to consultation	Describes the Applicant's approach to the pre-application consultation on the Proposed Project.
Section 4	Initial Consultation and Engagement	Describes the initial 'non-statutory' consultation and engagement carried out by the Applicant prior to the commencement of its formal consultation process (the Stage 1 and 2 Consultation). This included initial consultation and engagement with the host local authorities, local political representatives and key technical consultees to inform them of the Proposed Project.
Section 5	Statement of Community Consultation: Preparation and Consultation	Describes the approach taken by the Applicant to the preparation of the Statement of Community Consultation (the 'SoCC') as required by Section 47 of the PA 2008 and the consultation that took place with the relevant local authorities in relation to the preparation of the document and how the Applicant took account of the responses to the consultation in finalising the SoCC.

SECTION	TITLE	OVERVIEW
Section 6	Stage 1 Consultation	Describes the Stage 1 Consultation ('non-statutory') consultation that was undertaken by the Applicant to introduce the Proposed Project and the options being considered to the local community, the relevant local authorities, technical consultees and potentially affected land owners, amongst others.
Section 7	Stage 2 Consultation: Identifying Consultees	Explains how the Applicant identified those persons whom there was a statutory duty to consult in accordance with Sections 42, 43 and 44 of the PA 2008 for its Stage 2 ('statutory') Consultation (the 'Section 42 Consultees') and confirms who was consulted. It also lists other persons there was no statutory duty to consult but who SSE considered should be consulted as they may be interested in the Proposed Project (the 'Non-prescribed Consultees').
Section 8	Stage 2 Consultation: Section 47 'Duty to consult local community'	Describes the Section 47 consultation that SSE carried out with the local community during its Stage 2 Consultation to provide more detailed information on the Proposed Project as well as the opportunity for local people to comment upon it; the responses received to the consultation and how the consultation carried out complied with the published SoCC.
Section 9	Stage 2 Consultation: Section 46 'Duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed application'	Sets out how the Applicant notified the SoS of the start of the Section 42 consultation in accordance with Section 46 of the PA 2008 in advance of starting that consultation.
Section 10	Stage 2 Consultation: Section 42 'Duty to consult'	Sets out how the Applicant consulted the Section 42 Consultees, including prescribed persons, relevant local authorities (Section 43) and land ownership interests and potentially affected interest (Section 44) as well as the Non-prescribed Consultees; the response received to the consultation and how the consultation carried out complied with Section 42.
Section 11	Stage 2: Section 48 'Duty to publicise'	Explains how the Applicant publicised the Proposed Project in accordance with Section 48 of the PA 2008, including the newspapers and other publications that the Section 48 Notice was published in.

SECTION	TITLE	OVERVIEW
Section 12	Section 49 'Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity'	Sets out how the Applicant has had regard to the responses received to the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Consultation.
Section 13	EIA Related Consultation	Provides a brief summary of the EIA related consultation carried out by the Applicant in accordance with the 2009 EIA Regulations in order facilitate the EIA process and the preparation of the Environmental Statement ('ES') for the Proposed Project.
Section 14	Other consultation and engagement	Provides a summary of other consultation and engagement not covered by the above stages that has taken place during the pre-application stage.
Section 15	Next Steps	Sets out how the Applicant intends to continue to engage with consultees following the submission of the Application and during the examination process.

- 2.5.4 The appendices to the Consultation Report have been numbered so as to correspond with the relevant section of the report where they are first referred to. For example, the appendices that are first referred to in Section 7 are numbered as Appendix 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and so on. This makes clear which section of the Consultation Report the appendices relate to.
- 2.5.5 Consultation responses received from members of the public and signing in sheets from the public exhibitions held have not been included within the Consultation Report as these contain personal information. However, the Applicant can make these available to The Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') if required.
- 2.5.6 As confirmed above, PINS Advice Note 14 'Compiling the consultation report' provides guidance on the structure and content of consultation reports. **Table 2.2 (below)** identifies how the structure and content of this Consultation Report complies with this guidance and where the information is provided.

Table 2.2 – Structure of the Consultation Report in relation to Advice Note 14

SECTION OF ADVICE NOTE 14	RECOMMENDATION FROM ADVICE NOTE 14	WHERE ADDRESSED IN CONSULTATION REPORT
Explanatory Text	A quick reference guide to the pre-application stage should be provided near the start of the report in bullet point form, summarising all consultation activity in chronological order. This section should define the whole pre-application consultation and explain	Table 1.1 in the 'Summary' to the Consultation Report provides a quick reference guide to the pre-application consultation carried out by the Applicant. This summarises all the key consultation stages in chronological order where possible.

SECTION OF ADVICE NOTE 14	RECOMMENDATION FROM ADVICE NOTE 14	WHERE ADDRESSED IN CONSULTATION REPORT
	the relationship between any informal consultation that may have taken place and statutory consultation carried out under the PA 2008.	The Summary (paragraphs) also explain the relationship between the Stage 1 (non-statutory) and Stage 2 (statutory) Consultation.
Consultation with prescribed consultees	<p>The applicant should include a full list of the prescribed consultees as part of the report. If the list varies in any way from Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations this should be robust justified.</p> <p>A short description of how Section 43 of the PA 2008 has been applied to identify relevant local authorities should be included. This could be supported by a map showing the site and identifying the boundaries of the relevant authorities.</p> <p>Those with an interest in the land consulted under Section 44 should be identified as a distinct element of the wider Section 42 consultation.</p>	<p>Section 42(a) - Such persons as may be prescribed: A list of such persons as may be prescribed (the 'prescribed persons') consulted at Stage 2 is provided at Appendix 8.1.</p> <p>The tables confirm when the prescribed persons were consulted.</p> <p>Section 42(b) - each local authority that is within Section 43:</p> <p>The approach taken to identifying relevant local authorities is described in Section 7. The local authority boundaries are shown in Appendix 7.3 and each authority and its category (A, B, C or D) is listed in Table 7.1 of Section 7.</p> <p>Section 42(d) - each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44:</p> <p>A list of those parties consulted pursuant to Section 44 (the 'Section 44 persons') is provided at Appendix 8.3.</p>
Statement of Community Consultation	It would be helpful to provide a summary of the rationale behind the SoCC methodology to assist the	The preparation of, consultation on and publication of the SoCC is covered at Section 5.

SECTION OF ADVICE NOTE 14	RECOMMENDATION FROM ADVICE NOTE 14	WHERE ADDRESSED IN CONSULTATION REPORT
	<p>SoS's understanding of the community consultation and provide a context for considering how the consultation was undertaken and how the SoCC has been complied with.</p> <p>Evidence should be submitted as part of the report that shows which local authorities were consulted about the content of the draft SoCC; what the authorities' comments were; confirmation that they were given 28 days to provide their comments and a description of how the applicant had regard to the authorities' comments.</p> <p>Copies of the published SoCC as it appeared in the local press should be provided along with confirmation of which local newspapers it was published in and when.</p> <p>Where there were any inconsistencies with the SoCC, for example where additional activities took place that were not included in the SoCC, then this should be clearly explained and justified.</p> <p>The SoCC process is usually best dealt with as a discrete section within the report.</p>	<p>A summary of the rationale behind the SoCC methodology and the definition of the public consultation zones for the Section 47 local community consultation is provided at Section 5. Figure 5.1 shows the geographical extent of the public consultation zones relative to the Site.</p> <p>Copies of the correspondence sent to the relevant local authorities consulting them on the draft SoCC pursuant to Section 47 and providing 28 days for the receipt of comments are provided at Appendix 7.2.</p> <p>No comments were received to the initial round of non-statutory consultation on the draft SoCC, therefore no response or change was made to the draft SoCC. Appendix 7.2 shows the 'no comment' response received to the statutory consultation carried out on draft SoCC. Consequently no further changes to the SoCC were necessary.</p> <p>The SoCC Notice was published in the Slough Observer on 1 April 2022. Copies of the SoCC Notice as published are provided at Appendix 7.5.</p> <p>The Stage 2 Consultation was undertaken in accordance with the published SoCC.</p>

SECTION OF ADVICE NOTE 14	RECOMMENDATION FROM ADVICE NOTE 14	WHERE ADDRESSED IN CONSULTATION REPORT
Statutory publicity (Section 48)	<p>A copy of the Section 48 notice as it appeared in the local and national newspapers, together with a description of where the notice was published and confirmation of the time period given for responses should be included within the report.</p> <p>Applicants should provide confirmation that the Section 48 notice was sent to the prescribed consultees at the same time the notice was published.</p> <p>Section 48 publicity is best dealt as a separate section within the report.</p>	<p>A separate section has been provided on Section 48 publicity at Section 12.</p> <p>Section 12 provides information on where the Section 48 Notice was published, the dates of publication (Table 12.1 and 12.2) and also the time period given for responses.</p> <p>An example copy of the Section 48 Notice is provided at Appendix 12.1 with copies of the Section 48 Notice as published at Appendix 11.2.</p>
Non-statutory 'informal' consultation	Any consultation not carried out under the provisions of the PA 2008 should be clearly indicated and identified separately in the report from the statutory consultation.	Section 6 describes the Stage 1 Consultation used to introduce the Proposed Project and the options being considered to the local community, the relevant local authorities, technical consultees and potentially affected land owners, amongst others, in advance of the Stage 2 Consultation.
EIA Regulations consultation	<p>Consultation undertaken as part of the EIA regime is separate to that required under the PA 2008.</p> <p>Applicants may wish to draw attention to consultation responses received under the EIA process, but any reference to this consultation should be kept separate from the statutory consultation carried out under the provisions of the PA 2008.</p>	EIA related consultation, including that in relation to scoping, the development of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEI Report') for the Stage 2 Consultation, compliance with EIA Regulation 11 and dialogue relating to the preparation of the Environmental Statement ('ES') is summarised in a separate section (Section 14).

SECTION OF ADVICE NOTE 14	RECOMMENDATION FROM ADVICE NOTE 14	WHERE ADDRESSED IN CONSULTATION REPORT
Summary of responses	<p>A list of the individual responses received should be provided and categorised in an appropriate way. We advise that applicants group responses under the three strands of consultation as follows:</p> <p>Section 42 prescribed consultees (including S.43 and S.44) Section 47 community consultees Section 48 responses to statutory publicity.</p> <p>The list should also make further distinction within those categories by sorting response according to whether they contain comments which have led to changes to matters such as siting, route, design, form or scale of the scheme itself, or to mitigation or compensatory measures proposed, or have led to no change.</p> <p>A summary of responses by appropriate category together with a clear explanation of the reason responses have led to no change should also be included, including where responses have been received after the deadline set by the applicant. It is important that where areas of disagreement have not been resolved, the reasons why are set out clearly in the summary.</p>	<p>Section 13 (Tables 13.1 and 13.2) provide a summary of the responses received to the consultations grouped under Sections 42 and 47; how the Applicant has taken account of those responses; and whether the responses have led to changes to the Proposed Project and Application.</p> <p>The responses received to the Section 47 consultation can be made available.</p> <p>No responses were received to the Section 48 publicity.</p>
Phased approach	Where a phased approach to consultation was	The Applicant undertook multiple stages of

SECTION OF ADVICE NOTE 14	RECOMMENDATION FROM ADVICE NOTE 14	WHERE ADDRESSED IN CONSULTATION REPORT
	undertaken then this can be reflected in the structure of the report and in the summary of responses.	consultation (non-statutory and statutory). This Consultation Report is structured chronologically to set out each stage and the results/responses received.
Request for responses	It is important that the consultation report is clear and that the SoS can quickly identify whether applicants have met all statutory requirements. The applicant may be asked to provide a copy of all consultation responses that have been received.	<p>Table 2.2 in Section 2 provides a quick reference as to how the Applicant has met all of the statutory requirements relating to pre-application consultation. This includes evidence of compliance and where this is referenced and contained within the Consultation Report.</p> <p>Copies of the consultation responses all consultees including Section 42 Consultees are provided within Appendices 9.3. The consultation responses received from members of the public can be made available to the PINS.</p>
Data Protection	Applicants should ensure the consultation report complies with the Data Protection Act 1998 and addresses and other contact information are treated appropriately.	The contact information (telephone numbers and email addresses) of consultees have been omitted.

3.0 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT, RELEVANT GUIDANCE AND COMPLIANCE

3.1.1 This section provides a summary of the legislative context for NSIPs, including the legislative requirements and relevant guidance relating to pre-application consultation and publicity.

3.2 Overview of the DCO regime

3.2.1 The Proposed Project, comprising an extension to an onshore generating station, which when extended will have a capacity of more than 50 MW, falls within the definition of a NSIP under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the PA 2008. It is, therefore, necessary (as specified in Section 31 of the PA 2008) for the Applicant to apply to the SoS (via the PINS) for a DCO.

3.2.2 PINS is responsible for examining the application and making a recommendation to the relevant SoS, in this case for BEIS, who then takes the decision as to whether a DCO should be made authorising the project. A DCO can also include a range of other consents and licences and powers of compulsory acquisition.

3.2.3 Under the DCO regime, the primary policy framework for examining and determining applications is provided by National Policy Statements ('NPSs'). Section 5 of the PA 2008 allows the SoS to designate NPSs setting out national policy in relation to the types of NSIPs listed at Section 14 of the PA 2008.

3.2.4 Where a relevant NPS has been designated, Section 104 requires the SoS to determine applications for NSIPs in accordance with the relevant NPSs unless this would:

- lead to the UK being in breach of its international obligations;
- be in breach of any statutory duty that applies to the SoS;
- be unlawful;
- result in the adverse impacts of the development outweighing the benefits; or
- be contrary to regulations about how decisions are to be taken.

3.2.5 In making decisions on NSIPs, the PA 2008 (Section 104) also states that the SoS must have regard to any 'local impact report' submitted by a relevant local authority, any relevant matters prescribed in regulations and any other matters that the SoS thinks are both 'important and relevant'.

3.2.6 In July 2011 the SoS designated a number of NPSs relating to nationally significant energy infrastructure. These include an 'Overarching' NPS which sets out the Government's policy for the delivery of major energy infrastructure and five NPSs relating to specific types of energy projects. These are to be read in conjunction with the overarching NPS, where they are relevant to an application.

3.2.7 The NPSs that are considered to be of direct relevance to the Proposed Project are as follows:

- NPS EN1 - Overarching Energy;
- NPS EN2 - Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure;
- NPS EN4 - Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines; and
- NPS EN5 - Electricity Networks.

3.2.8 Part 3 of EN-1 'The Need for New Nationally Significant Energy Infrastructure Projects' defines and sets out the need that exists for nationally significant energy infrastructure.

Notably, paragraph 3.1.3 stresses that the SoS should assess applications for DCOs for the types of infrastructure covered by the energy NPSs on the basis that the Government has demonstrated that there is a need for those types of infrastructure and that the scale and urgency of that need is as described for each of them. Paragraph 3.1.4 continues by stating that the SoS should give substantial weight to the contribution that all projects would make toward satisfying this need when considering applications under the PA 2008.

- 3.2.9 Draft revised NPSs for energy infrastructure were published for consultation in September 2021. As yet, no date has been set for the designation of the draft energy NPSs. While the review of energy NPSs is undertaken, the current suite of NPSs remains relevant Government policy and have effect for the purposes of the PA 2008.⁴ They therefore continue to provide a proper basis on which PINS can examine, and the SoS can make decisions on, applications for energy NSIPs.
- 3.2.10 The above NPSs and the need for the Proposed Project are considered in greater detail within the Planning Statement (Application Document Reference: 5.2).

3.3 Legislative requirements for pre-application consultation and publicity

- 3.3.1 The legislative framework and the requirements relating to pre-application consultation and publicity for NSIPs are set out within the following:
- The PA 2008;
 - The Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure Regulations 2009 ('the APFP Regulations') (as amended); and
 - The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA Regulations').
- 3.3.2 The particular legislative requirements for applicants to follow in relation to pre-application consultation and publicity are summarised in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Requirements for pre-application consultation & publicity

Section of PA 2008/relevant regulation	Legislative requirement
Section 37: Applications for orders granting development consent	Section 37(3) requires that any application for a DCO must be accompanied by a consultation report, which provides details of what has been done to comply with Sections 42, 47 and 48, any relevant responses received to consultation and the account taken of those responses.
Section 47: Duty to consult local community	Applicants must prepare a Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') explaining how they intend to consult the people living within the vicinity of the land to which the Proposed Project relates about the proposed application. Before preparing the SoCC the applicant must consult the relevant local authorities about what is to be included within it, provide a period for comments of at least 28 days starting with the day after the day the SoCC is received, and have regard to any comments received before the deadline.

⁴ See paragraph 1.6.1 of EN-1; EN-2 and EN-4 and paragraph 1.5.1 of EN-5.

Section of PA 2008/relevant regulation	Legislative requirement
	<p>Owing to changes made in 2020 to the Infrastructure Planning (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, ('the 2020 Regulations') applicants no longer need to place paper (hard) copies of the SoCC on deposit (for inspection by the public) at locations within the vicinity of the Proposed Project, but instead make the SoCC available for inspection online. Evidence that this has been done, for example a screen shot of the relevant webpage, should be provided in the consultation report.</p> <p>Applicants must publish a SoCC Notice in a newspaper circulating newspaper within the vicinity of the Proposed Project for at least one week. Where it is not possible to place the SoCC notice in a printed newspaper, then a screen shot of the notice as it was published in an online newspaper publication (including the full website address and relevant telephone number for enquiries as required by the 2020 Regulations) should be provided.</p> <p>The Section 47 consultation must be carried out in accordance with the SoCC. Where there are any inconsistencies between the SoCC and the consultation carried out this should be clearly explained and justified in the consultation report.</p>
<p>Section 42: Duty to consult</p>	<p>Applicants must consult the following about the proposed application for at least 28 days starting with the day after the day the consultation documents are received (Section 45):</p> <p><i>Section 42(a) such persons as may be prescribed;</i></p> <p><i>Section 42(aa) the Marine Management Organisation, in any case where the Proposed Project would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2) (being waters in or adjacent to England up to the seaward limits of the territorial sea);</i></p> <p><i>Section 42(b) each local authority that is within Section 43;</i></p> <p><i>Section 42 (c) 'the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London; and</i></p> <p><i>Section 42(d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44 (i.e. affected and potentially affected land owners, including occupiers, tenants, lessees and other affected persons).</i></p>

Section of PA 2008/relevant regulation	Legislative requirement
Section 46: Duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed application	Applicants must notify the SoS of the start of the Section 42 consultation and provide the SoS with the same information as the applicant intends to send to the Section 42 consultees either at the same time as or before commencing the Section 42 consultation.
Section 48: Duty to publicise	<p>Applicants must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner (by a Section 48 Notice), in accordance with APFP Regulation 4(2), once in a national newspaper, once in the London Gazette, once in the Lloyds List and appropriate fishing journal where offshore development is involved, and for two consecutive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the land to which the Proposed Project relates.</p> <p>The deadline for the receipt of responses stated in the Section 48 Notice must not be less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published.</p> <p>The Section 48 Notice must include the following (APFP Regulation 4(3)):</p> <p><i>the name and address of the applicant;</i></p> <p><i>a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State;</i></p> <p><i>a statement as to whether the application is EIA development;</i></p> <p><i>a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Project;</i></p> <p><i>a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Project are available for inspection free of charge at the places (including at least one address in the vicinity of the Proposed Project) and times set out in the notice;</i></p> <p><i>the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection;</i></p> <p><i>whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge;</i></p> <p><i>details of how to respond to the publicity; and</i></p> <p><i>a deadline for receipt of those responses by the applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published.</i></p>

Section of PA 2008/relevant regulation	Legislative requirement
	<p>APFP Regulation 4(3) was amended by the 2020 Regulations to remove the requirement for applicants to place paper (hard) copies of the relevant documents, plans and maps on deposit. Instead, there is now a requirement for the documents, plans and maps to be made available for inspection free of charge on a website maintained by or on behalf of the applicant and the notice must provide the following information:</p> <p><i>the address of the website where the documents, plans and maps may be inspected;</i></p> <p><i>the place on the website where the documents, plans and maps may be inspected;</i></p> <p><i>a telephone number which can be used to contact the applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps;</i></p>
EIA Regulation 13: Pre-application publicity under Section 48 (duty to publicise)	<p>Where the proposed application is for EIA development, the applicant must, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under Section 48(1), send a copy of the Section 48 Notice to all the consultation bodies ('consultation bodies' means for the purposes of the EIA Regulations a body prescribed under Section 42(1)(a) and listed in column 1 of the table set out in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations where the circumstances set out in Schedule 2 are satisfied in respect of that body), 'such persons as may be prescribed', each local authority within Section 43 'Local authorities for the purposes of Section 42(1)(b)' and any person notified to the applicant by the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with EIA Regulation 11(1)(c)).</p>
Section 49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity	<p>The applicant must have regard to any 'relevant responses' received to the Section 42, 47 and 48 consultation and publicity. A 'relevant response' means a response received to the Section 42, 47 and 48 consultation and publicity before any deadline imposed in accordance with the relevant section of the PA 2008.</p>
Section 50: Guidance about pre-application procedure	<p>The applicant must have regard to any pre application procedural guidance issued under this section by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>The principal pre application guidance is 'Planning Act 2008: guidance on the pre-application process' (Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2015). This provides advice on a wide range of pre application activities.</p> <p>In addition, guidance was issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 22 July 2020 (updated on 31 December 2020) on pre-application procedures in the context of</p>

Section of PA 2008/relevant regulation	Legislative requirement
	<p>the coronavirus pandemic⁵. This guidance provides suggestions on website design and methods of providing copies of documentation. It also provides guidance on satisfying the requirement to make the SoCC available for inspection, by providing it online (via a project specific website) and via hard copies on request.</p> <p>These are described further under 'Relevant guidance' below.</p>

3.4 Relevant guidance

3.4.1 Relevant guidance relating to pre-application consultation and publicity is provided by the following documents:

- Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG): Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015).
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG): Guidance on procedural requirements for major infrastructure projects (22 July 2020, updated 31 December 2020).
- Slough Borough Council: Statement of Community Involvement (Adopted December 2006)

3.4.2 In addition, the Planning Inspectorate publishes a series of advice notes setting out recommendations for applicants, consultees, the public and others about a range of process matters including:

- The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Two: The role of local authorities in the development consent process (Published February 2015, version 1).
- The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Three: EIA consultation and notification (Republished August 2017, version 7).
- The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Four: Section 52 (Republished March 2017, version 6).
- The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Eight: Overview of the nationally significant infrastructure planning process for members of the public and others (Published February 2017).
- The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Eleven: Working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process (Republished November 2017, version 4).
- The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the consultation report (Republished April 2021, version 3).

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-on-procedural-requirements-for-major-infrastructure-projects>

3.5 Legislative compliance

3.5.1 The 'checklist' in Table 3.2 below sets out how the Applicant's pre-application consultation and publicity has complied with the legislative requirements of the PA 2008 (and related regulation) relating to pre-application consultation. This 'compliance' exercise has been carried out against the PINS 'Section 55 Application Acceptance Checklist' and the acceptance criteria that are relevant to pre-application consultation.

Table 3.2: Compliance with PINS Section 55 'Application Acceptance Checklist'

Acceptance Checklist Criteria	Evidence of Compliance	Where addressed in the Consultation Report
Section 42: Duty to consult		
Did the Applicant consult the following about the proposed application?		
Did the applicant before carrying out the s42 consultation either (a) request the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates, or (b) notify the Secretary of State in writing that it proposed to provide an environmental statement in respect of that development?	The Applicant notified the SoS under the 2017 EIA Regulations – Regulation 8(1)(b) 'Notification of Intention to Provide an Environmental Statement' and Regulation 10(1) 'Request for a Scoping Opinion' on 17 November 2021. The S42 consultation commenced on 5 May 2022.	Section 14
Have any adequacy of consultation representations been received from "A", "B", "C" and "D" authorities; and if so do they confirm that the applicant has complied with the duties under s42, s47 and s48?	These will be provided by the relevant local authorities to PINS.	n/a
Section 42: Duty to consult		
Did the Applicant consult the following about the proposed application?		
Section 42(1)(a) persons prescribed?	Yes – persons as prescribed were consulted by letter. A table of the persons is provided within the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1) at Appendix 8.1.	Section 8
Section 42(1)(aa) the Marine Management Organisation if involving offshore development	No – the Marine Management Organisation were no consulted as the Proposed Project does not involve offshore development.	n/a

Acceptance Checklist Criteria	Evidence of Compliance	Where addressed in the Consultation Report
Section 42(1)(b) each local authority within Section 43	<p>Yes – each local authority within Section 43 was consulted by letter sent by Royal Mail First Class post on 3 May 2022. The letter was accompanied by a USB drive (and download link) containing the consultation documents and stated a deadline for the receipt of consultation responses.</p> <p>The local authorities consulted were Slough Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Surrey County Council, Spelthorne Borough Council, London Borough of Hillingdon, Buckinghamshire Council and South Bucks District Council.</p>	Section 8
Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London)	The Greater London Authority was not consulted as the Proposed Project site does not involve land within Greater London.	n/a
<p>Section 42(1)(d) each person in one or more of the Section 44 categories:</p> <p>Category 1 - owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land</p> <p>Category 2 - person interested in the land or has the power to sell and convey the land or release the land</p> <p>Category 3 - person entitled to make a relevant claim</p>	<p>Yes – Section 44 persons were consulted by letter sent by Royal Mail First Class post on 3 May 2022 accompanied by a USB device containing the consultation documents and stating a deadline for the receipt of consultation responses.</p> <p>The Applicant also erected site notices at the Site and were checked and maintained during the consultation period.</p>	<p>A full list of those parties consulted pursuant to Section 44 is provided at Appendix 8.3 and an example of the Section 42 consultation letter is provided at Appendix 9.1.</p> <p>An example Site Notice is included at Appendix 8.4.</p>
Section 45: Timetable for s42 consultation		
Did the Applicant notify Section 42 consultees of the	Yes – each of the letters issued to the Section 42 consultees clearly stated a	Section 9 and Appendix 9.1 (example Section 42 letters).

Acceptance Checklist Criteria	Evidence of Compliance	Where addressed in the Consultation Report
deadline for receipt of consultation responses?	<p>deadline for the receipt of consultation responses.</p> <p>Each of the letters was issued on the 3 May 2022 and provided a deadline for comments of no later than 17 June 2022, therefore allowing in excess of 28 days to provide comments.</p>	
Section 46: Duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed Application		
Did the Applicant supply information to notify the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application; and if so, was the information supplied to the Planning Inspectorate on or before the date it was sent to the s42 consultees? Was this done on or before commencing consultation under s42?	Yes – the Applicant notified the SoS of the Application before the start of the Section 42 Consultation by email on 4 May 2022. The email contained a secure file transfer link to the consultation documents that were issued to the section 42 consultees. A day earlier on 3 May 2022, letters had been issued via Royal Mail to Section 42 Consultees.	Appendix 9.1 (example Section 42 consultation letters); and Section 10 and Appendix 10.1 (section 46 notification letter) and Appendix 10.2 (PINS acknowledgement).
Section 47: Duty to consult local community		
Did the Applicant prepare a draft SoCC on how it intended to consult people living in the vicinity of the land?	<p>Yes – a draft SoCC was produced.</p> <p>The SoCC set out a number of proposed consultation methods including the following; exhibition events, setting up a project website, sending out newsletters, writing to local political representatives, publishing notices in newspapers, placing posters in the local areas, hosting a virtual consultation event/room (via the project website), hosting a number of webinars, providing a manned freephone service and providing hard copy consultation PEI Report materials on request.</p>	Section 7 and Appendix 7.3 (copy of the SoCC).

Acceptance Checklist Criteria	Evidence of Compliance	Where addressed in the Consultation Report
Was the deadline for receipt of responses 28 days beginning with the day after the day that 'B' and (where applicable) 'C' authorities received the consultation documents?	Yes – Slough Borough Council were consulted on the content of the draft SoCC via email on 22 February 2022 (statutory consultation) and were requested to provide response by 22 March 2022. The formal response was received by SBC on 23 March 2022, confirming no comment.	Section 7, Appendix 7.1 and 7.2 (The Applicant's SoCC correspondence).
Has the Applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?	No comments were received in response to the formal or informal consultations on the draft SoCC.	Section 7
Has the SoCC been made available for inspection in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land which states where and when the SoCC can be inspected.	Yes – the SoCC Notice was published in the Slough Observer on 1 April 2022. The SoCC Notice provided information regarding the project website where the SoCC could be viewed. The notice also stated that hard copies of the SoCC or a USB device containing the SoCC could be requested free of the charge by email or telephone.	Section 7 states the newspaper and date of the SoCC Notice publication. Appendix 7.5 (SoCC Notice)
Has the Applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the SoCC?	<p>Yes – the commitments set out in the SoCC have been fulfilled as set out in Section 11 and 12 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1) and summarised as follows:</p> <p>The consultation activities and methods set out in the SoCC at Section 3.0 have taken place, as documented in Section 11 of this Report.</p> <p>A newsletter was sent to all residents and businesses within the Consultation Zone advising them of the consultation period, how to access the exhibition events, online virtual exhibition, the dates and times of the virtual</p>	Section 11

Acceptance Checklist Criteria	Evidence of Compliance	Where addressed in the Consultation Report
	<p>webinars, freephone number, how consultation materials can be accessed and the deadline for submitting comments. Local political representatives, including local MPs and ward councillors were also contacted via email with the same information.</p> <p>The Applicant published notices in a local newspaper (the Slough Observer) as proposed in the SoCC, circulating within and beyond the Consultation Zone advertising the Section 47 local community consultation and public exhibitions. Posters were erected at various location around the Public Consultation Zone, providing information on the consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant hosted two webinars and provided details of how and when to access them on the Project Website.</p> <p>The Applicant hosted an online virtual consultation portal which simulated the typical information found at a physical consultation event, the event included information boards and an online Comments Form.</p> <p>The Applicant hosted two in person exhibition events on 18th and 25th May 2022 at SSE Slough Multifuel Project Offices located at 683/5 Stirling Road, Edinburgh Avenue, Slough, SL1 4ST.</p>	

Acceptance Checklist Criteria	Evidence of Compliance	Where addressed in the Consultation Report
	<p>A manned freephone number was operated for the duration of the consultation period.</p> <p>The Project Website was updated ahead of community consultations on both the home page and the dedicated consultation page. All consultation materials (including the PEI Report) could be accessed and downloaded via the website.</p> <p>A 'Comments Form' was made available during the consultation for people to use to submit comments and feedback. The Comments Form was incorporated within the newsletter send out to the Consultation Zone and was also available to complete during exhibition events or online at the Virtual Exhibition and also on the Project Website. In addition, people were able to request hard copies of the Comments Form by email, post or telephone.</p> <p>The comments and feedback received during consultation have been carefully recorded and taken into account by the Applicant in developing the Proposed Project.</p> <p>The Applicant offered to provide copies of consultation materials and documents in either hard copy or electronic form (via USB) by request. No requests were received.</p>	
Section 48: Duty to publicise the proposed application		
Did the Applicant publish a notice (APFP Regulation 4(2)) for:	Yes – a Section 48 Notice was published for two successive weeks in the	Table 11.1 in Section 11 and Appendix 11.2 (copies of the Section 48 Notices as

Acceptance Checklist Criteria	Evidence of Compliance	Where addressed in the Consultation Report
<p>At least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating within the vicinity of the land?</p> <p>Once in a national newspaper?</p> <p>Once in the London Gazette and is the land in Scotland, the Edinburgh Gazette?</p> <p>Where the Proposed Project relates to offshore development- once in the Lloyds List; and once in the appropriate fishing trade journal.</p>	<p>Slough Observer, a local newspaper circulating within the vicinity of the Site, on 6 May 2022 and 13 July 2022, once in a national newspaper (the Telegraph) on 5 May 2022, and the London Gazette on 5 May 2022.</p>	<p>published in the relevant newspapers and publications).</p>
<p>Did the notice include (APFP Regulation 4(3)):</p> <p>The name and address of the applicant.</p> <p>A statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the SoS.</p> <p>A statement as to whether the application is EIA development.</p> <p>A summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Project.</p> <p>A statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Project area available for inspection free of charge at the places (including at least one address in the vicinity of the Proposed Project) and times set out in the notice?</p> <p>The latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection (being a date not earlier than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published).</p> <p>Whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the</p>	<p>Yes – all Section 48 Notices included:</p> <p>the name and address of the Applicant;</p> <p>a statement that the Applicant intend to make an application for a DCO;</p> <p>statement that the Proposed Project is EIA development or that an EIA is being undertaken;</p> <p>a summary of the Proposed Project, including its location;</p> <p>the s48 Notice provided details on how the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Project could be accessed both online or via hard copy on request through contacting the provided consultation freephone number or email address.</p> <p>The temporary suspensions imposed by the Government’s coronavirus regulations in 2020 were made permanent on 31 December 2020 as part of</p>	<p>Section 12, Appendix 11.24 (copies of the Section 48 Notices as published in the relevant newspapers and publications).</p>

Acceptance Checklist Criteria	Evidence of Compliance	Where addressed in the Consultation Report
<p>documents, plan or maps and the amount of any charge. Details of how to respond to the publicity. A deadline for receipt of those responses by the applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published.</p>	<p>the 2020 Regulations. Therefore, the Applicant did not make physical documentation available for inspection at Stage 2. However, the Applicant did provide information on how hard copies and USBs containing the documents could be obtained, on request.</p> <p>The Section 48 notice also provided the charge that would be made for hard copies of the consultation documents and advised of the amount of the charges;</p> <p>the latest date on which the consultation documents could be viewed online, which was on or after the last date for consultation responses; and</p> <p>details were provided of how to respond to the publicity.</p> <p>This included the Proposed Project website, email and freepost addresses and a telephone number and each notice stated a deadline for the receipt of responses, being in excess of 28 days and running from the date when the Section 48 notice was last published.</p>	
<p>Has a copy of the Section 48 Notice been sent to the EIA consultation bodies and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with EIA Regulation 9(1)(c) (EIA Regulation 11)</p>	<p>Yes – a copy of the Section 48 Notice was sent to the EIA consultation bodies at the same time as the Section 42 letters. This is explained at Section 14.</p> <p>The Applicant has not been notified of any EIA Regulation 11(1)(c) bodies by PINS and</p>	<p>Section 14, Appendix 12.1 (example 48 Notices) and Appendix 14.3 (schedule of EIA consultation bodies notified).</p>

Acceptance Checklist Criteria	Evidence of Compliance	Where addressed in the Consultation Report
	therefore none were consulted	
Section 49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity		
Has the applicant had regard to any relevant responses to the Sections 42 and 47 consultation and the Section 48 publicity?	<p>Yes – all responses received to the Consultation have been considered by the Applicant. notwithstanding that Section 49 does not oblige the Applicant to take these into account.</p> <p>Regard to Section 49 ‘Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity’ is identified in Section 13.</p>	Section 13, Tables 13.1, and 13.2.
Guidance about pre-application procedure		
To what extent has the applicant had regard to DCLG guidance, The Planning Act 2008; Guidance on pre-application consultation?	<p>The Applicant has complied with the requirements of the PA 2008 (and related regulation) as confirmed above. In formulating their consultation approach and strategy and undertaking its pre-application consultation and publicity the Applicant have also taken account of the DCLG guidance on pre-application consultation.</p>	<p>Table 3.1 demonstrates that the Applicant have fully complied with the pre-application consultation requirements of the PA 2008, while Table 3.2 demonstrates that the Applicant has fully complied with PINS application acceptance criteria relating to consultation. In addition, Table 2.2 sets out how the Applicant have complied with the advice relating to compiling and preparing consultation reports provided by PINS Advice Note 14. Section 3.4 lists the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), PINS and other guidance that the Applicant have had regard to in formulating its consultation proposals and carrying out the DCO Consultation.</p>

3.5.2 Table 3.2 demonstrates that the Applicant has complied with the pre-application consultation and publicity requirements of the PA 2008.

4.0 THE APPLICANT'S APPROACH TO CONSULTATION

- 4.1.1 Following the decision to progress the Proposed Project, the Applicant set about developing a pre-application consultation strategy (the 'Stakeholder Engagement Strategy'). The purpose of developing the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy ('SES') was to provide a framework for the Applicant's proposed pre-application consultation, including the stages of consultation, the areas and people to be consulted and the consultation activities and methods to be employed.
- 4.1.2 In preparing the SES, the Applicant recognised the need for the pre-application consultation to be meaningful, to provide clear and concise information on the Proposed Project and ultimately, provide the local community and other consultees with the opportunity to consider the emerging proposals and provide comments and feedback.
- 4.1.3 The SES prepared by the Applicant was later used as the basis for the preparation of the draft SoCC.

4.2 Consultation objectives

- 4.2.1 At the outset, the Applicant set a number of objectives for the pre-application consultation on the Proposed Project:
- introduce and raise awareness of the Proposed Project and provide the local community and other stakeholders with the opportunity to understand and comment on the proposals at different stages;
 - provide clear and concise information on the proposals;
 - provide a range of means by which people could engage with the pre-application process and provide comments and feedback on the proposals;
 - ensure that comments and feedback are accurately captured and recorded; and
 - show how comments and feedback have been taken into account in finalising the proposals and the DCO Application.
- 4.2.2 The above objectives were to be achieved by:
- developing a Consultation Engagement Strategy early in the pre-application process to provide a framework to guide the pre-application consultation, including the areas and people to be consulted and the consultation activities and methods to be employed.
 - adopting a staged approach to the pre-application consultation to introduce the Proposed Project and to allow people to consider and comment on the early proposals and to provide the opportunity to review and provide feedback on more developed proposals later in the pre-application process.
 - Deploying and carrying out a range of consultation activities and methods to publicise the proposals and received comments and feedback, including a website; letters; newsletters; newspaper adverts and notices; and posters on public notice boards; physical and virtual consultation events (for Stage 2); a freephone line; freepost; dedicated email address; and hard copy and online feedback and comments forms, amongst others.
 - Adopting an open and flexible approach to pre-application consultation by keeping under review the need for additional or further consultation prior to the submission of the DCO Application

4.3 Consultation best practice advice and guidance

4.3.1 In preparing the SES and SoCC, the Applicant had regard to the advice and guidance listed in Paragraph 2.4.1 of this document.

4.4 Staged approach

4.4.1 The Applicant took the decision to adopt a two-stage approach to its pre-application consultation. This was to include a stage of non-statutory consultation (the Stage 1 Consultation) and a stage of statutory consultation (the Stage 2 Consultation), the latter in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008.

4.4.2 **Stage 1 (Non-Statutory) Consultation** (15 November – 17 December 2021). This consultation was used to:

- update local stakeholders on the Proposed DCO Application, its purpose and timescales;
- inform stakeholders of the rationale behind the DCO Application, what it means for the plant and any potential impacts of the extension; and
- allow local stakeholders to provide their comments and ask questions on the proposals.

4.4.3 The methods undertaken for the Stage 1 Consultation are described in more detail at Section 6 of the Consultation Report with the responses to the Stage 1 Consultation set out in Section 6.7.

4.4.4 **Stage 2 (Statutory) Consultation** (5 May – 17 June 2022). This was statutory consultation undertaken in accordance with the PA 2008, notably Section 42, 46, 47 (in the case of Section 47 in accordance with the published SoCC) and 48 (and related regulations). It was used to provide information on the more developed proposals, including:

- a more detailed look at the works associated with the Proposed Project, including a 3D model of the physical extension works proposed;
- the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') work undertaken at that stage, presented in the form of a Preliminary Environmental Information ('PEI') Report; and
- an update on the anticipated submission date for the DCO Application and key milestones for the Proposed Project going forward.

4.4.5 What was done for the Stage 2 Consultation is described in more detail at Sections 9 to 11 of the Consultation Report with how regard has been had to the responses to the consultation set out in Section 12.

4.5 Adapting to COVID-19

4.5.1 The Stage 1 Consultation was held in Quarter 4 ('Q4') 2021 at the same time as home working and social distancing advisory measures were reintroduced by the UK Government due to the Omicron variant. In the Applicant's Stakeholder Engagement Strategy it was noted that the prospect of holding any face to face events would be kept under review and dependant on Government advice, restrictions and precautions at that time. Due to the increasing severity of the situation nationally at the time of Q4 2021, the Applicant decided against any face to face information events during the Stage 1 Consultation. The Applicant still provided numerous virtual and postal consultation methods in order to provide information to people safely, these are set out in more detail at Section 5 and 6 of this Consultation Report.

- 4.5.2 Face to face events were reintroduced and undertaken for the Stage 2 Consultation during May 2022, once the Government restrictions had been eased and it was safe to do so.

5.0 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

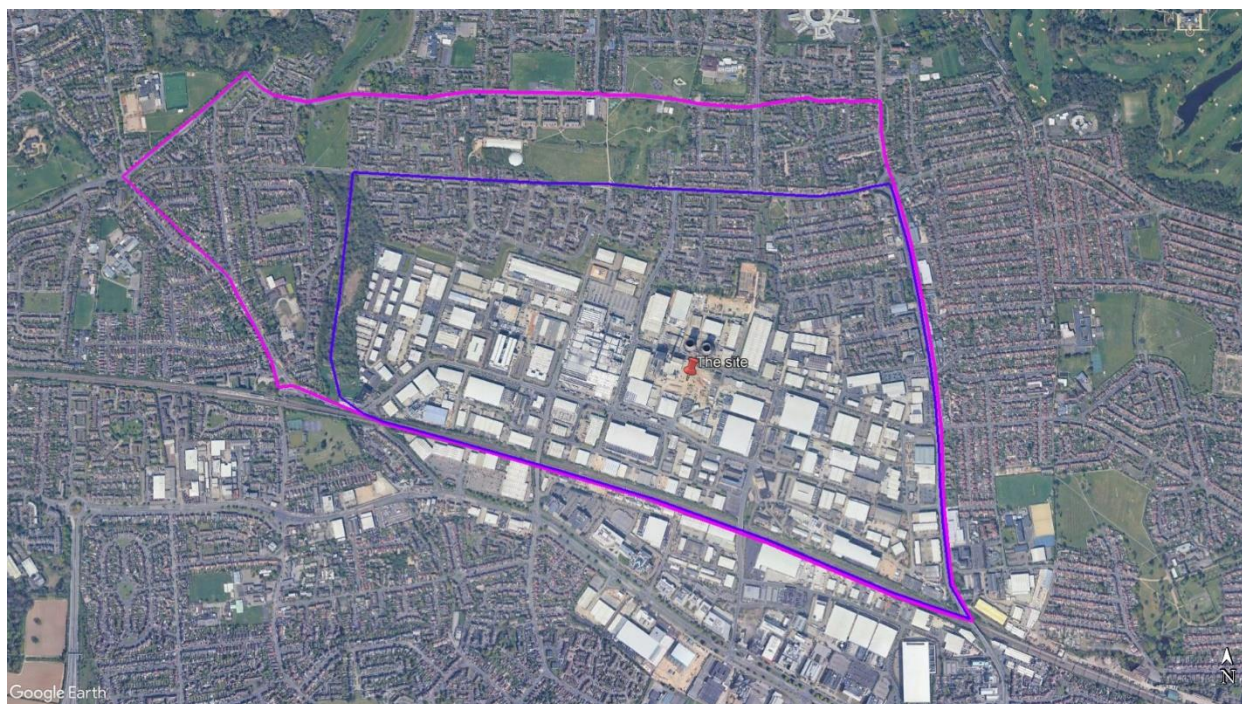
5.1 Background to preparation of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

- 5.1.1 The Stakeholder Engagement Strategy ('SES') was developed early in the pre-application process (between September and October 2021) to provide an internal framework for the Applicant's consultation on the Proposed Project, in particular, the Stage 1 (non-statutory) Consultation that was proposed to take place in Q4 2021.
- 5.1.2 The SES set out the proposed approach to pre-application consultation, including the objectives of the consultation; when this would take place; what would be consulted upon; who would be consulted (including the proposed extent of the Consultation Area). The Strategy also set out the proposed methods to be employed for the pre-application consultation and how comments would be recorded, analysed and reported.

5.2 Definition of the Consultation Zones at Stage 1

- 5.2.1 Integral to the Applicant's SES was the definition of an appropriate consultation zone. The primary purpose of defining a consultation zone was to ensure that the geographical extent of the local community consultation would be adequate given that Section 47 of the PA 2008 requires applicants to consult "*people living in the vicinity of the land*" of a proposed application for a DCO. However, the term 'in the vicinity of' is not defined by the PA 2008.
- 5.2.2 The DCLG guidance on pre-application consultation ('Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process - January 2013') provides some guidance as to the extent of consultation areas for community consultation at paragraph 25. It indicates that where a Proposed Project would affect people living within the "wider area" (e.g. through visual or other environmental effects) they should be consulted. Furthermore, at paragraph 39 of the guidance when referring to the requirement to consult those living in the vicinity of the land, it states that applicants are:
- "encouraged to consider consulting beyond this where they think doing so may provide more information on the impacts of their proposals (e.g. through visual impacts or increased traffic flow)".*
- 5.2.3 In view of the above, the consultation zone defined by the Applicant established a two radius (inner and outer) approach in the SES for the Stage 1 Consultation. The Inner Consultation Zone ('ICZ') (shown in purple at Figure 5.1) encompassed the immediate Slough Trading Estate and neighbouring residential areas to the north and west as far as Burnham Lane and Lower Britwell Road to the west, Long Furlong Drive to the north and Farnham Road to the east, totalling approximately 5,000 business and residential addresses. Whereas an additional Outer Consultation Zone ('OCZ') (shown in pink at Figure 5.1) included further surrounding residential areas of Britwell and residences in the vicinity of Burnham Park and Kennedy Park and was based on the consultation zone used for the original Slough Multifuel planning application in 2014. The SES noted that all residences within the ICZ would receive a direct letter notifying them of the Stage 1 Consultation, whereas the OCZ would still be within the reach of local newspaper publishing notices associated with the consultation.
- 5.2.4 The extent of the Stage 1 Consultation Zones is shown on Figure 3-1 below:

Figure 5.1: Stage 1 Consultation Zones



5.3 Consultation methods

5.3.1 Table 5-1 sets out the methods of consultation that were proposed in the SES.

Table 5.1: Consultation methods proposed in the SES

CONSULTATION METHOD	DETAILS
Project website	A website/webpage (https://www.ssethermal.com/energy-from-waste/slough-multifuel/) for publishing updates and information on the Proposed Project, including details of the virtual consultation and consultation materials (e.g. project newsletters, question and answer sheets, Comments Forms and public exhibition boards) and also details of how to submit comments and the deadline for these. The SoCC was also uploaded to the Project Website during Q2 2022.
Elected members briefings	Briefings of local political representatives (e.g. county, district and parish councillors).
Letter/ newsletters	Letters/newsletters issued to the people living within the ICZ to advise them of the Stage 1 Consultation and materials along with how to make comments and the deadline for these. Letters were sent to both the ICZ and OCZ for the Stage 2 (Statutory) Consultation.
Newspaper adverts/ notices	Publication of notices in local and (as appropriate) national newspapers and other publications to publicise the stages of consultation, the consultation events, how to submit comments and the deadline for these
Site notices/ posters	Erection of notices at the Site boundary where they could be viewed by the public, in addition to posters on public notice

CONSULTATION METHOD	DETAILS
	boards (e.g. council offices and libraries) within the consultation zones in order to publicise the stages of consultation, the consultation events, how to submit comments and the deadline for these.
Public Exhibitions	Public exhibitions (kept under review due to COVID-19 associated UK Government restriction) to provide an opportunity for the local community (and others) to view the consultation documents and materials and speak to the representatives of the Applicant and members of the technical team.
Virtual Exhibitions	Virtual consultation webpages at both stages of consultation in order to increase reach to the local community where many may still not feel comfortable with physical events due to Covid-19. Virtual events still give the local community an opportunity to view the consultation documents and ask questions/submit feedback to the Applicant and its the technical team in lieu of an in person event.

5.4 Recording, analysing and responding to consultation

- 5.4.1 The SES confirmed that the responses received to the two stages of consultation would be recorded by the Applicant and that it would then review these and take account of the comments made as appropriate.
- 5.4.2 The SES also confirmed that consultation undertaken, the responses received to it and how these had been taken into account would be documented within a consultation report that would form part of the DCO Application.
- 5.4.3 A copy of the SES is provided at **Appendix 5.1**.

6.0 STAGE 1 CONSULTATION

6.1.1 The Stage 1 Consultation on the Proposed Project was carried out by SSE from 15 November 2021 to 17 December 2021 (32 days). The main aims of this initial stage were to update the local community on the project, raise their awareness of it and give the opportunity for them to provide initial comments. In accordance with the SES, key stakeholders were consulted including SEGRO (the owners of the majority of the Slough Trading Estate), SBC (the local authority), selected technical consultees (such as the Environment Agency ('EA')) and local political representatives.

6.2 Who was consulted

6.2.1 The following were consulted:

- The existing Slough Multifuel Liaison Group made up of (SEGRO representatives, the local authority, local political representatives, including, the MP for Slough, parish and ward councillors;
- Neighbouring Slough Trading Estate businesses who attended a quarterly Slough Multifuel local liaison meeting;
- Local residents and businesses located within the consultation zones;
- Technical consultees (e.g. the EA, SBC Highways and SBC Environmental Health etc.); and
- Other potentially affected statutory undertakers, such as Thames Water.

6.2.2 A list of those consulted, aside from members of the local community (for privacy reasons), is included as part of the SES at **Appendix 5.1**.

6.3 How were they consulted

6.3.1 The local community was consulted via newspaper advertisements, posters, and the project website. Specific details can be found under the relevant headings below. Due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID 19 ('coronavirus') pandemic traditional in-person forms of consultation such as public exhibitions were kept under review but eventually ruled out for the Stage 1 Consultation.

Newspaper Advertisements

6.3.2 Newspaper advertisement published on 11 November 2021 in the Slough Observer, a local newspaper covering the consultation zones and surrounding area. The advert contained a brief outline of the project and information about the ongoing Stage 1 Consultation, including addresses for the project website and virtual public exhibition and timescales (included at **Appendix 6.1**).

6.3.3 The newspaper notices ensured that the Stage 1 Consultation was publicised to people living and working within the wider area – beyond the ICZ.

Posters

6.3.4 Posters or public notices were displayed at locations around the Proposed Project Site. The posters contained a brief outline of the Proposed Project and information about the ongoing Stage 1 Consultation, including addresses for the project website and virtual public exhibition. The same document was used as both the newspaper notice and poster, which can be viewed at **Appendix 6.1**.

Newsletter

6.3.5 A Community Update Newsletter was distributed to approximately 2500 business and residential addresses within the ICZ in the days leading up to the start of the Stage 1 Consultation on 15 November 2021. The newsletter provided a general update on the construction works taking place at the Site, before introducing the proposed DCO application, Stage 1 Consultation and means by which people could find out more and leave feedback. The newsletter can be viewed at **Appendix 6.2**.

Project Website

6.3.6 The newsletters, a frequently asked questions ('FAQs') document, EIA Scoping Report and other Stage 1 Consultation information was on the Project Website (and remained available thereafter). Details of the Project Website were included on all communications materials issued and local liaison group meetings.

6.4 What were they consulted on/ what information was provided

6.4.1 Those consulted via newsletter were provided with an introduction to the Applicant, the Proposed Project, and the consultation process. The newsletter and other consultation materials contained a link to the project website and the virtual public exhibition. The website featured consultation materials including:

- The Project Newsletter;
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Document;
- EIA Scoping Report;
- Site location plan; and
- Newspaper advert.

6.4.2 All of the consultation documents and materials were made available on the Project Website. The Stage 1 Consultation documents are provided at **Appendix 6.1 – 6.3**.

6.5 How could feedback be provided/ deadline for comments

6.5.1 The consultation documents and materials (e.g. newsletter, newspaper notice and Project Website etc) informed people that comments and feedback could be provided by visiting the project website and completing the comments form. A copy of the Comments Form used for the Stage 1 Consultation is provided at **Appendix 6.4**.

6.5.2 The consultation documents and materials clearly stated that the deadline for the receipt of Comments Form submissions was 17 December 2021, therefore providing people with a period of 32 days to provide comments and feedback, more than the statutory minimum period required by the PA 2008 and related regulations.

6.6 Response to the consultation

6.6.1 The Comments Form allowed respondents to enter their personal information, such as name and email address, before being given the opportunity to provide any comments in the form of feedback or questions to the Project Team.

6.6.2 A total of 2 responses were received during the Stage 1 Consultation period. Both of these responses, and the Applicant response issued in return are provided below at Table 6.1.

Table 6.1 – Summary of comments received at the Stage 1 Consultation

No.	Comment Received	Applicant Response
1	<i>I received your newsletter today about the multi fuel</i>	<i>Applicant response - sent on 15/12/2021</i>

<p><i>project, and it was the first that I've heard of it. Many thx for the information.</i></p> <p><i>I live close by to the see plant, SL2 1RW.</i></p> <p><i>1. You've mentioned that the proposed changes from 50mw capacity to 60mw capacity initially don't seem to impact any air quality changes. Can I check that the plant itself, when commissioned, won't change the air quality from what it is today?</i></p> <p><i>2. Can I check the noise pollution on commissioning the plant won't change levels that are present today? Additionally will adding 10mw increase change the noise pollution? I received your newsletter today about the multi fuel project, and it was the first that I've heard of it. Many thx for the information. I live close by to the see plant, sl21rw.</i></p>	<p><i>Good afternoon,</i></p> <p><i>Many thanks again for contacting us as part of our consultation process. Please find below a response to your questions which I hope you will find helpful. If you have any further questions, please do contact me.</i></p> <p><i>Q1. You've mentioned that the proposed changes from 50mw capacity to 60mw capacity initially don't seem to impact any air quality changes. Can I check that the plant itself, when commissioned, won't change the air quality from what it is today?</i></p> <p><i>The air quality assessment for the consented 50MW facility was approved by Slough Borough Council and the Environment Agency in 2017 and showed there would be a negligible change in the local air quality at most locations and for most pollutants. None of the air quality limits set by the Government for the protection of human health were predicted to be exceeded, and therefore no adverse health effects would be expected (associated with the existing air quality conditions or when adding on the consented Slough Multifuel facility emissions).</i></p> <p><i>The air quality emissions will be remodelled and presented in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report, which we are required to share with stakeholders such as Slough BC and the Environment Agency, as well as the local community – which we anticipate will take place in Spring 2022. Following feedback this will then be updated as part of the submission to the Planning Inspectorate and will include an assessment of any changes to local air quality and lower regulatory emissions limits that will need to be met. We have already submitted our planned scope of works for the modelling to the Planning Inspectorate, who will in turn share it with the Environment Agency and Slough BC.</i></p> <p><i>2. Can I check the noise pollution on commissioning the plant won't change levels that are present today? Additionally will adding 10mw increase change the noise pollution?</i></p> <p><i>The Slough Heat and Power (SHP) site is currently limited through planning conditions set by Slough BC to not exceed 60 decibels (dB(A)) at a height of 1.2m and a distance of 3.6m from the building facades to protect local amenity. The consented Slough Multifuel Facility and its planned Extension (to 60MW) will comply with this requirement and we do not seek to change this. The 2014 Environmental Impact</i></p>
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		<p><i>Assessment demonstrated at worst, a minor adverse effect on noise levels.</i></p> <p><i>The Environmental Impact Assessment for the Extension Project to achieve 60MW will remodel the noise emissions using design data for the plant now under construction. It is expected that the Extension will not increase the noise levels relative to the consented Multifuel scheme, but this will be checked and demonstrated in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report which will be available to review during the statutory consultation, anticipated to take place in Spring 2022.</i></p>
2	<p>Many thanks for the update newsletter and the news regarding your intention to apply for consent to increase the output to generate up to 60MW of electricity.</p> <p>I had a quick look at the website and couldn't easily spot the comments form but I'm hoping this email will suffice.</p> <p>I'm sure that you are aware that Burnham Beeches is an SAC and therefore there is a need to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment when applying for planning applications that have the potential to have a negative impact on the protected features of the SAC. The main potential problem with the application is likely to be air quality and therefore we will require more information regarding the impacts of the proposed increase in output on air quality and how this might impact on Burnham Beeches.</p> <p>We have a long history of working with SSE over these issues in the past so this is just a reminder that further information will be required.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing more about your project in the future.</p>	<p>Many thanks for your email and for reaching out to our team. We have produced an EIA Scoping Report which was recently shared with the Planning Inspectorate, who should have hopefully now distributed this to you and other stakeholders for feedback. It is also available on their website at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010129/EN010129-000009-EN010129_Slough_Multifuel_Extension_Scoping_Report.pdf</p> <p>We understand your interest in Burnham Beeches and its importance. At this stage our team is expecting that the Extension project will show an improvement in air quality emissions from the SHP site relative to the consented 50MW scheme, but this needs to be tested through modelling. This is because the previous modelling was based on maximum allowed emission limits by law, rather than known emissions. Since this date, the regulatory limits have reduced so the facility will not be able to emit the emissions that were modelled and consented in 2014. We also now have guaranteed maximum emissions from a vendor / supplier that we can model, rather than needing to model the maximum allowed limits.</p> <p>We intend to share the air quality impact assessment as part of the Preliminary Environmental Information report during Statutory Consultation in Spring 2022, and we would be happy to share this with you in advance of this formal process. This will include a HRA screening assessment and full assessment if either are required, although clearly if there is an improvement on the consented scheme, this may not be necessary.</p> <p>Do feel free to contact us again if you have any further queries.</p>

6.7 Analysis of comments and feedback

6.7.1 Table 6.1 illustrate one response from a nearby local resident and one from the City of London (who manage the Burnham Beaches Special Area of Conservation ('SAC')). The responses raised queries relating to the following topics:

- Air Quality impacts derived from the Consented Development;
- Noise pollution impacts derived from the Proposed Project and Consented Development; and
- Potential impacts to Burnham Beeches SAC.

6.7.2 The queries received via the two comments forms were responded to by the Applicant with the relevant information either available at the time with regard to the Proposed Project, or historic information relating to assessments undertaken in relation to the Consented Development.

7.0 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION: PREPARATION AND CONSULTATION

7.1.1 This section of the Consultation Report sets out the approach that was taken to the preparation of the Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC'), the statutory consultation that took place with the relevant local authorities, SBC on the draft SoCC in accordance with Section 47(2), the feedback received, and the changes made to the SoCC prior to its publication pursuant to Section 47(6). As confirmed in Section 5 of this Report, the preparation of the SoCC was informed by the SES that had been prepared early in the pre-application process prior to the Stage 1 Consultation.

7.2 Legislative requirements

7.2.1 Section 47 of the PA 2008 places a duty on applicants for a DCO to consult the 'local community'. Subsection (1) requires the applicant to prepare a SoCC setting out how it proposes to consult people living within the vicinity of the land to which the application relates.

7.2.2 Subsection (2) goes on to state that in preparing the SoCC, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within Section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement. Section 43(1) states that a local authority is within this section if the land (to which the application relates) is in the authority's area. The Site lies within the administrative area of SBC. As such, the Applicant was required to consult SBC (the host local authority) on the preparation of its SoCC.

7.2.3 Under subsection (3) the applicant must provide the Section 43(1) authorities with a period of 28 days (beginning with the day after the authority receives the draft SoCC) to respond to the consultation, while subsection (5) requires the applicant to have regard to any response received before this deadline. The applicant must then make the SoCC available for inspection by the public and publish a notice in a newspaper circulating within the vicinity of the land to which the application relates, stating where and when the SoCC can be inspected (subsection (6)). Subsection (7) requires the consultation to be carried out in accordance with the proposals set out in the SoCC.

7.3 Background to the preparation of the SoCC

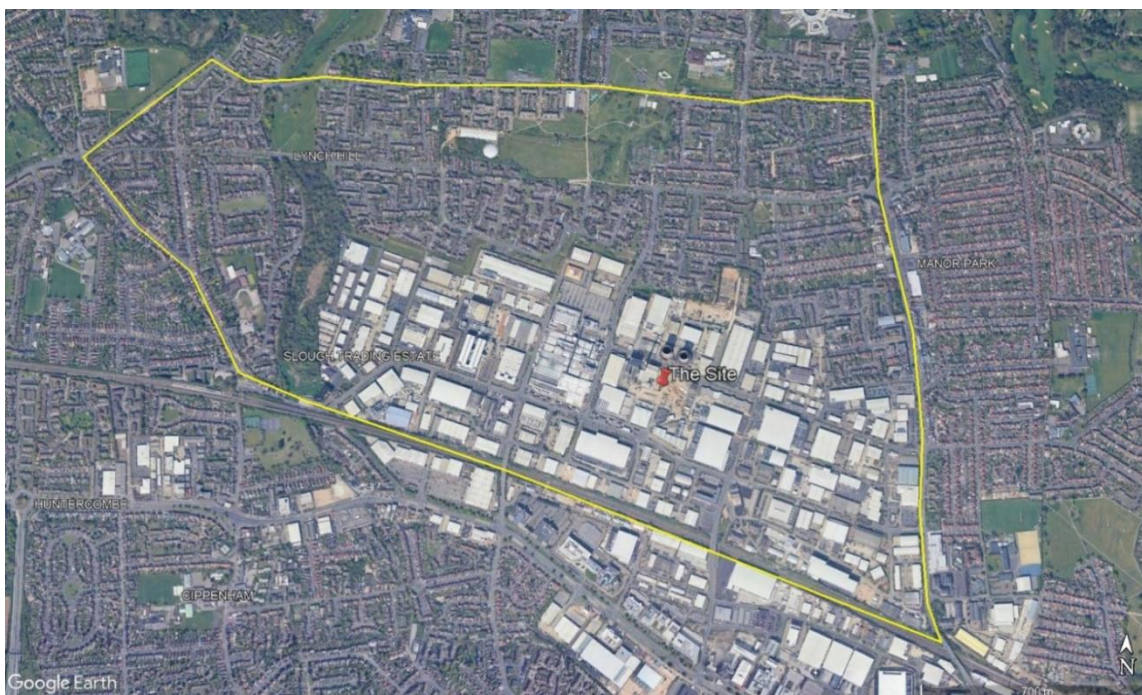
7.3.1 Section 47 requires the applicant to consult people "living within the vicinity" of the land to which the application relates. As confirmed earlier, it does not, however, define by what is meant by 'vicinity'. To ensure as wider reach as possible in the vicinity of the Site, the draft SoCC adopted the Outer Consultation Zone previously defined in the SES as its only public consultation zone ('PCZ') for the Stage 2 Consultation. The PCZ is explained in more detail below.

7.3.2 The draft SoCC set out a range of methods that it was proposed would be used to consult the local community. These included providing updates on a project website; public exhibitions; webinars notices in local newspapers; displaying notices and posters throughout the PCZ; distributing letters to households and businesses within the PCZ; providing USB sticks with access to the consultation documents; and engaging with the existing local community liaison group and local political representatives.

7.4 SoCC Public Consultation Zone

7.4.1 Ahead of the Stage 2 Consultation, the Applicant adopted the previously used OCZ from the SES as the one PCZ for the draft SoCC. The SoCC PCZ used for the Stage 2 Consultation is shown below at Figure 8.1.

Figure 8.1: Stage 2 Consultation Zone



7.5 Statutory consultation on the draft SoCC

- 7.5.1 Prior to Statutory Consultation on the draft SoCC, the Applicant issued an initial draft SoCC to SBC on 11 February 2022 which summarised the consultation methods used at Stage 1. Initial comments were requested back by 17 February 2022, no comments were received from SBC on the initial draft SoCC. A copy of the email issued to SBC on 11 February 2022 can be found in **Appendix 7.1**.
- 7.5.2 On 22 February 2022 the draft SoCC was submitted to SBC for statutory consultation in accordance with Section 47(2). The deadline set for comments was 22 March 2022. SBC responded on 23 March 2022 confirming that they had no comments to add on the draft SoCC. A copy of the email sent and received from SBC is included at **Appendix 7.2**.
- 7.5.3 A copy of the SoCC as finalised following confirmation from SBC, is included at **Appendix 7.3**.

7.6 Publication of the SoCC Notice and final SoCC

- 7.6.1 The SoCC was finalised following completion of the statutory time period given to SBC. On the basis that no comments were received from SBC, no changes were made to the draft.
- 7.6.2 The SoCC notice was subsequently published in in the Slough Observer on 1 April 2022.
- 7.6.3 Owing to the changes made by the 2020 Regulations, the Applicant was not required to make a physical copy of the SoCC available for inspection by the public. Section 47(6) of the PA 2008 still requires that the applicant makes the SoCC available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land. The SoCC notice published in the Slough Observer made the reader aware that the SoCC could be inspected free of charge on the Project Website. The SoCC notice also made provision for those who might not be able to access the Project Website, through the methods set out below.
- 7.6.4 In accordance with Section 47(6) a copy of the SoCC was made available for inspection on the Project website: [REDACTED]

- 7.6.5 A hard copy or a USB device containing the SoCC could also be made available by contacting one of the following means:
- a) By email to thermalenquiries@sse.com or;
 - b) The project telephone number: 020 7489 4830
- 7.6.6 The SoCC Notice template is provided at **Appendix 7.4** and a copy of the SoCC Notice as it appeared in the Slough Observer is provided at **Appendix 7.5**.

8.0 STAGE 2 CONSULTATION: IDENTIFYING CONSULTEES

8.1.1 This section explains how the Applicant identified those persons listed at Section 42 of the PA 2008 (the Section 42 Consultees) with whom there was a statutory duty to consult and confirms who was consulted. It also lists those other persons that there was no statutory duty to consult but who the Applicant considered should be consulted as they may be interested in the Proposed Project (the 'Non-prescribed consultees').

8.2 Section 42 'Duty to consult'

8.2.1 Section 42 of the PA 2008 states that the applicant must consult the following (the 'Section 42 Consultees') about a proposed application for a DCO:

- Section 42(a) - such persons as may be prescribed.
- Section 42(aa) - the Marine Management Organisation, in any case where the project would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (e.g. tidal or offshore areas).
- Section 42(b) - each local authority that is within Section 43.
- Section 42(c) - the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London. This is not relevant to the Proposed Project and is therefore not considered further in this section.
- Section 42(d) - each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.

8.3 Section 42(a) - Such persons as may be prescribed

8.3.1 'Such persons as may be prescribed' (hereafter referred to as 'prescribed consultees') were identified by reference to Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations, which lists all prescribed consultees and the circumstances when they must be consulted about a proposed application for a DCO.

8.3.2 In addition, the Applicant has had regard to PINS Advice Note 3 'EIA consultation and notification' (July 2013), which provides advice and guidance on the identification of prescribed consultees. In identifying those to consult, the Applicant applied the 'Circumstances Test' set out in Annex 1 of Advice Note 3. Where there was any uncertainty or doubt as whether or not to include a consultee, the Applicant erred on the side of caution and included that consultee on the list of those to be consulted.

8.3.3 In identifying prescribed consultees, the Applicant also reviewed bodies notified by PINS under EIA Regulation 9(1)(a) in connection with its EIA scoping consultation

8.3.4 The table at **Appendix 8.1** lists all of the prescribed consultees from Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations and statutory undertakers, it also identifies those that were consulted pursuant to Section 42 and the date on which they were consulted.

8.3.5 Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations refers to the need to consult 'relevant statutory undertakers' where applications are likely to affect their functions as statutory undertakers. Statutory undertakers were identified with reference to Annex 1 of PINS Advice Note 3. In addition, SSE's land agents, Ardent, were instructed to identify statutory undertakers who may have apparatus and/or land interests either within or adjoining the Site.

8.4 Section 42(b) – Each local authority that is within Section 43

8.4.1 The relevant local authorities to consult were identified by applying Section 43, subsections (1), (2) and (2A).

- 8.4.2 Section 43(1) confirms that a local authority is within Section 43 if the land (to which the application relates) is in that authority's area.
- 8.4.3 Section 43(2) goes on to state that a local authority (the 'A' authority) is within the section if:
- a) the land is in the area of another authority (the 'B' authority);
 - b) 'B' is a unitary council or a lower tier district council; and
 - c) any part of the boundary of 'A's' area is also part of the boundary of B's area.
- 8.4.4 Subsection (2A) states that if the land is within the area of an upper-tier county council (a 'C' authority), a local authority (a 'D' authority) is within the section if:
- a) 'D' is not a lower-tier district council; and
 - b) any part of the boundary of 'D's' area is also part of the boundary of 'C's' area.
- 8.4.5 The relevant local authorities for the purposes of Section 43 and the Proposed Project are set out in Table 7.1 along with the dates on which they were consulted.

Table 7.1: Local Authorities within Section 43

AUTHORITY	CATEGORY OF AUTHORITY	DATE CONSULTED
Slough Borough Council	B	3 May 2022
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	A	3 May 2022
Surrey County Council	A	3 May 2022
Spelthorne Borough Council	A	3 May 2022
London Borough of Hillingdon	A	3 May 2022
Buckinghamshire Council	A	3 May 2022
South Bucks District Council	A	3 May 2022

- 8.4.6 Maps showing the boundaries of the above local authorities relative to the location of the Site are provided at **Appendix 8.2**.

8.5 Section 42(d) - Each person in one or more of the categories set out in Section 44

- 8.5.1 Section 44 defines the categories of persons to be consulted for the purposes of Section 42(d). These are as follows:
- a) Category 1 - an owner, lessee, tenant (whatever the tenancy period) or occupier of the land.
 - b) Category 2 - a person interested in the land, or who has the power to sell and convey the land, or to release the land.
 - c) Category 3 - if the applicant thinks that, if the DCO were to be made and fully implemented, the person would or might be entitled (a) as a result of the implementing of the order, (b) as a result of the order having been implemented, or (c) as a result of use of the land once the order has been implemented, to make a relevant claim.
- 8.5.2 A 'relevant claim' is defined by Section 44(6) as meaning:

- a) a claim under Section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (compensation where satisfaction not made for the taking, or injurious affection, of land subject to compulsory purchase);
- b) a claim under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 (compensation for depreciation of land value by physical factors cause by use of public works); and
- c) a claim under Section 152(3) of the PA 2008 (compensation in case where no right to claim in nuisance).

8.5.3 Section 44 places a duty on the applicant to make 'diligent inquiry' as to the identification of Category 1, 2, or 3 persons (the 'Section 44 persons'). The term 'diligent enquiry' is not defined for the purposes of the PA 2008. It sets a threshold of enquiry to allow the termination of that enquiry when reasonable and recognised avenues of research have been exhausted. The methods employed by the Applicant's land agent to seek to ensure that all Section 44 persons were identified and consulted included: searches at the Land Registry; searches for registered correspondence to the address (where appropriate); site visits; discussions with known owners/occupiers and discussions with the environmental consultants (who were conducting site visits for surveys); liaison with SSE personnel with knowledge of the Site and local area; review of legal title reports relating to the Applicant's land ownership; the issue of 'requests for information' and confirmation schedules to potentially affected land owners/occupiers (including statutory undertakers); and Companies House and electoral roll searches. After making diligent inquiry, the Applicant did not identify any Category 3 persons as defined by Section 57(4) of the PA 2008.

8.5.4 It should be noted that no areas of land were identified by the Applicant's land reference to be missing landownership information, therefore no 'unknown landowner' notices were considered to be required.

8.5.5 The list of Section 44 persons for Stage 2 Consultation is included at **Appendix 8.3**.

8.6 Non-prescribed consultees

8.6.1 As confirmed above, the Applicant took the decision to consult a number of Non-prescribed Consultees, who although there was no statutory duty to consult, it was considered may be interested in the Proposed Project. These Non-prescribed Consultees were consulted in the days prior to the start of the Section 42 Consultation on 3 May 2022. The non-prescribed consultees were consulted in the same manner and provided with the same information as the Section 42 consultees.

8.6.2 The Non-prescribed consultees who were consulted are listed in the table at **Appendix 8.5**.

8.7 Section 47 'Duty to consult local community'

8.7.1 Section 47 of the PA 2008 places a duty on the applicant to consult the local community, that is, the people living within the vicinity of the land to which the application for a DCO relates. The Applicant's approach to consulting the local community is set out in Sections 7 and 11 of the Consultation Report and in the published SoCC at **Appendix 7.3**.

8.8 Section 48 'Duty to publicise'

8.8.1 Section 48 of the PA 2008 places a duty on applicants to publicise a proposed application for a DCO in the 'prescribed manner' as set out in APFP Regulation 4.

8.8.2 The Section 48 publicity undertaken by the Applicant is described in Section 12 of the Report.

8.8.3 No responses were received as a result of the Section 48 publicity.

9.0 STAGE 2 CONSULTATION: SECTION 42 DUTY TO CONSULT

- 9.1.1 This section sets out the consultation carried out as part of the Stage 2 Consultation in accordance with Section 42 'Duty to consult' of the PA 2008. The Stage 2 Consultation took place from 5 May 2022 to 17 June 2022 (43 days).
- 9.1.2 At the same time as consulting persons under Section 42, the Applicant also consulted a number of other persons who, while there was no statutory duty to consult them, it was considered may be interested in the Proposed Project. These consultees, referred to as 'Non-prescribed consultees', were consulted in the same manner and provided with access to the same information as the Section 42 consultees.
- 9.1.3 The remainder of this section deals with Section 42 consultation carried out as part the Stage 2 Consultation only.

9.2 Who was consulted

- 9.2.1 The Section 42 consultation involved the Applicant consulting the 'prescribed persons' (described in Section 8 and listed in Appendix 8.1), the relevant local authorities under Section 43 (listed at Section 8, Table 8.1) and persons/land ownership interests ('Section 48 parties') falling within Categories 1, 2 and 3 of Section 44 (Section 8 and **Appendix 8.3**). These consultees are collectively referred to as the 'Section 42 Consultees'.
- 9.2.2 Consistent with the Applicant's objective to consult widely on the Proposed Project, as confirmed above, a number of Non-prescribed Consultees (listed at **Appendix 8.5**) were also consulted. These Non-prescribed Consultees included persons identified prior to the statutory consultation on the Proposed Project that it was considered appropriate to consult as they may be interested in the Proposed Project.
- 9.2.3 In total, approximately 130 prescribed persons, relevant local authorities, relevant statutory undertakers, land ownership interests and non-prescribed consultees were consulted. In some cases, where consultees had multiple addresses, they were sent more than one copy of the consultation documents.

9.3 How were they consulted

- 9.3.1 The consultees (both prescribed and non-prescribed) were sent a consultation letter by Royal Mail First Class. Letters were sent to all Section 42 Consultees and Non-prescribed consultees on 3 May 2022. The letters were also sent by email (where email addresses were available) to local political representatives, including ward councillors.
- 9.3.2 The letters explained why each consultee was being consulted, provided background information on the Proposed Project, summarised its main components and how entities could submit comments and the deadline for doing so (example letters are included at **Appendix 9.1**).

9.4 What were the consulted upon/ what information was provided

- 9.4.1 The letters sent to the statutory consultees were accompanied by a USB containing the following consultation documents:
- the PEI Report and Non-technical Summary setting out the findings of the environmental assessments of the Proposed Project that has been carried at that date.;
 - site location plan;
 - plan showing the extent of the Proposed Project site outlined in red; and

- copy of the notice that was published pursuant to section 48 'Duty to publicise' of the PA 2008.

9.5 How could feedback be provided/ deadline for comments

9.5.1 The consultation letters advised of a variety of ways in which consultees could respond, as follows:

- Post: freepost to Slough Multifuel
- E-mail: thermalenquiries@sse.com;
- Website: [REDACTED]
- Online via the Virtual Exhibition Website; or
- Providing feedback at the public exhibitions

9.5.2 The letters sent clearly stated that the deadline for the receipt of responses was 17 June 2022, therefore providing people with 43 days to respond in excess of 28 days required by Section 45.

9.6 Response to the consultation

9.6.1 A total of 14 separate consultees responded to the Section 42 consultation. Of the responses received, two raised specific comments on the Proposed Project or requested further information, with the remainder either confirming that the consultee had no comments and/or stating no objections. It could be said that the majority of Section 42 responses did not raise any questions or queries with regard to the Proposed Project or the Stage 2 Consultation materials and generally referred the Applicant to standard guidance available for their respective subject.

9.6.2 The responses received to the consultation (with personal information redacted) are provided at **Appendix 9.2**. Where necessary, the Applicant acknowledged responses.

9.6.3 A summary of the issues raised by consultees is provided in Table 12.2 in Section 12 (and is therefore not repeated here), along with information on how the Applicant has had regard to these.

9.7 Compliance with Section 42

9.7.1 The Applicant considers that the Stage 2 (Section 42) Consultation undertaken has complied with the requirements of the PA 2008.

10.0 STAGE 2 CONSULTATION: SECTION 46 'DUTY TO NOTIFY SECRETARY OF STATE OF PROPOSED APPLICATION'

- 10.1.1 Section 46 of the PA 2008 places a duty on the applicant for a DCO to notify the SoS of the Section 42 consultation that it is to carry out. The applicant must comply with this requirement either before or at the same time as commencing the Section 42 consultation. In doing so, the applicant must send to the SoS the same information that is to be provided to the Section 42 consultees.
- 10.1.2 The Applicant commenced the Section 42 consultation (as part of the Stage 2 Consultation) on 5 May 2022 (letters were sent to the Section 42 Consultees (including Non-prescribed Consultees) on 3 May 2022. In accordance with Section 46, PINS was notified of the start of the Section 42 consultation on 4 May 2022, prior to the start of the consultation on 5 May 2022.
- 10.1.3 PINS was notified by email and letter dated 4 May 2022. The letter contained a fileshare link which contained the consultation documents that were to be sent to the Section 42 Consultees (and Non-prescribed Consultees). A copy of the Section 46 Notification is provided at **Appendix 10.1**.
- 10.1.4 The PINS acknowledged receipt of the Section 46 notification by email on 16 May 2022. A copy of the PINS acknowledgement is provided at **Appendix 10.2**.
- 10.1.5 The Applicant therefore complied with Section 46 of the PA 2008 for this section of the Consultation.

11.0 STAGE 2 CONSULTATION: SECTION 47 'DUTY TO CONSULT LOCAL COMMUNITY

11.1.1 This section sets out the local community consultation carried out as part of the Stage 2 Consultation in accordance with Section 47 'Duty to consult local community' of the PA 2008. This consultation was undertaken in accordance with the approach and methods set out in the final SoCC. The compliance of the consultation with the SoCC is considered further below.

11.1.2 The Stage 2 Consultation took place from 5 May until 17 June 2022. The primary purpose of the consultation was to seek views on and update the local community on the progress that had been made on the Proposed Project, including additional information that had been produced since the Stage 1 Consultation. The Stage 2 Consultation constituted the Applicant's statutory consultation pursuant to Section 47.

11.2 Who was consulted

11.2.1 A consultation newsletter was sent to approximately 6,500 residents and businesses within the PCZ. The letter drop was carried out by a specialist delivery company. The letter was also sent to local political representatives. For more detail on how people were consulted, please see 'How were they consulted?' below.

11.2.2 A number of adverts were also placed in local newspapers advertising the consultation. These newspapers are circulated across (and beyond) the PCZ to ensure the local community are made aware of the consultation. A number of other methods were employed to advertise the consultation. These are explained further below.

11.3 How were they consulted

11.3.1 The consultation was communicated as follows (dates on which these occurred are covered below):

Newsletters

11.3.2 Newsletters were sent to all addresses (residential and business) within the PCZ (as defined in Section 3). The newsletters were 6 pages long and provided a summary of much of the information that could be found on the exhibition boards for the physical and virtual exhibitions. The newsletter came in a package that included a freepost envelope, a Comments Form and an outline of the potential timescales for the DCO Application. A proof of the newsletter ~~is along with photographs of the full package included with it are~~ included at **Appendix 11.1**.

Newspaper notices

11.3.3 Quarter page newspaper notices were published in the Telegraph (a national newspaper) on 4 May 2022, the Slough Observer (a local newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the Site) on 6 and 13 May 2022 and the London Gazette on 5 May 2022. The newspaper notices which provided information about the Proposed Project and details of how the public could find out more about the project and consultation events. Copies of the newspaper notices as published are provided at **Appendix 11.2**.

Project website

11.3.4 A dedicated Stage 2 Consultation section was created on the Project Website, including a highlighted bulletin at the top of the page notifying visitors of the consultation and to scroll down to access the related documents. The update provided easy and clear way to links to consultation materials, and an alternative means to view all of the consultation documentation from the physical exhibition events, virtual exhibition or online webinars.

The website contained information regarding consultation timescales, with links to the Comments Form where users could submit their comments on the proposals.

- 11.3.5 Visitors were also able to view and download the Stage 2 Consultation newsletter, PEI Report and PEI Report Non-Technical Summary (NTS). The Project Website and information listed here can be accessed via the following link:

Public Exhibition

- 11.3.6 Following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions (which limited the Stage 1 consultation to virtual activities), two public exhibition events were held on 18th May (15:00 – 19:00) and 25th May (10:00 – 14:00) as part of the Stage 2 Consultation. Both exhibition events were held at SSE Slough Multifuel's Project offices at 683/5 Stirling Road which lies adjacent to the Proposed Project Site and Edinburgh Avenue, on the Slough Trading Estate. Details of the two events were advertised on the Project Website and in the Stage 2 Consultation newsletter (posted to over 6,000 addresses in the PCZ).

Virtual Public Exhibition

- 11.3.7 In addition to in-person consultation events, a Virtual Exhibition Room was set up which was designed to simulate the layout and information that would be presented at the physical exhibitions for those unable to attend. The Virtual Exhibition allowed users to explore and look around the room by dragging their cursor in any direction and selecting yellow icons next to information boards, videos, and other signposts. All information contained in the Virtual Exhibition room was displayed on the user's browser via embedded PDFs, which could also be downloaded/printed. A screenshot of the Virtual exhibition landing page is contained at **Appendix 11.3** and an archived version of the Site itself can be found at the following link:

Online webinars

- 11.3.8 Two online webinars were hosted on 1 and 7 June 2022 via an open link to Microsoft Teams (opening in browser for those without this program installed) without the need for pre-booking and the link remained open to late arrivals. The webinars could also be access via a dial in code for phones, details of which were posted on the Project Website in the week prior to each one. Each webinar would consist of a prepared presentation on the Slough Multifuel Project, delivered by members of the Project Team, which was followed by an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and/or provide comments. The webinar presentation is provided at **Appendix 11.4**.

Notices

- 11.3.9 Section 48 notices along with site location plans were erected at nine locations around the Site boundary on 5 May 2022 and monitored weekly thereafter until the close of the Stage 2 Consultation. This was done alongside notices displayed as part of land referencing efforts to identify the owners of unregistered land. Photos of the Section 48 notices and site location plans in situ along with a map of the locations at which they were displayed are included at **Appendix 11.5**.

Posters

- 11.3.10 Community notices were also placed up in a number of locations across the PCZ on 5 May 2022:
- 11.3.11 The locations of each community notice are shown on a plan and on photographs provided at **Appendix 11.6**.

11.4 What were they consulted upon/what information was provided

- 11.4.1 The local community and local political representatives were provided with more detailed information on the Proposed Project (relative to that provided at the Stage 1 Consultation). The information included exhibition boards, the PEI Report and an outlined the indicative timescales for submission of the DCO application.
- 11.4.2 Copies of the exhibition boards are provided at **Appendix 11.7**. The full PEI Report can be viewed at: [REDACTED]

11.5 How could feedback be provided/deadline for comments

- 11.5.1 The consultation materials advised the local community that feedback on the Proposed Project could be provided by the following means:
- Post: freepost to Slough Multifuel;
 - E-mail: thermalenquiries@sse.com;
 - Website: [REDACTED] /; or
 - Providing feedback at the public exhibitions.
- 11.5.2 The consultation materials clearly stated that the deadline for the receipt of responses was 17 June 2022, therefore providing people with a period of longer than 28 days from the start of the consultation to respond.

11.6 Response to the Stage 2 Consultation

- 11.6.1 Over the Stage 2 Consultation period and its two public exhibition events, a total of 14 comments forms were received, 9 hardcopy comments forms received via the FreePost, one hardcopy form from the exhibition events and four digital forms via the SmartSurvey link. The comments form asked five questions. The responses received to these questions are detailed below.

11.7 Question 1 – Where did you find this Comments Form?

- 11.7.1 Question 1 asked respondents to confirm where they found the Comments Form. All respondents answered this question. An equal number of respondents (7) received the Comments Forms with the Newsletter or through other consultation methods. One respondent answered both the Newsletter and the Project Website. Table 11.1 below provides a breakdown of how respondents received the Comments Forms – please note that a total of 15 responses were received from 14 Comments Forms.
- 11.7.2 Of the seven respondents who answered ‘other’, two respondents received the Comments Form through the post (one respondent answered ‘through the door’), one respondent found the form via a Liaison Group and the remaining four respondents did not specify.

Table 11.1: Where did you find this Comments Form

NEWSLETTER	VIRTUAL EXHIBITION	PROJECT WEBSITE	OTHER
7	0	1	7

11.8 Question 2 - Which of our consultation methods have you used?

- 11.8.1 Question 2 asked which of our consultation methods they used. The most popular consultation method selected was newsletters posted to addresses (36%), followed by an

equal number of respondents who used the Project Website and the Freepost address (25%) and one respondent used the public exhibition.

11.8.2 Respondents were encouraged to tick all answers that applied however no one selected more than one method. Furthermore, two respondents did not respond. Table 11.2 below provides a breakdown of the responses to Question 2.

Table 11.2: Where did you find this Comments Form

NEWS LETTER	PUBLIC EXHIBITION	PROJECT WEBSITE	USED THE FREEPHONE TELEPHONE LINE	VIRTUAL EXHIBITION	CONSULTATION EMAIL ADDRESS	WEBINAR	USED THE FREEPOST ADDRESS
5	1	3	0	0	0	0	3

11.9 Question 3 - Are you satisfied with the consultation methods that have been used and were you able to find the information you wanted?

11.9.1 Question 3 asked respondents if they were satisfied with the consultation methods we used and if they were able to find all the information they wanted. Of the 14 respondents who completed this question on their Comments Forms, 11 answered 'Yes' and 2 answered 'No.' One respondent who did not respond yes or no stated "This is the first I have heard of it."

11.9.2 Of the 'Yes' and 'No' answers, both sets of respondents provided additional commentary. There were no recurring themes in the 'yes' answers although one respondent who received the consultation form via the post said that it contained all the essential information. One respondent who answered Question 3 with a 'yes', that they were satisfied, also included the following note:

"Although I first found out about this via the leaflet you sent by post, I think it contains all the essential information."

11.9.3 Of the two respondents who answered 'no', one provided additional commentary, stating that the consultation process will be secondary to business objectives and will not influence the development proposal. The same respondent identified the adverse effects of the scheme on visual amenity which would be more appropriate in Question 4. This distribution of responses to Question 3 are set out in Table 11.3 below.

Table 11.3: Are you satisfied with the consultation methods that have been used and were you able to find the information you wanted?

RESPONSE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Yes	11
No	2
Other	1

11.10 Question 4 - Please provide any other comments you have on the Project and this consultation below.

11.10.1 Question 4 gave respondents an opportunity to provide any further comments or questions about the Project or consultation. A total of seven responses (50%) were received, identifying different issues. Overall, a total of three responses contained positive comments, eight contained negative concerns and seven neutral themes (primarily comprised of requests for clarification) were received.

11.10.2 The responses to Question 4 have been categorised into Positive topics/themes, shown in Table 11.4, Negative topics/themes in Table 11.5 and neutral topics/ themes in Table 11.6. Table 11.7 provides a list of positive, neutral, and negative example questions received.

Table 11.4: Positive Comment Topics/Themes received about the Project and Consultation

POSITIVE TOPICS/THEMES	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
The consultation was adequate	2
Reduction of landfill waste	1

Table 11.5: Negative Comment Topics/Themes received about the Project and Consultation

NEGATIVE TOPICS/THEMES	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Air Quality impacts/ emissions and pollution	5
Odour impacts	1
Noise	1
Construction and operational traffic impacts	1

Table 11.6: Neutral Comment Topics/Themes received about the Project

OTHER TOPICS/THEMES	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Impact on energy prices	2
Request for clarification on traffic movements	2
Request for clarification on emissions management	1
Request for community benefits	1
Impact on property values	1

Table 11.7: Examples of Positive, Negative and Neutral Comments/ Questions Received

	EXAMPLE QUESTION/ COMMENTS
Positive	<p>“...the consultation was adequate”</p> <p>“It’s good that it will reduce waste going to landfill”</p>

Neutral	<p><i>"1.A map of the area which will be most affected by emission of odour in an accident is essential."</i></p> <p><i>"3.How will the operation affect the local traffic?"</i></p> <p><i>"4.Are the staff living locally or will they add extra burdon on the roads surrounding the plant and the estate in general."</i></p> <p><i>"Is the plant creating additional pollution to the area? If come from waste I can guess that the energy comes from burning the residual after some treatment, correct? How is the pollution generated for the burn of this waste managed? Also if it is after generate gas coming form aerobic/anaerobic processes in the decomposition of the waste. How is this gas stored and then burned? How is the security buffer in case of explosion or gas leak?"</i></p> <p><i>"will the cost of processing the by-products affect energy price?"</i></p> <p><i>Additionally is there any benefit that comes for our communities like cheaper gas/electricity for our homes?</i></p> <p><i>"is there any benefit that comes for our communities like cheaper gas/electricity for our homes?"</i></p>
Negative	<p><i>"I have concerns over the ability of SSE to control Carbon Dioxide from the Plant."</i></p> <p><i>"The additional CO2 release is leading to acid rain as evidenced by the deterioration of hortaron [mortar on[sic]] local house rooves."</i></p> <p><i>"however on important consideration is that combustion releases greenhouse gases and it would be best if they weren't released straight to the atmosphere."</i></p> <p><i>"I have an issue with noise and the amount of dirt and dust from the site."</i></p> <p><i>"deliveries during peak time are nuisance."</i></p>

11.11 Question 5 -If you would like us to provide you with updates on the Project

11.11.1 Question 5 asked respondents if they would like to be provided with further updates on the project. Ten respondents (71%) answered 'yes' and four respondents (29%) did not respond.

Table 11.8: Answers received to Question 5

RESPONSES	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Yes	10

No response	4
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11.12 Compliance with the SoCC

11.12.1 The Stage 2 (Section 47) Consultation followed the consultation methods and proposals set out in the published SoCC. The compliance of the consultation with the SoCC is confirmed in Section 2 at **Table 2.2**, which sets out how the commitments within the SoCC have been fulfilled.

12.0 STAGE 2 CONSULTATION: SECTION 48 ‘DUTY TO PUBLICISE’

12.1.1 Section 48 ‘Duty to publicise’ of the PA 2008 requires applicants to publicise a proposed application for a DCO in the ‘prescribed manner’. The prescribed manner is set out in APFP Regulation 4 ‘Publicising a proposed application’.

- a) for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Project would be situated;
- b) once in a national newspaper;
- c) once in the London Gazette, and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and
- d) where the proposed application relates to offshore development –
 - i. once in Lloyd’s List; and
 - ii. once in an appropriate fishing trade journal

12.1.2 APFP Regulation 4(3) goes on to state what the notice must include which includes statements that the applicant intends to make an application for development, whether that application is EIA development, a summary of the main proposals, details of where and when the documents can be inspected free of charge, and how to respond to publicity and by which date. The 2020 Regulations amended APFP Regulations so as to remove the requirement for hard copy consultation documents to be deposited at an inspection location. The 2020 Regulations were then made permanent on 31 December 2020. The Applicant’s Stage 2 Section 48 Notice therefore did not provide details of an inspection location whereby hard copy consultation documents could be viewed.

12.1.3 Pursuant to APFP Regulation 4(2) (as amended), the Section 48 Notice for the Proposed Project was published in the Slough Observer on the 6 and 13 June 2022, The Telegraph (a national newspaper) on 5 May 2022 and in the London Gazette on 5 May 2022.

12.1.4 The Section 48 Notice stated that comments must be received by 17 June 2022.

12.1.5 A copy of the Section 48 Notice is provided at **Appendix 12.1** and details of the newspapers that it was published in and the relevant dates are set out in Table 12.1 below.

Table 12.1: Newspapers used for Section 48 Notice

NEWSPAPER	DATES
Slough Observer	6 and 13 May 2022
The Telegraph	5 May 2022
London Gazette	5 May 2022

12.1.6 Copies of the Section 48 Notice as published in the newspapers are provided at **Appendix 11.2**.

12.1.7 No consultation responses were received as a result of the publication of the Section 48 Notice.

12.1.8 EIA Regulation 13 places a requirement on applicants, where an application is for EIA development, to, at the same time as publishing the Section 48 notice, send a copy of that notice to the relevant consultation bodies and any person notified to them by the PINS in accordance with EIA Regulation 11(1)(c). During the Section 42 Consultation the Applicant maintained a list of ordinary Section 42 consultees and those who were also relevant consultation bodies or notified by the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with

EIA Regulation 11(1)(c). Those in the latter category were sent a Section 48 notice enclosed with the S42 letter.

12.1.9 EIA Regulation 13 places a requirement on applicants, where a DCO application is for EIA development, to, at the same time as publishing the Section 48 Notice, send a copy of that notice to the relevant consultation bodies (the 'EIA consultation bodies') and any person notified to them by PINS in accordance with EIA Regulation 11(1)(c). A list of the EIA consultation bodies who were sent a copy of the Section 48 Notice and the date when they were sent this is provided at **Appendix 8.1**. A sample copy of the letter sent is provided at **Appendix 9.1**. No bodies were notified to the Applicant by PINS under EIA Regulation 11(1)(c).

12.1.10 The Applicant therefore complied with Section 48 of the PA 2008.

13.0 SECTION 49 'DUTY TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION AND PUBLICITY'

- 13.1.1 Section 49 'Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity' requires applicants to have regard to any 'relevant responses' received to the statutory consultation and publicity carried out in accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008. A relevant response is one received by the Applicant before the deadlines set in relation to the statutory consultation and publicity. As such, there is no statutory duty for applicants to take account of responses received after the relevant deadlines.
- 13.1.2 Despite the fact that the PA 2008 does not require applicants to take account of responses received after the deadlines set for consultation, the Applicant has taken account of any responses received after the close of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Consultation. Furthermore, while there is no statutory duty for applicants to have regard to any non-statutory consultation carried out, the Applicant has treated the responses received to the Stage 1 Consultation in the same manner as those received to the Stage 2 Consultation.
- 13.1.3 The approach taken by the Applicant to respond to consultee responses received to the Stage 2 Consultation is to reproduce each response raised by each consultee and provide an Applicant response to each (overleaf). The Applicant's responses to the Stage 2 Section 47 consultation are set out in **Table 13.1**.
- 13.1.4 The Applicant's responses to the Stage 2 Section 42 consultation are set out in **Table 13.2**.
- 13.1.5 The Applicant has complied with Section 49 of the PA 2008.

Table 13.1: Stage 2 Section 47 Community Consultee Responses

NO.	CONSULTEE COMMENT	APPLICANT RESPONSE	CHANGE(S) MADE TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT
1	<p><i>“Whilst the consultation was adequate, I have concerns over the ability of SSE to control Carbon Dioxide from the Plant.</i></p> <p><i>1) The additional CO2 release is leading to acid rain as evidenced by the deterioration of hortaron (sic) local house rooves.</i></p> <p><i>2) Last summer there was a strong odour from the burning of wood-chip which required all house windows to be closed during hot weather, including night-time.</i></p> <p><i>3) If the project goes ahead, stringent measures need to be in the place on gases or odours released by SSE.”</i></p>	<p>1) The Consented Development (Slough Multifuel) is currently under construction has been doing so for over a year, therefore there is no connection between any acid rainfall and the either consented or Proposed Development.</p> <p>2) As above, the Consented Development is under construction and therefore is not connected to any odour emissions experienced during summer 2021.</p> <p>3) The Proposed Development will not increase the emissions of CO2 at Slough Multifuel. An existing Environmental Permit control emissions and ensures compliance from the Applicant (as the operator of the Consented/Proposed Development).</p>	<p>No change.</p> <p>Please refer to Chapter 8 (Air Quality) of the submitted Environmental Statement (Document Ref. 6.0).</p>
2	<p><i>“One important consideration is that combustion releases greenhouse gases and it would be best if they weren’t released straight to the atmosphere - will the cost of processing the by-products affect energy price?”</i></p>	<p>The Proposed Development will not lead to any increase the emissions of greenhouse gases associated with Slough Multifuel.</p>	<p>No change.</p> <p>Please refer to Chapter 8 (Air Quality) of the submitted Environmental Statement (Document Ref. 6.0).</p>
3	<p><i>“1.A map of the area which will be most affected by emission of odour in an accident is essential.</i></p> <p><i>2.More air quality monitoring stations are needed.</i></p> <p><i>3.How will the operation affect the local traffic?</i></p> <p><i>4.Are the staff living locality or will they add extra burden on the roads surrounding the plant and the estate in general.</i></p> <p><i>5.What precaution should the population living in the vicinity take in an event of odour or drop in air quality?”</i></p>	<p>1) & 2) On the basis that the Proposed Development will not lead to any increases in odour or greenhouse gas emissions, it is not considered that further assessment or monitoring of air quality is required, please refer to Chapter 8 (Air Quality) of the submitted Environmental Statement (Document Ref. 6.0). With regard to operational emissions, Chapter 8 concludes that:</p> <p><i>“The Proposed Project does not introduce any new emissions nor change the exhaust gas parameters compared to the future baseline scenario and therefore the impact of the Proposed Project at all receptors is no change to long and short term concentrations at all human health and ecological receptors”.</i></p> <p>The Applicant will comply with the requirements and stipulations set by the Environmental Permit.</p> <p>3) The Proposed Development will not lead to any increase in operational traffic at the Site.</p> <p>4) The Proposed Development will not involve the recruitment of any additional members of operational staff above that which was required to run the Consented Development.</p> <p>5) As clarified above, it is not considered that there will be any change to air quality or odour as a consequence of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>No change.</p> <p>Please refer to Chapters 7 (Transport and Access) and 8 (Air Quality) of the submitted Environmental Statement (Document Ref. 6.0).</p>
4	<p><i>“Main concern is air quality and impacts on Burnham Beeches.</i></p> <p><i>Satisfied that SAC process has been followed.”</i></p>	<p>The impact of the Proposed Development upon the Burnham Beeches Special Area of Conservation (‘SAC’) is considered as part of the Chapter 10 (Ecology) of the submitted Environmental Statement (Document Ref. 6.0). On the basis that the Proposed Development would not result in any increase to emissions, and that the only aspect of external works is the addition of a short section of above ground</p>	<p>No change.</p> <p>Please refer to Chapter 8 (Air Quality) of the submitted Environmental Statement (Document Ref. 6.0).</p>

		pipeline, it is not considered that there would be any impact to the Burnham Beeches SAC resulting from the Proposed Development.	
5	<p><i>"I have an issue with noise and the amount of dirt and dust from the site.</i></p> <p><i>Can you consider doing street cleaning expanding beyond your site. Also deliveries during peak time are nuisance</i></p>	<p>The Proposed Development does not require any increase to the operational vehicle movements permitted under the Consented Development, nor would the Proposed Development result in any increases to odour emissions. More generally it should be noted that the Site is currently undergoing construction of the Consented Development (set for completion by Q4 2022), any complaints in relations to dirt or dust associated with the Consented Development construction should be directed to thermalenquires@sse.com.</p>	No change.
6	<p><i>"Is the plant creating additional pollution to the area? if come from waste I can guess that the energy comes from burning the residual after some treatment, correct? how is the pollution generated for the burn of this waste managed? Also if it is after generate gas coming form aerobic/anaerobic processes in the decomposition of the waste. how is this gas stored and then burned? How is the security buffer in case of explosion or gas leak?</i></p> <p><i>From the other side obviously the impact view is huge as a owner the price for this will decrease the prices of our properties? are there any project planned to add value to the area? Creation of green areas around reforestation of the areas surrounding to hide the chimneys and create a buffer for pollution and in case of something goes wrong?</i></p> <p><i>Additionally is there any benefit that comes for our communities like cheaper gas/electricity for our homes? or by the other hand we just have the negative impacts of having around a this project.</i></p> <p><i>After the notification I have started a consultation door by door with my neighbours which also are concerned about this. So it would be much appreciated if you clarify the aspects before and any other you thing would be interesting for our peace of mind, if not we will continue to speak with the council and have more information about how can this affect us."</i></p>	<p>The Proposed Development will not lead to any increases in odour or greenhouse gas emissions above that which is permitted under the Consented Development and existing Environmental Permit. Please refer to Chapter 8 (Air Quality) of the submitted Environmental Statement (Document Ref. 6.0) for further information.</p> <p>The pre-treated waste is combusted within each boiler with the flue gas then cleaned before release from the stack. Releases from the stack are continuously monitored to ensure compliance with the strict emission limits and reported to the Environment Agency. There is no gas storage required in this process.</p> <p>The only aspect of external works associated with the Proposed Development would be the addition of a short section of above ground pipeline, not visible to adjacent or surrounding properties. The landscape and visual impact associated with the Consented Development (currently under construction) was assessed as part of the the original planning application (P/00987/024) to Slough Borough Council in 2014.</p> <p>The electricity generated will be exported to provide an alternative to electricity generated from fossil fuels and provides continuous export rather than the intermittent output seen from some renewables. Heat will also be made available to the existing network on the Trading Estate.</p> <p>Increasing the efficiency of the plant by means of the Proposed Development allows the plant to export more electricity through combustion of the same amount of fuel.</p>	No change.

Table 13.2 – Stage 2 Section 42 (including non-prescribed persons) Consultation Responses

NO.	CONSULTEE	DATE OF RESPONSE	CONSULTEE COMMENT	APPLICANT RESPONSE/REGARD HAD TO CONSULTATION RESPONSE	CHANGE(S) MADE TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT	RELEVANT DOCUMENT REFERENCE
1	Berkshire Fire and Rescue	16 May 2022	<p><i>"At this stage there is no duty placed upon the Fire Authority under the aforementioned legislation to make any comment relative to your application.</i></p> <p><i>Any structural fire precautions and all means of escape provision will have to satisfy Building Regulation requirement. These matters are administered by the local authority Building Control or approved inspectors, who you are advised to contact in this regard.</i></p>	Comments noted by the Applicant.	No change.	n/a

			<p>Please note that the weight limits for RBFRS fire appliances is 16 tonnes for fire engines and 26 tonnes for three axle aerial appliance. Access and water supplies requirements must meet or exceed The Building Regulations 2010 Approved Document B- B5 standards.</p> <p>Please be advised that any comments made by the Fire and Rescue Service in this letter must not be taken as formal approval.”</p>			
2	Cadent	9 June 2022	<p>Summary of response: Cadent require appropriate protections for retained apparatus including compliance with relevant standards for works proposed within close proximity of its apparatus.</p> <p>“Cadent have identified the following apparatus within the redline boundary or within the vicinity of the proposed works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High Pressure (above 2 bar) Gas Pipelines and associated equipment ▪ Medium Pressure mains and associated equipment ▪ Low Pressure mains and associated equipment <p>Cadent notes that it has existing easements for these pipelines which prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings/structures, change to existing ground levels or storage of materials etc within the easement strip.</p> <p>The response also provides guidance on matters relating to diversions, protective provisions, pipeline crossings and service crossing.”</p>	Comments noted by the Applicant.	No change.	n/a
3	Canal and River Trust	30 May 2022	<p>“The Trust has reviewed the proposals and on the basis that they appear unlikely to have any impact on our waterway we have no comment to make at this time. If the proposals become significantly altered, we ask that you re-consult us in order that we can re-consider this position.”</p>	Comments noted by the Applicant.	No change.	n/a
4	Eclipse Power	10 May 2022	<p>“We can confirm we do not have anything in this area at present.”</p>	Acknowledged.	No change.	n/a
5	Environment Agency	11 May 2022	<p>“I have passed your enquiry to our Sustainable Places team for the relevant area and they will be in touch with you shortly.</p> <p>The Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations state that a public authority must respond to requests for information within 20 working days, but we aim to respond to all enquiries as quickly as we can.</p> <p>However due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic affecting staff and resources we may take longer than the 20 working days to reply. We will aim to provide an answer as soon as we can.”</p>	The Applicant acknowledges the holding response and notes that no further response was received from the Environment Agency. A follow up was sent to request any such response.	No change.	n/a
6	Health and Safety Executive	10 June 2022	<p>“According to HSE’s records the proposed project does not lie within any consultation zones of major accident hazards sites or major accident hazard pipelines.</p>	The Applicant confirms that the Proposed Project does not require any change or increase in the handling of dangerous substances.	No change.	n/a

			<p><i>The report provided is non-technical and does not provide sufficient detail to establish whether dangerous substances are handled in quantities that would require HSC although they do state from a Major hazards view point there is not change.</i></p> <p><i>No change from previous advice provided.”</i></p> <p>The HSE confirmed that they had no comments to make regarding explosives sites or electrical safety.</p>			
7	National Highways	21 June 2022	<p>Summary of response: The National Highways response reviews the PEI Report with regard to Construction Staff, Construction Vehicles and Operational Impact. The National Highways response concludes that:</p> <p><i>“Based on the information provided in the PEI Transport Assessment it is considered that once operational the Project Extension will have no impact on the SRN above that of the previously Consented Development.</i></p> <p><i>Overall, whilst no impact assessment on the SRN has been performed, we are content that for the Project Extension as detailed in the PEI Transport Statement that impact assessments are not required considering the low number of trips during construction and no change once operational. We have no comment on the assumptions and total number of trips anticipated during the construction phase, with the predicted numbers based on the Consented Development assumptions and ongoing requirements of the CTMP.</i></p> <p><i>If any changes to the proposed construction staff / HGV trips occur as part of any ongoing Environmental Impact Assessment development then these and any potential impact on the SRN will be evaluated at that time. If any changes in trip calculations do occur we would be open to engagement in terms of review and detailing the scope for any subsequent assessment, if required, to determine any potential impacts on the SRN prior to the submission of the Development Consent Order.”</i></p>	Comments noted by the Applicant.	No change.	Environmental Statement Chapter 7: Transport and Access (Document Ref. 6.0)
8	NATS	18 May 2022	<p><i>“We refer to the Stage 2 Consultation for the Slough Multifuel Extension Project. NATS anticipates no impact from the proposed changes to the scheme and has no comments to make on the application.”</i></p>	Comments noted by the Applicant.	No change.	n/a
9	Natural England	14 June 2022	<p><i>“Natural England has no comments to make on this application.</i></p> <p><i>Natural England has not assessed this application for impacts on protected species. Natural England has published Standing Advice which you can use to assess impacts on protected species or you may wish to consult your own ecology services for advice.</i></p>	Comments noted by the Applicant.	No change.	Environmental Statement Chapter 10: Ecology (Document Ref. 6.0)

			<p><i>Natural England and the Forestry Commission have also published standing advice on ancient woodland and veteran trees which you can use to assess any impacts on ancient woodland.</i></p> <p><i>We recommend referring to our SSSI Impact Risk Zones (available on Magic and as a downloadable dataset) prior to consultation with Natural England. Further guidance on when to consult Natural England on planning and development proposals is available on gov.uk at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-planning-authorities-get-environmental-advice</i></p>			
10	Network Rail	7 June 2022	<p><i>“Network Rail have no objections in principle to the above proposals.</i></p> <p><i>Any works on this land will need to be undertaken following engagement with Asset Protection to determine the interface with Network Rail assets, buried or otherwise and by entering into a Basis Asset Protection Agreement, if required, with a minimum of 3months notice before works start. Initially the outside party should contact assetprotectionwestern@networkrail.co.uk”</i></p>	Comments noted by the Applicant.	No change.	n/a
11	Royal Mail	28 June 2022	<p>The Royal Mail response quotes the PIE Report with regard to construction movements:</p> <p>Construction Stage: <i>“Temporary off-site car park located on Whitby Road will be used for staff during the 2 months construction period. Shuttle buses will operate between the off-site car parking facility and the site drop-off point to the rear of Building 689 Stirling Road.</i></p> <p><i>Estimated a total of 20 Heavy Good Vehicles (HGV) will be required over the 2 month period, resulting in an average of 1 additional HGV vehicle (2no. 2-way movements) per day. HGV deliveries to be managed through the future Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to avoid morning and afternoon peak hours wherever practical.</i></p> <p><i>Due to the low number of additional staff cars and HGVs, the overall impact of construction is considered to be negligible. Furthermore, considering the impact of the construction traffic will only be for two months, there will only be a short-term impact.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore, due to low traffic generation, not considered necessary to undertake traffic surveys.</i></p> <p><i>As the information outlined in the consultation documents only provides estimates of the additional vehicular trips generated with no supporting evidence, there remains insufficient detail available in relation to the scheme to assess any potential impact to Royal Mail’s assets.</i></p>	<p>The Applicant notes that there is an existing Construction Traffic Management Plan (‘CTMP’) for the Consented Development which sets out and governs any vehicle movements for the ongoing construction. The Proposed Project will conform with the stipulations of the approved CTMP.</p> <p>It should also be noted that no additional road closures are anticipated beyond those required to construct the consented development.</p> <p>Given the scope of works associated with the Proposed Project (the addition of a short section of above ground pipeline), it is not considered necessary to require a new CTMP or amendment to the existing CTMP.</p>	No change.	Environmental Statement Chapter 7: Transport and Access (Document Ref. 6.0)

			<p><i>In order to protect Royal Mail's position, we respectfully request that wording is added to the future CTMP to secure the following mitigations:</i></p> <p><i>1. the CTMP includes specific requirements that during the construction phase Royal Mail is notified by SSE Slough Multifuel or its contractors at least one month in advance on any proposed road closures / diversions / alternative access arrangements, hours of working,</i></p> <p><i>2. where road closures / diversions are proposed, SSE Slough Multifuel or its contractors liaise with Royal Mail at least one month in advance to identify and make available alternative highway routes for operational use, where possible, and</i></p> <p><i>3. the CTMP includes a mechanism that informs Royal Mail about works affecting the local highways network (with particular regard to Royal Mail's distribution facilities near the DCO application boundary as identified above)."</i></p>			
12	Transport for London	19 May 2022	<p><i>"TFL have no comments to make on the current application and that we do not need to be consulted on future consultations related to the project."</i></p>	Comments noted by the Applicant.	No change.	n/a
13	Thames Water	25 May 2022	<p><i>"Thames Water confirm they have no objection to the Proposed Project with regard to clean water or waste water capacity.</i></p> <p><i>Thames Water notes that foul water sewers and two surface water sewers are located in the proposed site boundary, which would require protection and a buildover agreement, diversion or application for them to be diverted as appropriate..</i></p> <p><i>Thames Water Property confirm that TWUL have a leasehold interest within the vicinity of the Site but see no material impact on the proposals on this interest and therefore have no concerns/objections to the proposal."</i></p>	Comments noted by the Applicant.	No change.	n/a
14	UK Power Networks	11 May 2022	<p><i>"We have received documentation relating to the above, please be aware that UK Power Networks Ltd does not cover this area.</i></p> <p><i>Please send any documentation relating to the above to 'Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks' who are the 'Distribution Network Operator' for that area."</i></p>	Comments noted by the Applicant.	No change.	n/a

14.0 EIA RELATED CONSULTATION

14.1.1 This section provides a brief summary of the EIA consultation that has taken place during the pre-application process. This is covered in more detail within the Environmental Statement ('ES') itself (Application Document Refs. 6.1 - 6.4).

14.2 The EIA Regulations

14.2.1 The 2017 EIA Regulations came into force on 16 May 2017, replacing the 2009 EIA Regulations.

14.3 EIA Notification and Scoping - EIA Regulations 6(1) and 8(1)

14.3.1 At an early stage in the pre-application process the Applicant identified that the Proposed Project would be EIA development and that it would therefore be necessary to notify the Planning Inspectorate of its intention to provide an ES and also to obtain a 'Scoping Opinion' with regard to the scope and coverage of that ES.

14.3.2 On 17 November 2021, the Applicant submitted the EIA Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate. The Scoping Report was accompanied by a letter providing formal notification under Regulation 8(1)b of the 2017 EIA Regulations of the Applicant's intention to undertake an EIA for the Proposed Project and to produce an ES Documenting the findings of this. The Scoping Report also formally requested a Scoping Opinion pursuant to EIA Regulation 10. Following receipt of the EIA Scoping Report, the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the SoS) consulted the relevant consultation bodies in accordance with EIA Regulation 10(6). A Scoping Opinion was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 22 December 2021. This was accompanied by the responses received from the relevant consultation bodies. The Scoping Opinion confirmed that the SoS was broadly satisfied with the suggested approach and topics covered by the EIA but drew the Applicant's attention to a number of general points as well as points made in respect of specific topic areas. The Applicant has also had regard to late scoping responses.

14.4 Approach to Preparation and Publication of Preliminary Environmental Information

14.4.1 PEI is defined in the 2017 EIA Regulations as "information ... which (a) has been compiled by the applicant; and (b) is reasonably required for consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)". The EIA Scoping Opinion provided by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS (and the comments received from the scoping consultees) was used to inform the Applicant's preparation of a PEI Report. The preparation of the PEI Report was also informed by further dialogue between the Applicant's environmental consultants and the host local authorities and key technical consultees.

14.4.2 The finalised PEI Report was issued for the Stage 2 Consultation by the Applicant and effectively represented a draft ES. A copy of the Non-Technical Summary ('NTS') provided a concise description of the EIA process and the assessment methodology to date and summary of environmental effects.

14.5 EIA Regulation 13 Notification

14.5.1 As described in section 12, in accordance with EIA Regulation 13 'Pre-application publicity under Section 48 ('Duty to publicise'), the relevant 'consultation bodies' were sent a copy of the Section 48 Notice and accompanying letter by the Applicant (SSE Slough Multifuel Limited) during the Stage 2 Consultation.

14.5.2 Example copies of the letters and notices sent by the Applicant in accordance with EIA Regulation 13 at Stage 2 Consultation are provided at **Appendix 9.1**. Similarly, schedules detailing the EIA consultation bodies who were notified are provided at **Appendix 14.1**.

14.6 Preparation and Finalisation of the ES

14.6.1 Following the Stage 2 Consultation, the Applicant's environmental consultants continued to with the finalisation of the ES to be submitted as part of the DCO application and taking into consideration feedback issued during the consultation phase.

14.6.2 Each of the ES topic chapters (Chapter 7 'transport and Access', Chapter 8 'Air Quality'; 9 'Noise and Vibration'; 10 'Ecology'; 11 'Climate'; 12 'Other Issues'; 12 'Other issues') includes a table summarising the consultation that has taken place with consultees.

15.0 NEXT STEPS

- 15.1.1 The Applicant is committed to continued engagement with the local community, host local authority, and key stakeholders following the submission of the Application.
- 15.1.2 It is intended that the Applicant will continue to issue updates on the Proposed Project through the Project Website, Local Liaison Group and press releases. Regular contact will be maintained with Slough Borough Council and with other key stakeholders.
- 15.1.3 In addition to the above, there are statutory notification and publicity requirements pursuant to Section 56 of the PA 2008 that the Applicant will need to fulfil following acceptance of the Application for examination by the SoS. This will provide a further opportunity for interested parties to make comments, which will continue during the examination period. The Applicant is likely to adopt a similar approach to electronic and postal service as that carried out during Stage 2. This will provide a further opportunity for interested parties to make comments, which will continue during the examination period.

APPENDIX 5.1 – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

APPENDIX 6.1 – STAGE 1 COMMUNITY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

APPENDIX 6.2 – STAGE 1 FAQs DOCUMENT

APPENDIX 6.3 – STAGE 1 NEWSPAPER NOTICE

APPENDIX 6.4 – STAGE 1 COMMENTS

APPENDIX 7.1 – INITIAL DRAFT SOCC EMAILS

APPENDIX 7.2 – FORMAL SOCC CONSULTATION

APPENDIX 7.3 – FINAL SOCC

APPENDIX 7.4 – SOCC NOTICE TEMPLATE VERSION

APPENDIX 7.5: SOCC NOTICE

APPENDIX 8.1 – LIST OF PRESCRIBED CONSULTEES AND OTHER CONSULTEES

APPENDIX 8.2 – MAP SHOWING LPA BOUNDARIES

APPENDIX 8.3 – LIST OF S.44 PERSONS

APPENDIX 8.4 – EXAMPLES OF SITE NOTICE

APPENDIX 8.5 – LIST OF NON-PRESCRIBED CONSULTEES

APPENDIX 9.1 – EXAMPLE S.42 LETTER (BOTH VERSIONS)

APPENDIX 9.2 – S.42 RESPONSES RECEIVED (REDACTED)

APPENDIX 10.1 – S.46 NOTIFICATION TO PINS

APPENDIX 10.2 – PINS ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF S.46

APPENDIX 11.1 – STAGE 2 CONSULTATION NEWSLETTER

APPENDIX 11.2 – NEWSPAPER NOTICES AS PUBLISHED

APPENDIX 11.3 – SCREENSHOT OF THE VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

APPENDIX 11.4 – WEBINAR PRESENTATION

APPENDIX 11.5 – SECTION 48 SITE NOTICES – PHOTOS AND MAP

APPENDIX 11.6 – COMMUNITY NOTICES MAP AND PHOTOS

APPENDIX 11.7 – STAGE 2 EXHIBITION BOARDS

APPENDIX 12.1 – SECTION 48 NOTICE

APPENDIX 14.1 – EIA CONSULTATION BODIES