

Gate Burton Energy Park Consultation Report: Appendices

APPENDIX C – Preparation of Statement of Community Consultation

Document Reference: EN010131/APP/4.2

January 2023

Regulation 5(2)(q)

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

**Appendix C-1 Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
informally issued to local authorities in advance of formal
consultation s47(2)**

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**Gate Burton Energy Park
Statement of Community Consultation**

For informal review

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**DRAFT V5.1
31 March 2022**

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1. Introduction

Context

- 1.1 Low Carbon Investment Management Limited ('Low Carbon') is proposing to apply for development consent from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ('BEIS') to allow it to construct and operate a solar energy and energy storage development known as Gate Burton Energy Park (the 'Scheme'). The application is administered by the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- 1.2 Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008') requires applicants to "prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult about the proposed application with people living in the vicinity of the land". Sections 42, 43, 44 and 48 also specify certain people, businesses and organisations with whom applicants must consult (including the general public via newspaper notifications).
- 1.3 This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 'Duty to consult local community' of the PA 2008, with reference to guidance on pre-application consultation published by the Government and PINS. It also describes the non-statutory and statutory consultation exercises on the content of this SoCC which Low Carbon undertook with the relevant host local authorities. These authorities comprise:
 - Lincolnshire County Council
 - Nottinghamshire County Council
 - West Lindsey District Council
 - Bassetlaw District Council
- 1.4 The SoCC sets out how Low Carbon intends to consult the local community on its proposals for the Project, how people can learn more about the Project and engage with the process, prior to an application for development consent being submitted to PINS. It provides a brief overview of the proposed Scheme, the development consent application process, environmental information, and the statutory pre-application consultation process.
- 1.5 Additionally, this SoCC sets out how Low Carbon will have regard to consultation responses in finalising the proposals for the Scheme which will be submitted as an application for development consent to the Secretary of State.

Quick facts

- 1.6 Gate Burton Energy Park is a proposed solar and energy storage park with an anticipated generation capacity of above 50 megawatts (MW). The amount of electricity the energy park could generate means that it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') which requires development consent under the PA 2008. Development consent is granted in the form of a Development Consent Order ('DCO').
- 1.7 An application for development consent for the construction and operation of the proposed Scheme will be submitted to PINS – the agency responsible for managing the examination for NSIPs. Further to an examination of the application being carried out PINS will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for BEIS who will then decide whether to grant the DCO for the Scheme.
- 1.8 The Project is 'EIA development' for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. An environmental impact assessment is being undertaken and the results of the EIA will be presented in an environmental statement accompanying the DCO application.

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- 1.9 Low Carbon carried out 'non-statutory' ('Stage One') consultation on its proposals in January and February 2022. The information gathered during Stage One consultation has informed the preparation of this SoCC and the proposals for 'statutory' (Stage Two) consultation.
- 1.10 Low Carbon informally engaged with relevant local authorities¹ on an initial draft SoCC March/April 2022 and then again in April 2022 for formal consultation under Section 47 (2) of the PA 2008. The feedback received was taken into account and used to inform this final version.
- 1.11 Stage Two consultation is proposed to take place over a period of six weeks and three days (45 days). The intention is to begin Stage Two consultation on 22 June and closing on 5 August 2022, and the consultation period will exceed the minimum period of 28 days required by the PA 2008. During this time the local community will be consulted on the proposals via a range of methods including in-person consultation events held at local venues as well as virtual online events. Statutory and prescribed consultees will also be consulted on the proposed DCO application in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008.
- 1.12 The proposed consultation dates for Stage Two consultation are outlined in [Table 1.1](#) below. Please note that these dates are indicative. A Preliminary Environmental Report (PEIR) will be prepared by Low Carbon and made available as part of the Stage Two consultation.

Table 1.1 Low Carbon Gate Burton Energy Park Stage Two Consultation – Proposed Dates

Proposed date	Consultation
08 June 2022	SoCC available to view in document inspection locations
20 June 2022	Leaflet announcing consultation launch distributed to addresses with consultation mailing zone outlined in paragraph X.X
22 June to 12 Aug 2022	Statutory 'Stage Two' consultation period starts
	Consultation materials available to view in document inspection locations
	Public consultation events held at local venues and online (including at least one event on a Saturday). Refer to Table X.X .
12 August 2022	Statutory 'Stage Two' Consultation period closes at 23.59

¹ Lincolnshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, West Lindsey District Council, Bassetlaw District Council

2. Gate Burton Energy Park Project

The applicant - Low Carbon Investment Management Ltd

- 2.1 Low Carbon Investment Management Ltd is a privately-owned UK investment and asset management company specialising in renewable energy.
- 2.2 Founded in 2011, Low Carbon is committed to making a positive and significant impact on climate change by investing in large-scale renewable energy projects across a range of energy technologies including solar PV, onshore wind, offshore wind, waste-to-energy, battery storage and other proven renewable energy technologies.
- 2.3 Deploying capital at scale into renewables, it invests across the full life cycle from concept through to development, construction, and operation.
- 2.4 To date, the Low Carbon investment model has enabled the deployment of more than £800 million in capital into renewable infrastructure with more than 1GW already developed. Its proprietary renewable energy pipeline currently stands at more than 5GW, ideally positioning it to capitalise on investment opportunities as the need for green power and energy security increases. Low Carbon's investments are generating sufficient clean energy to power more than 390,000 homes, avoiding in excess of 750,000 tonnes of CO₂² each year.
- 2.5 Low Carbon has been active in large-scale solar energy since its formation in 2011. With an established track record in the UK, it also has operations in Europe including the Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland. Low Carbon is a certified B Corp.
- 2.6 For more information on Low Carbon please visit [REDACTED]

The Scheme

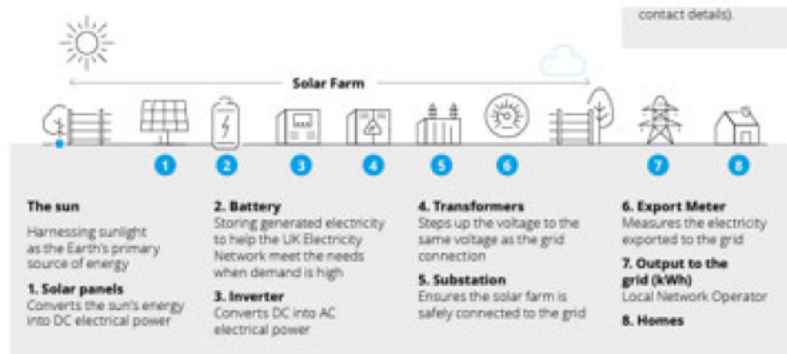
- 2.7 Gate Burton Energy Park will comprise solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and on-site energy storage facilities on agricultural land wholly contained within the boundary of one site comprising approximately 684 hectares (1,690 acres) located approximately four kilometres south of Gainsborough near Gate Burton in Lincolnshire (hereinafter referred to as the 'Site') together with grid connection infrastructure to connect the Project to National Grid's 400kV Cottam substation.
- 2.8 National Grid's 400kV Cottam substation is located approximately four kilometres to the southwest of the Site in Nottinghamshire and would provide the connection point for the electricity generated by the Project to be exported into the existing electricity transmission system.
- 2.9 The Project would allow for the generation, storage and export of more than 50 megawatts (MW) electrical generation capacity and generation capacity is expected to be in the region of 500MW.
- 2.10 The principal components of the energy park would comprise:
 - 2.10.1 Ground mounted PV panels converting sunlight into electricity;
 - 2.10.2 PV module mounting structures;

² Low Carbon internal calculations using OFGEM Typical Domestic Consumption Values and BEIS Carbon Conversion Factors.

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- 2.10.3 Supporting infrastructure – inverters, transformers and switchgear – converting the direct current to alternating current and stepping up the voltage so it can be exported to the national grid;
 - 2.10.4 On-site cables connecting the PV modules and energy storage system to inverters which, in turn, connect to the transformers. Higher voltage cables will then be required between transformers and the switchgear, and from the switchgear to the off-site electrical infrastructure;
 - 2.10.5 An energy storage system so that electricity generated by the PV panels can be stored on site and released to the national grid when it is needed most. It may also enable energy to be imported from the national grid so it can be stored until it is needed;
 - 2.10.6 On-site substation to export electricity from the energy park to the national grid. The substation will include a control building comprising office and welfare space as well as storage;
 - 2.10.7 Security fencing in the form of 'deer fence' or other mesh fencing to enclose the operational areas of the site, along with pole mounted internal facing closed circuit television (CCTV) deployed around the perimeter of the operational site;
 - 2.10.8 Accesses to the site during construction and for routine maintenance when the energy park is operational;
 - 2.10.9 New planting, landscaping and biodiversity measures around the site perimeter and within the PV area to enhance biodiversity and improve the landscape; in addition, during construction,
 - 2.10.10 One or more temporary construction compounds will be required, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all the land within the site boundary.
- 2.11 Transmission infrastructure providing an electrical connection between the on-site substation at the Site and National Grid's Cottam substation in Nottinghamshire to export the power generated by the Project into the existing national electricity transmission system.
- 2.12 **Figure 2.1** below illustrates the components of which a typical solar energy park comprises <<insert infographic from p.5 of the Consultation Information Booklet – thumbnail included below>>

Figure 2.1 Components of a solar energy park



2.11 For more information on Gate Burton Energy Park please visit the project website:

3. The application process

Development Consent Order applications

- 3.1 The PA 2008 sets out thresholds above which certain types of infrastructure development are considered to be Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) and require a consent known as a Development Consent Order (DCO). Examples of such projects include large-scale developments such as railways, roads, airports, power generating (including offshore wind farms and solar parks), wastewater treatment works and electricity lines.
- 3.2 In England, onshore generating stations with an electrical generation capacity that exceeds 50MW are classified as an NSIP (currently excluding onshore wind).
- 3.3 With an anticipated generation capacity of above 50MW, Gate Burton Energy Park qualifies as an NSIP. Low Carbon therefore intends to apply for development consent under the PA 2008 to enable the project to be built, operated and maintained.
- 3.4 Low Carbon will submit an application for a DCO to PINS who will first decide, on behalf of the SoS within a defined period of 28 days, whether to accept the application for examination. If accepted, PINS will appoint an independent inspector or panel of inspectors – also known as the Examining Authority ('ExA') – to examine the application on behalf of the SoS.
- 3.5 The examination process will take place over a period of up to six months during which time there will be the opportunity for the local community and other stakeholders to contribute and express their views on the application.
- 3.6 Following the examination process, the ExA will have three months to write a report setting out a recommendation on whether development consent should be granted for the Project. This report is sent to the SoS who has three months to consider it and to make a final decision on whether or not to grant development consent. If the SoS grants consent this will be in the form of a DCO.
- 3.7 The SoS decision must be made in accordance with the relevant National Policy Statements (NPSs) which outline the need for new energy infrastructure and the issues to be considered in determining such applications, subject to minor exceptions. Other matters which the SoS may consider important and relevant when determining an application for development consent may include other national and local planning policies.

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3.8 The relevant NPSs are³:

3.8.1 NPS EN-1 (Overarching Energy Policy)

3.8.2 NPS EN-3 (Renewable Energy Infrastructure)

3.8.3 NPS EN-5 (Electricity Networks Infrastructure)

3.9 NPS EN-1 establishes the need for new energy infrastructure and therefore Low Carbon will focus its consultation on seeking views on the specific proposals that are being put forward rather than the need for the scheme itself (which is established).

3.10 The government is currently reviewing and updating the July 2011 Energy NPSs. The draft revisions to NPS EN-3 include specific policies in support of solar PV, as the Government notes:

"Solar farms are one of the most established renewable electricity technologies in the UK and the cheapest form of electricity generation worldwide. Solar farms can be built quickly and, coupled with consistent reductions in the cost of materials and improvements in the efficiency of panels⁴¹, large-scale solar is now viable in some cases to deploy subsidy-free and at little to no extra cost to the consumer. The government has committed to sustained growth in solar capacity to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions. As such solar is a key part of the government's strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector" (2.47.1)

3.11 Depending on the timing of the finalisation of that process Low Carbon will take account of the revised NPSs as part of any future application submission.

3.12 **Table 3.1** below provides an overview of the six key steps in the DCO application process:

<<Include figure illustrating the DCO application process – key info to include set out below>>

Table 3.1 DCO application process

1. Pre-application	Information will be in the local media and statutory consultation will be carried out with prescribed consultees and other stakeholders, including the local community.
2. Acceptance	The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has 28 days to decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination including whether the developer's consultation has been adequate.
3. Pre-examination	You can register as an interested party and, by doing so, will be kept informed of progress and opportunities to put your case forward. Inspectors will hold a Preliminary Meeting and set the timetable for examination.

³ Information regarding these NPSs can be viewed at: [REDACTED]

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4. Examination	You can send in your comments in writing. You can request to speak at a public hearing. The Inspectorate has six months to carry out the examination.
5. Recommendation & Decision	A recommendation to the Secretary of State will be issued by the Inspectorate within three months. The Secretary of State then has a further three months to issue a decision on the proposal.
6. Post Decisions	There is the opportunity for legal challenge.

- 3.13 More detail about the application process can be found on the PINS website:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

Project timeline

- 3.14 Pre-application consultation is an important part of the planning and development process, and PA 2008 requires developers to publicise their proposals widely as well as consulting with the local community, local authorities, statutory bodies, and persons with an interest in land potentially affected by the proposed NSIP.
- 3.15 Stage One (non-statutory) consultation on early-stage proposals for Gate Burton Energy Park ran for six weeks from 11 January to 18 February 2022 (see Section X.X for further details). Non-statutory consultation on an initial draft SoCC was also undertaken with the relevant local authorities (Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils and West Lindsey and Bassetlaw District Councils) over March/April 2022. Statutory consultation on the SoCC with the relevant authorities was subsequently undertaken during the period 12 April to 13 May 2022 pursuant to Section 47(2) and (3) of the PA 2008 and [the Applicant] has had regard to the consultation feedback in preparing this final version of the SoCC.
- 3.16 []
- 3.17 Stage Two (statutory) consultation on the proposed application for the Project will start on 22 June 2022 and run for a period of six weeks and three days (45 days), closing on 05 August 2022. This exceeds the requirement set out in the PA 2008 that consultation should take place for a minimum 28 days. Further information on the Stage Two consultation is set out in Section X.
- 3.18 The project team will record all comments and feedback received during Stage Two consultation.
- 3.19 When the Stage Two consultation period has closed the project team will review all the feedback received and have regard to these representations in further developing the proposals and preparing the DCO for submission, having regard to technical, economic and environmental, and health and safety considerations, amongst others.
- 3.20 A Consultation Report will be produced and submitted with the DCO application. This report will summarise the consultation carried out (in accordance with this SoCC), the comments received and how Low Carbon has had regard to them. It will be available to view on the PINS website and the Project website when the application has been accepted by PINS for examination.

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- 3.21 It is currently anticipated that the application will be submitted to PINS in **Q4 2022 / Q1 2023**. All application documents will be available to view on the PINS website and the Project website and will also be made available in alternative formats on request.

4. Environmental information

- 4.1 The Project is classed as 'EIA development' for the purposes of 'The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017' ('EIA Regulations 2017').
- 4.2 The application for development consent will therefore require an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA'), which will be a detailed assessment of the potential environmental effects of the Project. It will also identify any mitigation measures required to control or reduce environmental effects. The findings of the EIA will be reported in an Environmental Statement ('ES') which will form part of the application for development consent.
- 4.3 An EIA Scoping Opinion was issued by PINS on 12 November 2021. This identifies the environmental issues and topics relevant to the Project, and which should be assessed as part of the EIA. The Scoping Opinion is available to view on the PINS website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/gate-burton-energy-park/?ipcsection=docs>
- 4.4 A Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and PEIR Non-Technical Summary ('NTS') will be made available as part of the Stage Two consultation. This will provide initial information on the potential environmental effects of the Project and any proposed mitigation to help the local community understand the environmental effects and inform responses regarding the proposed development. Feedback on the PEIR received during consultation will be considered before the application and EIA are finalised for submission.

5. Consultation objectives

- 5.1 Low Carbon's overall objectives for the Stage Two consultation are to:
- 5.1.1 Raise awareness of the Project proposals and to give the local community, relevant local authorities, and other stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the proposals, based on consultation information which is clear, accessible and appropriately detailed.
 - 5.1.2 Provide consultees with an opportunity to influence aspects of the Project that are under development and to understand which elements of the Project are fixed and the reasons why.
 - 5.1.3 Provide a range of different opportunities for people to engage with the Project and comment on proposals. For example, online (website, webinars), in-person (events, briefings), in writing (feedback form, letters)
 - 5.1.4 Clearly signpost the different ways in which consultees can comment on the proposals.
 - 5.1.5 Show how the proposals have taken account of consultation and feedback in finalising the application for development consent prior to its submission.

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- 5.1.6 Build on dialogue established during Stage One consultation with consultees so that it can continue through the submission and examination phase of the consenting process.
- 5.2 The pre-application process for the Project comprises two stages, as follows:
 - 5.2.1 Stage One – non-statutory consultation; and
 - 5.2.2 Stage Two – statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008

6. Pre-application consultation process

Stage One – Non-Statutory Consultation

- 6.1 The Stage One 'non-statutory' consultation on the Project was undertaken by Low Carbon between 11 January and 18 February 2022. The aim of this consultation was to introduce Low Carbon, present the emerging early proposals for the Project and its connection to the existing electricity transmission system at Cottam sub-station, and give the local community and stakeholders the opportunity to provide their views. The consultation also invited the local community and stakeholders to suggest local schemes or projects that we could support or deliver to benefit those communities closest to the Project.
- 6.2 The consultation was publicised to the local communities including those lying within the West Lindsey District wards of Lea, Torksey and Stow, as well as the Bassetlaw District wards of Rampton, and Sturton.
- 6.3 At the time the Stage One Consultation took place, legal limits on social distancing associated with Covid-19 enabled five in-person consultation events to take place. In addition to these in-person events, two online events were convened to provide an opportunity for those with concerns about attending in-person events to engage with the Project team directly. Online events also provided an option to accommodate those without the time / availability to attend an in-person event. See [Appendix 1](#) for a table detailing the Stage One Non-Statutory Consultation event programme.
- 6.3 Direct written and email communications were issued in advance of the consultation (December 2021) to provide local political representatives and parish councils with details of when the Stage One Consultation would take place. The communication was also issued to communities in the immediate vicinity of the Project as well as individuals registering their contact details with the Project to receive updates directly, along with a media release to local print, broadcast, and online media.
- 6.4 Subsequent communications were issued to the same stakeholders when the consultation launched on 11 January 2022 providing details of how they could find out more about the proposals being consulted on and inviting them to take part in the consultation. A consultation postcard was direct mailed to addresses lying within a defined consultation zone. A media release was issued to local print, broadcast and online media, and posters were displayed locally, publicising the events.
- 6.5 Through the publicity, the consultation events and a number of other means (e.g. the Project website, freephone community information line, bespoke email address), the local community and other stakeholders were provided with initial information on the Project and given the opportunity to submit feedback. In response to the issues most frequently raised during the consultation exercise, Low Carbon prepared a series of frequently asked questions and answers which were made available on the project website in the FAQ section:
[https://www.lowcarbonenergy.co.uk/faq](#)

Stage Two – Statutory Consultation

- 6.7 The Stage Two 'statutory' consultation on the Project will take place for six weeks and two days (45 days) between 22 June 2022 and 5 August 2022. This will provide an opportunity for Low Carbon to update the local community and other stakeholders on the progress that has been made on the Project since the Stage One consultation and how the proposals for the Project have developed. The Stage Two consultation will take place in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008.
- 6.8 Stage Two consultation will be publicised to the local community within a defined consultation zone (see [\[insert section/para ref\]](#)) as well as other stakeholders using a variety of communication methods (these are set out in [\[insert section ref\]](#)). Consultation documents and materials will be made available at document inspection locations and public consultation events (in-person and online) will be held. The events will be attended by members of the Project team, who will be available to explain more about the proposals and answer questions.
- 6.9 Low Carbon is required to provide a minimum period of at least 28 days for responses to be received however the consultation period will run for 45 days (six weeks and three days) which will provide people with additional time to submit responses. **Consultation responses should be submitted by 23.59 on 5 August 2022, unless agreed otherwise with Low Carbon directly.**

7. What we will consult on

- 7.1 Low Carbon will consult on the proposed DCO application for the Project and inviting representations on the project proposals. We will be inviting responses in relation to all elements of the proposed development, some of which featured in the earlier round of consultation and engagement.
- 7.2 For consultation we will provide people with documentation on what we propose to build, where and how we propose to build it, including any refinements made in response to feedback submitted to Stage One consultation, provide preliminary information on environmental impacts and proposed mitigation based on the findings from the published PEIR.
- 7.3 We will welcome and consider feedback on all aspects of the Project and will specifically invite comments on the following:
- 7.3.1 The design of the solar energy park;
 - 7.3.2 The route of the electrical connection from the solar energy park to Cottam sub-station;
 - 7.3.3 The environmental effects of the Project (detailed in the PEIR) and any mitigation that is required;
 - 7.3.4 The timescales and next steps for the Project; and,
 - 7.3.5 Anything else you think Low Carbon needs to consider.
- 7.4 We will publish and seek feedback on the PEIR. The PEIR is intended to give members of the community an understanding of the potential likely environmental effects of the Project and measures we propose implementing to manage and mitigate them. A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will accompany the PEIR, to summarise the content of the detailed preliminary environmental assessments in a non-technical manner. Copies of the PEIR and the NTS will be available at document inspection locations (see [Table X.X](#) for a list of document inspection locations) and on the Project website: [\[redacted\]](#)

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- 7.5 We will also produce a series of documents, maps and plans to sit alongside the published PEIR. More information about these documents is set out in section [insert relevant section ref].
- 7.6 Individuals, communities and consultees will be invited to comment on all or any part of our proposals for the Project.

8. Who we will consult

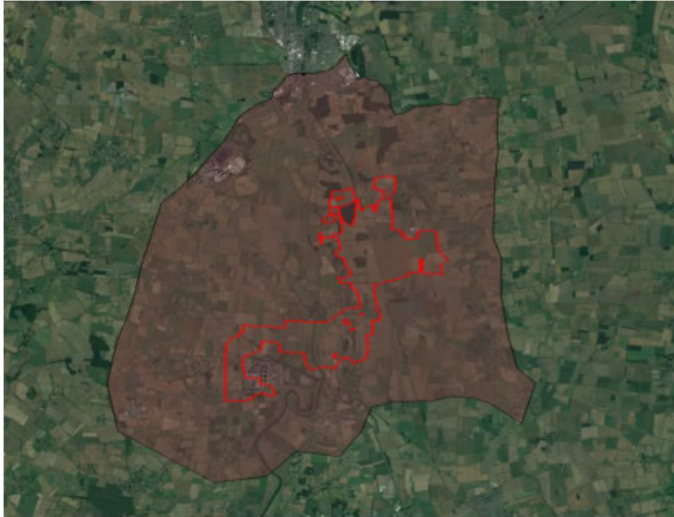
- 8.1 In accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008 the consultation has been designed to demonstrate reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that all communities potentially affected by our proposals are given the opportunity to take part. There is no set rule that defines those people, groups or organisations falling into this category. Therefore, Low Carbon has used professional judgement and taken advice from the relevant local planning authorities on what is appropriate for the Project.
- 8.2 To help determine the areas where we will consult, we have considered where the Project may have a direct or indirect impact, either permanently or temporarily, as a result of construction, operation and maintenance or decommissioning of the Project.
- 8.3 Having considered these impacts, we have identified an appropriate core consultation zone. The identification of this has been informed by discussion with the relevant local planning authorities.
- 8.4 The consultation zone has been identified by initially extending approximately one kilometre around the boundary of the Project site and grid connection, and then applying the following criteria:
- 8.4.1 Zone of theoretical visibility to assess the areas in vicinity of the Project boundary which could experience a degree of visual impact
 - 8.4.2 Natural and human geographical boundaries, for example the railway line that serves West Burton as the most easterly point of the primary consultation zone, and the A631 as the most northerly point
 - 8.4.3 Coverage of the host district wards
- 8.5 The consultation zone we have determined is shown in **Figure 8.1**.
- 8.5 Section 9 details how Low Carbon will consult in the consultation zone and the types of consultation methods we will use. A summary of the key methods is set out below:
- 8.6 A consultation postcard confirming the dates the consultation is taking place, details of in-person and online consultation events they can attend, plus details of where they can find information about what is being consulted on and how they can take part will be direct mailed to approximately 7,235 addresses which lie within the defined consultation zone including:
- 8.5.1 Local residents with postal addresses within the consultation zone boundaries
 - 8.5.2 Local businesses with postal addresses within the consultation zone boundaries
 - 8.5.3 Local interest groups/organisations which are active within the consultation boundaries
 - 8.5.4 Elected representatives (Councillors, Members of Parliament) representing constituencies that lie within the consultation zone boundaries
- 8.7 We will hold public consultation events at publicly accessible venues located within the consultation zone on days and times that enable the maximum number of people to attend, including at least one event on a Saturday. Please refer to **Section 9 Table X** for details of events.
- 8.8 We will inform local communities about our proposals for Gate Burton Energy Park and the consultation through local newspaper advertisements, media releases, and posters in local

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public venues and on community notices boards at locations within the defined consultation zone. The Gate Burton Energy Park website will also be updated to provide information.

- 8.9 It is therefore considered that people living and working within the vicinity of the Project will be adequately consulted in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008.

Figure 8.1 Consultation Zone



9. How we will consult

- 9.1 During Stage Two consultation Low Carbon will provide information about the consultation and the proposals being consulted on through a range of methods in accordance with the statutory requires of the PA 2008 (broadly the same methods used for Stage One consultation).
- 9.2 We are endeavouring to ensure that consultation is conducted in a way that gives as many members of the community as possible the opportunity to access information about the Project and express their views.
- 9.3 We have identified a number of ways in which, throughout the consultation period, people can:
 - 9.3.1 Access clear and concise information about our proposals and their potential effects to aid constructive debate (this will include making all research, relevant Project and technical documents available); and,
 - 9.3.2 Express their views and submit feedback to the statutory consultation about our proposals.

Beth Motley ...

Holding image - this denotes the extent of the consultation zone but will be design up for purposes of final SoCC so more clearly defined/visible.

Will brief into studio once we have a final consultation zone agreed.

24 March 2022, 15:08

Reply

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Project website

- 9.5 The Project website [REDACTED] will be updated to provide information about the Project including details of consultation events and consultation materials including the SoCC (this document), feedback forms, the PEIR and PEIR NTS plus any other relevant technical documents – all of which will be available to view and download from the website.
- 9.6 The website will also allow for online consultation by including a dedicated online feedback form. It will be regularly updated to reflect the latest stage of the consultation and development process and will provide facility for people to register their contact details with the Project to receive future updates directly.

Project consultation postcard/leaflet

- 9.5 A Project consultation postcard/leaflet will be published prior to consultation exhibition events starting. This will be our main form of direct communication about the consultation with the public confirming the dates the consultation is taking place (including the deadline by which feedback needs to be submitted), details of in-person and online consultation events they can attend, plus details of where they can find information about what is being consulted on and how they can take part.
- 9.6 A copy of this postcard/leaflet will be direct mailed to all the addresses within the consultation zone at the start of the consultation period. The postcard will also be made available online, at in-person public consultation events (X.X.X) and document inspection locations (X.X.X).

Project information booklet

- 9.7 A Project Information Booklet will be published at the start of the statutory consultation. This will provide a summary of the proposals we are consulting on, details of how people can take part in the consultation, how feedback will be considered and used to influence the shape of our proposals, and how we will provide information on the outcome of this consultation.
- 9.8 This document will be available to download from the Project website, and at all in-person public consultation events and information points. Copies will also be made available on request. This document has been provided as a source of information to support the consultation process.

Project Feedback Form

- 9.10 A Project Feedback Form will be prepared to enable people to provide us with feedback on our proposed application. Specific questions will guide people on the particular issues we are seeking comment. Hard copy forms will be available on request, at public consultation, and at document inspection locations. The Project website will have an online version of the Project Feedback Form so people can submit their feedback electronically.
- 9.11 Throughout the consultation period people will also be welcome to submit written comments as feedback by email to the Project email address: [REDACTED] or by post to FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 9.12 We will develop an FAQs document detailing the most frequently asked questions about our proposals and their corresponding answers. This will be available on the Project website and in hard copy at public consultation events.

Technical documents, maps, plans and non-technical summary (NTS)

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- 9.13 We will make available all the technical documents we have produced which explain and assess our project proposals which are the subject of consultation. These technical documents include:
- 9.14.1 the PEIR, providing information on the likely significant environmental effects of the Project and how we propose to manage and mitigate them;
 - 9.14.2 the NTS; and,
 - 9.14.3 maps and plans showing our proposed application at appropriate scales
- 9.14 Printed reference copies of the technical documents will also be available to view at in-person public consultation events (X.X.X), and document inspection locations (X.X.X). They will also be available to view and download from the Project website. See Table X below for details of which documents will be available at consultation locations.
- 9.15 Requests for hard copies of the technical documents will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply (up to a maximum of £XXX for one full suite of documents) to be paid for by the recipient.
- 9.16 A navigation document will be developed to assist the review of these technical documents.

Table 9.1 Consultation documents available at each activity or location type

Document	Document Inspection Location	Consultation Events	Project website*
PEIR	Y	Y	Y
PEIR NTS	Y	Y	Y
SoCC	Y	Y	Y
Document navigation booklet	Y	Y	Y
Consultation postcard	Y	Y	Y
Project information booklet	Y	Y	Y
Feedback form	Y	Y	Y
FAQ		Y	Y
Event display panels		Y	Y

*Documents and materials will be available in the 'Documents' section of the Project website www.gateburtonenergyark.co.uk as PDFs to view and download free of charge.

Public consultation events

- 9.17 During the statutory consultation, we will hold seven public consultation events at which people will be able to find information about the Project and what we are consulting on. Members of the Project team will be present to discuss the proposals and answer questions.
- 9.18 The programme of consultation events will comprise five in-person events and two online events:
- 9.18.1 **In-person consultation events:** these will be held at publicly accessible venues/locations located within the consultation zone. Information we make available for people to view at these consultation events will include:
 - i. Project display panels
 - ii. Reference copies of technical documents, maps and plans published as part of the consultation (PEI Report)
 - iii. Copies of the printed Feedback Form (including freepost envelopes), Consultation Postcards, Project Information Booklet, FAQ, and Document Navigation Booklet available for people to take away
 - 9.18.2 **Online consultation events:** these will take the form of a webinar, the date and time of which will be promoted along with details for those in-person consultation events being held.

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Online events will be held on Zoom, and attendees will be required to register in advance. The format for these events will comprise:

- i. The presentation of information consistent with that made available at in-person events i.e. event display panels by representatives from the project team
- ii. Q&A whereby delegates are invited to submit questions using the chat function so they can be collated and verbally responded to by the Project team at the end of the presentation.
- iii. The webinar will be recorded and uploaded to the Project website along with a copy of the presentation within two days of the webinar taking place.

9.19 Members of the Project team in attendance at online and in-person events will include specialists who can talk about key issues relating to the Project, which may include:

- 9.19.1 The development and consenting process
- 9.19.2 Environmental and assessments
- 9.19.3 Land
- 9.19.4 Construction and engineering
- 9.19.5 Consultation and community engagement

9.20 The timing for events has been coordinated to reflect working hours to maximise opportunities for engagement⁴.

9.21 **Table 9.2** below provides the dates, times, and locations of the events we will hold. A map showing the location of the in-person consultation events is included in **Appendix X**.

Table 9.2 Consultation event programme⁵

Event	Date	Opening Time	Location	Venue
1	Thurs 7 July 2022	18.30-20.00	Online event	Zoom – register to attend via website www.gateburtonenergypark.co.uk
2.	Fri 8 July 2022	14.00-20.00	Marion & Gate Burton	Marion & Gate Burton Village Hall, Trent Port Road, Marion, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5AR
3.	Sat 9 July 2022	10.00-14.00	Rampton	Rampton Village Hall, Manor Grounds Rampton, Retford, Notts, DN22 0JU
4.	Thurs 14 July 2022	14.00-20.00	Willingham-by-Stow	Willingham Village Hall, High Street, Willingham-by-Stow, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5JZ
5.	Sat 16 July 2022	10.00-14.00	Knaith	Knaith Park Village Hall, Willingham Road, Knaith Park, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5ET

⁴ The running times for in-person consultation events have also been determined based on venue availability.

⁵ Where any consultation event(s) referred to in **Table 9.2** is cancelled or rearranged for any reason, as much notice as possible will be given. Notice of any alternative arrangements (if any) will be given as soon as possible after the cancellation or rearrangement is made. This may include alternative dates, venues and/or arrangements for the submission of representations to Low Carbon. The public will be informed via email and posters displayed locally and press releases issued to the local media.

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6.	Tues 19 July 2022	14.00-20.00	Treswell	Treswell Village Hall, Town Street, Treswell, Notts DN22 0EE
7.	Wed 20 July 2022	18.30-20.00	Online event	Zoom - register to attend via website www.gateburtonenergypark.co.uk

Document inspection locations

- 9.22 We will make printed copies of the PEIR available to view at [insert number] document inspection locations in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire along with printed hard copies of the NTS and SoCC and consultation materials including; Document Navigation Booklet, Consultation Postcard, Project Information Booklet, and Feedback Form. These venues have been selected because they are in the locality of the Project, publicly accessible and secure.
- 9.23 **Table 9.3** provides a list of all the document inspection locations where these materials will be located and their respective opening times. A map showing the location of the document inspection locations listed below is included in **Appendix 2**.

Table 9.3 **Document inspection locations**

Address	Opening hours	Telephone
Lincolnshire		
Saxilby Library St Andrews Centre William Street Saxilby Lincolnshire LN1 2LP	Mon - Closed Tue - 10.30-15.30 We- 10.30 to 15.30 Thu - Closed Fri - 10.30 to 13.00 Sat - Closed Sun - Closed	01522 782010
Gainsborough Library Cobden Street Gainsborough Lincolnshire DN21 2NG	Mon - 09.00-17.00 Tue - 09.00-17.00 Wed - 09.00-17.00 Thu - 09.00-18.00 Fri - 09.00-17.00 Sat - 09.00-13.00 Sun - Closed	
Lincoln Central Library Free School Lane Lincolnshire LN2 1EZ	Mon - 09.00-17.00 Tue - 09.00-17.00 Wed - 09.00-17.00 Thu - 09.00-18.00 Fri - 09.00-17.00 Sat - 09.00-16.00 Sun - Closed	01522 782 010
Nottinghamshire		
Retford Library Churchgate Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 6PE	Mon - 09.00-18.00 Tue - 09.00-18.00 Wed - 09.00-18.00 Thu - 09.00-18.00 Fri - 09.00-18.00 Sat - 09.00-15	01623 677 200



Beth Motley ...

FOR CONSIDERATION
Have identified local libraries as aware that council offices generally prefer NOT to be used as document inspection locations as information tends to be kept in a separate room so requires taking members of the public to the location so they can access.

Also aware that many council offices aren't open for public access due to Covid.
25 March 2022, 11:00

Reply



Beth Motley ...

To discuss with Lincs County officers whether preference would be to have document inspection location at Library or publicly accessible hub part of the Council offices.

Lincs County website currently states that all area and county council offices are closed to the public due to Covid.
25 March 2022, 10:37

Reply

	Sun – Closed	
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Section 48 Notice

- 9.24 Low Carbon will publish a notice in local newspapers for two consecutive weeks. The notice will also be published in a national newspaper and the London Gazette advertising the intention to submit a DCO application for one week as required by Section 48 of the PA 2008.
- 9.25 **Table 9.4** provides a list of the newspaper outlets where, and the dates when, the Section 48 notice will appear.

Table 9.4 Section 48 Notice schedule

Newspaper Outlet	1 st publication date	2 nd publication date
Lincolnshire Echo	09 June 2022	18 June 2022
Retford Times	09 June 2022	18 June 2022
Gainsborough Standard	09 June 2022	18 June 2022
The Guardian	11 June 2022	N/A
London Gazette	15 June 2022	N/A

Media / advertising

- 9.26 To promote awareness of the Project and the consultation both within and beyond the consultation zone we will issue media releases:
 - 9.26.1 At the start of the consultation period to provide an overview of the proposed application, why we are consulting, details of how people can access information about the Project, dates and locations of public consultation events being held, as well as the deadline by which feedback needs to be submitted
 - 9.26.2 Two weeks before the end of the consultation period to encourage people to have their say before the consultation closes
 - 9.26.3 When the consultation deadline has passed to provide a summary of participation and details of what happens next in the planning process
- 9.27 In addition to publishing a formal Section 48 Notice in regional and national newspapers, we will advertise in the local and regional media to promote the public exhibition events.
- 9.28 Table 9.5 provides a list of all the relevant media outlets to whom media releases will be issued and advertisements placed.

Table 9.5 Media outlets where press releases will be issued, and advertisements placed

Press releases will be issued to:	Advertisements will be placed with:
BBC Radio Lincolnshire	Gainsborough Standard
BBC Radio Nottingham	Lincolnshire Echo
The Gainsborough Standard	Retford Times
The Grantham Journal	
The Lincolnite	
Lincolnshire Echo	
Lincolnshire Free Press	
Lincolnshire In Focus	
Lincolnshire Life	
Lincolnshire Live	
Lincolnshire Reporter	
Lincolnshire Today	

Beth Motley ...

Final informal event advertising schedule to be agreed.

Any additional suggestions of titles to include on the press release mailing welcomed.

25 March 2022, 12:00

Reply

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Lincolnshire World	
Nottinghamshire in Focus	
Nottinghamshire Live	
Nottingham Local News	
Nottingham Post	

Posters

- 9.30 Posters publicising consultation dates and event locations will be produced and displayed at public consultation venues. They will also be made available for display on local parish notice boards and at other community venues such as libraries within and surrounding the consultation zone. The posters will publicise the events and set out timescales for providing feedback and how to make a submission.

Stakeholder letters and meetings

- 9.31 Low Carbon will be contacting key stakeholders including local political representatives (Councillors and Members of Parliament) and Parish Council clerks representing ward, constituencies, and parishes within the consultation zone to provide information about the proposals, inviting them to take part in the consultation and asking them to encourage others to take part.
- 9.32 The offer to meet/brief representatives will be extended in these communications and arranged if a need is identified, or a specific request is made.

Information services

- 9.33 We will operate a dedicated Project enquiry line 0800 860 6259 (9am-5pm Mon-Fri), email [redacted] and freepost address (FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK) which can be used to contact [the Applicant] for enquires in relation to the consultation documents, plans and maps.
- 9.35 Requests for consultation/Project information to meet specific requirements (such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments, or an alternative language to for those for whom English is not their first language, to enable them to take part in the consultation) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.

Other consultations

- 9.34 [The Applicant] is aware that Island Green Power is anticipated to be carrying out its second stage of consultation on its proposals for Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project from XX June to XX July 2022. This project is separate to the Gate Burton Energy Park project and consultees are encouraged to ensure that their consultation responses are directed appropriately.
- 9.35 Details of Island Green Power's proposals and associated consultation are expected to be made available to view at: <<insert relevant website details>>.

10. Next steps and contact details

Consultation responses

- 10.1 Consultation responses should be submitted to Low Carbon by 23.59 on 05 August 2022.
- 10.2 At the close of the consultation period we will review and finalise our proposed application having regard to the feedback received throughout the consultation. We will then produce a

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Consultation Report which will set out how the feedback from the s42/47 consultation has shaped and influenced our proposed application.

- 10.3 Within the Consultation Report we will also make it clear where we have not altered our proposals to reflect comments received and explaining our reasoning. The Consultation Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State as part of the Development Consent Order application.
- 10.4 Any comments received could be made public but no personal information will be published. Any personal data received as part of the consultation will be stored and protected in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. The privacy notice for those visiting the project website is available at:
[REDACTED]
- 10.5 Low Carbon anticipates submitting DCO application for the Project in Q4 2022/Q1 2023. PINS will have up to 28 days to decide whether to accept the application for examination. If accepted, there will be an opportunity for community and other stakeholders to submit representations and participate in the examination of the application.

Continuing engagement

- 10.6 If, as a result of feedback, our proposals for the Project change to the extent that it is necessary to carry out further targeted consultation, this will be undertaken in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC.

Contact details

- 10.7 Our Project community relations team is available to assist people in finding information about the Project and our consultation. You can contact the project team via:
- 10.5.1 Email: [REDACTED]
 - 10.5.2 Post: FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK
 - 10.5.3 Telephone: [REDACTED]
 - 10.5.4 Project website: [REDACTED]
- 10.8 Further information and copies of Project documentation can be downloaded from the Gate Burton Energy Park website: [REDACTED]
- 10.9 Questions and comments on this document, the Gate Burton Energy Park proposals and consultation responses can be submitted by using the contact details listed above.

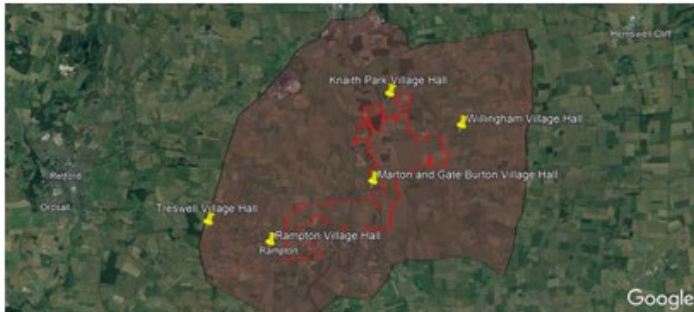
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Appendix

Appendix 1 Stage One Non-statutory Consultation Event Programme

No	Event Date	Opening Time	Location	Venue
1	Tues 25 Jan	18.30-20.00	Online event	Zoom - register to attend via website www.gateburtonenergypark.co.uk
2	Wed 26 Jan	14.30-20.00	Knaith	Knaith Park Village Hall, Willingham Road, Knaith Park, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5ET
3	Thur 27 Jan	14.30-20.00	North Leverton	North Leverton Methodist Chapel, Sturton Road, North Leverton, Notts DN22 0AB
4	Tues 1 Feb	14.30-20.00	Treswell	Treswell Village Hall, Town Street, Treswell, Notts DN22 0EE
5	Thur 3 Feb	12.30-17.00	Willingham-by-Stow	Willingham Village Hall, High Street, Willingham-by-Stow, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5JZ
6	Sat 5 Feb	10.30-14.00	Marton & Gate Burton	Marton & Gate Burton Village Hall, Trent Port Road, Marton, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5AR
7	Tues 8 Feb	18.30-20.00	Online event	Zoom - register to attend via website [REDACTED]

Appendix 2 - Map showing location of consultation events within the consultation zone



Beth Motley ...
HOLDING MAP - studio to create final version for insertion subject to confirmation of venues
25 March 2022, 11:59

Appendix 3 - Map showing the location of the document inspection locations



Beth Motley ...
HOLDING MAP - studio to create final version for insertion subject to final deposit locations being agreed.

**Appendix C-2 Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
formally issued to local authorities for statutory consultation
pursuant to s47(2) and (3) of the PA 2008**



Gate Burton

ENERGY PARK

**Gate Burton Energy Park
Statement of Community Consultation**

DRAFT: 11 April 2022

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- 2. Gate Burton Energy Park**
 - The applicant – Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd
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Figure 2.1	Components of a solar energy park
Figure 8.1	Consultation Zone

APPENDIX

Appendix 1	Stage One Non-Statutory Consultation Event Programme
Appendix 2	Map showing location of consultation events within the consultation zone
Appendix 3	Map showing the location of the document inspection locations

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1. Introduction

Context

- 1.1 Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd ('Gate Burton'), a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd is proposing to apply for development consent from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ('BEIS') to allow it to construct and operate a solar energy and energy storage development known as Gate Burton Energy Park (the 'Project'). The application is administered by the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- 1.2 Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008') requires applicants to "prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult about the proposed application with people living in the vicinity of the land". Sections 42, 43, 44 and 48 also specify certain people, businesses and organisations with whom applicants must consult (including the general public via newspaper notifications in the form of Section 48 Notices).
- 1.3 This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 'Duty to consult local community' of the PA 2008, with reference to guidance on pre-application consultation published by the Government and PINS. This document focuses on the approach to consultation with the community, rather than consultation under sections 42, 43 and 44 of the PA2008 although these are referred to where relevant, for example to describe how consultation on preliminary environmental information will be carried out.
- 1.4 It also describes the non-statutory and statutory consultation exercises on the content of this SoCC which Gate Burton carried out with the relevant host local authorities. These authorities comprise:
 - Lincolnshire County Council
 - Nottinghamshire County Council
 - West Lindsey District Council
 - Bassetlaw District Council
- 1.5 The SoCC sets out how Gate Burton intends to consult the local community on its proposals for the Project, how people can learn more about the Project and engage with the process, prior to an application for development consent being submitted to PINS. It provides a brief overview of what we are proposing to develop and what we will be consulting on, and the statutory pre-application consultation process. Additionally, it sets out how we will have regard to consultation responses in finalising the proposals for the Project which will be submitted as an application for development consent to the Secretary of State.

Quick facts

- 1.6 Gate Burton Energy Park is a proposed solar and energy storage park with an anticipated generation capacity of above 50 megawatts (MW). The amount of electricity the energy park could generate means that it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') which requires development consent under the PA 2008. Development consent is granted in the form of a Development Consent Order ('DCO').
- 1.7 An application for development consent for the construction and operation of the proposed Project will be submitted to PINS – the agency responsible for managing the examination for NSIPs. Further to an examination of the application being carried out PINS will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for BEIS who will then decide whether to grant the DCO for the Project.
- 1.8 The Project is 'EIA development' for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. An environmental impact assessment is being undertaken and the results of the EIA will be presented in an environmental statement accompanying the DCO application.

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- 1.9 Gate Burton conducted 'non-statutory' ('Stage One') consultation on its proposals in January and February 2022. The information gathered during Stage One consultation has informed the preparation of this SoCC and the proposals for 'statutory' (Stage Two) consultation.
- 1.10 Gate Burton engaged with relevant local authorities¹ in April 2022 for formal consultation under Section 47 (2) of the PA 2008 on the SoCC. Gate Burton had regard to the feedback received which was taken into account and used to inform this final version.
- 1.11 Stage Two consultation is proposed to take place over a period of six weeks and three days (45 days); the intention being for it to open on 22 June and run until 5 August 2022. This would see the consultation period exceed the minimum period of 28 days as required by the PA 2008. During this time, the local community will be consulted on the proposals via a range of methods including in-person consultation events held at local venues as well as virtual online events. Statutory and prescribed consultees will also be consulted on the proposed DCO application in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008.
- 1.12 The proposed consultation dates for Stage Two consultation are outlined in **Table 1.1** below. Please note that these dates are indicative. A Preliminary Environmental Report (PEIR) will be prepared by Low Carbon and made available as part of the Stage Two consultation.

Table 1.1 Gate Burton Energy Park Stage Two Consultation – Indicative Dates

Proposed date	Consultation
08 June 2022	SoCC available to view in document inspection locations and on the Project website (see Section 9)
From 09 June 2022	Section 48 Notices published in regional papers, national paper and the London Gazette and Section 42 consultation materials sent to statutory and prescribed persons
20 June 2022	Postcard announcing consultation launch distributed to addresses within the core consultation zone outlined (see Section 8, Figure 8.1)
22 June to 12 Aug 2022	Statutory 'Stage Two' consultation period starts
	Consultation materials available to view in document inspection locations and on the Project website
	Public consultation events held at local venues and online (including at least two events on a Saturday). Refer to Table 9.2 .
12 August 2022	Statutory 'Stage Two' Consultation period closes at 23.59

¹ Lincolnshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, West Lindsey District Council, Bassetlaw District Council

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2. Gate Burton Energy Park Project

The applicant – Gate Burton Energy Park Limited

- 2.1 Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd is a development proposed by Low Carbon Ltd ('Low Carbon') - a privately-owned UK investment and asset management company specialising in renewable energy.
- 2.2 Founded in 2011, Low Carbon is committed to making a positive and significant impact on climate change by investing in large-scale renewable energy projects across a range of energy technologies including solar PV, onshore wind, offshore wind, waste-to-energy, battery storage and other proven renewable energy technologies. Deploying capital at scale into renewables, it invests across the full life cycle from concept through to development, construction, and operation.
- 2.3 To date, the Low Carbon investment model has enabled the deployment of more than £800 million in capital into renewable infrastructure with more than 1GW already developed. Its proprietary renewable energy pipeline currently stands at more than 5GW, ideally positioning it to capitalise on investment opportunities as the need for green power and energy security increases. Low Carbon's investments are generating sufficient clean energy to power more than 390,000 homes, avoiding in excess of 750,000 tonnes of CO₂² each year.
- 2.4 Low Carbon has been active in large-scale solar energy since its formation in 2011. With an established track record in the UK, it also has operations in Europe including the Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland. Low Carbon is a certified B Corp.
- 2.5 For more information on Low Carbon please visit: [REDACTED]

The Project

- 2.6 Gate Burton Energy Park will comprise solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and on-site energy storage facilities on agricultural land wholly contained within the boundary of one site comprising approximately 684 hectares (1,690 acres) located approximately four kilometres south of Gainsborough near Gate Burton in Lincolnshire (hereinafter referred to as the 'Solar Park Site') together with grid connection infrastructure to connect the Project to National Grid's 400kV Cottam substation.
- 2.7 National Grid's 400kV Cottam substation is located in Nottinghamshire and is approximately four kilometres to the south-west of the Solar Park Site in which the solar panels, energy storage system, on-site substation and supporting infrastructure will be located, and would provide the connection point for the electricity generated by the solar energy park to be exported into the existing electricity transmission system.
- 2.8 The Project would allow for the generation, storage and export of more than 50 megawatts (MW) electrical generation capacity and generation capacity is expected to be in the region of 500MW.
- 2.9 The principal components of the energy park would comprise:
 - 2.9.1 Ground mounted PV panels converting sunlight into electricity;
 - 2.9.2 PV module mounting structures;

² Low Carbon internal calculations using OFGEM Typical Domestic Consumption Values and BEIS Carbon Conversion Factors.

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- 2.9.3 Supporting infrastructure – inverters, transformers and switchgear – converting the direct current to alternating current and stepping up the voltage so it can be exported to the national grid;
 - 2.9.4 On-site cables connecting the PV modules and energy storage system to inverters which, in turn, connect to the transformers. Higher voltage cables will then be required between transformers and the switchgear, and from the switchgear to the off-site electrical infrastructure;
 - 2.9.5 An energy storage system so that electricity generated by the PV panels can be stored on site and released to the national grid when it is needed most. It may also enable energy to be imported from the national grid so it can be stored until it is needed;
 - 2.9.6 On-site substation to export electricity from the energy park to the national grid. The substation will include a control building comprising office and welfare space as well as storage;
 - 2.9.7 Security fencing in the form of 'deer fence' or other mesh fencing to enclose the operational areas of the site, along with pole mounted internal facing closed circuit television (CCTV) deployed around the perimeter of the operational site;
 - 2.9.8 Accesses to the site during construction and for routine maintenance when the energy park is operational;
 - 2.9.9 New planting, landscaping and biodiversity measures around the site perimeter and within the PV area to enhance biodiversity and improve the landscape; and,
 - 2.9.10 Two or more temporary construction compounds will be required, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all the land within the site boundary.
- 2.10 Transmission infrastructure providing an electrical connection between the on-site substation at the Site and National Grid's Cottam substation in Nottinghamshire to export the power generated by the solar energy park into the existing national electricity transmission system.
- 2.11 **Figure 2.1** below illustrates the components of which a typical solar energy park comprises

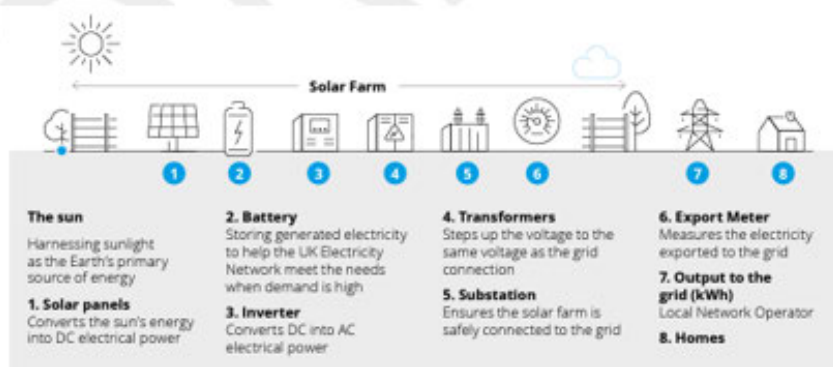


Figure 2.1 Components of a solar energy park

- 2.12 For more information on Gate Burton Energy Park please visit the project website:



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3. The application process

Development Consent Order applications

- 3.1 The PA 2008 sets out thresholds above which certain types of infrastructure development are considered to be Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) and require a consent known as a Development Consent Order (DCO). Examples of such projects include large-scale developments such as railways, roads, airports, power generating (including offshore wind farms and solar parks), wastewater treatment works and electricity lines.
- 3.2 In England, onshore generating stations (such as solar parks) with an electrical generation capacity that exceeds 50MW are classified as an NSIP (currently excluding onshore wind).
- 3.3 With an anticipated generation capacity of above 50MW, Gate Burton Energy Park qualifies as an NSIP. We therefore intend to apply for development consent under the PA 2008 to enable the project to be built, operated and maintained.
- 3.4 We will submit an application for a DCO to PINS who will first decide, on behalf of the SoS within a defined period of 28 days, whether to accept the application for examination. If accepted, PINS will appoint an independent inspector or panel of inspectors – also known as the Examining Authority ('ExA') – to examine the application on behalf of the SoS.
- 3.5 The examination process will take place over a period of up to six months during which time there will be the opportunity for the local community and other stakeholders to contribute and express their views on the application.
- 3.6 Following the examination process, the ExA will have three months to write a report setting out a recommendation on whether development consent should be granted for the Project. This report is sent to the SoS who has three months to consider it and to make a final decision on whether or not to grant development consent. If the SoS grants consent this will be in the form of a DCO.
- 3.7 The SoS decision must be made in accordance with the relevant National Policy Statements (NPSs) which outline the need for new energy infrastructure and the issues to be considered in determining such applications, subject to minor exceptions. Other matters which the SoS may consider important and relevant when determining an application for development consent may include other national and local planning policies.
- 3.8 The relevant NPSs are³.
 - 3.8.1 NPS EN-1 (Overarching Energy Policy)
 - 3.8.2 NPS EN-3 (Renewable Energy Infrastructure) (see below on draft revisions)
 - 3.8.3 NPS EN-5 (Electricity Networks Infrastructure)
- 3.9 NPS EN-1 establishes the need for new energy infrastructure and therefore Gate Burton will focus its consultation on seeking views on the specific proposals we are putting forward rather than the need for the Project itself (which is established).
- 3.10 The government is currently reviewing and updating the July 2011 Energy NPSs. The draft revisions to NPS EN-3 include specific policies in support of solar PV, as the Government notes:

"Solar farms are one of the most established renewable electricity technologies in the UK and the cheapest form of electricity generation worldwide. Solar farms

³ Information regarding these NPSs can be viewed at [REDACTED]

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can be built quickly and, coupled with consistent reductions in the cost of materials and improvements in the efficiency of panels⁴¹, large-scale solar is now viable in some cases to deploy subsidy-free and at little to no extra cost to the consumer. The government has committed to sustained growth in solar capacity to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions. As such solar is a key part of the government's strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector" (2.47.1)

- 3.11 Gate Burton will take account of the current and proposed revised NPSs as appropriate as part of any future application submission.
- 3.12 **Table 3.1** below provides an overview of the six key steps in the DCO application process:

1. Pre-application	Information will be in the local media and statutory consultation will be carried out with prescribed consultees and other stakeholders, including the local community.
2. Acceptance	The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has 28 days to decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination including whether the developer's consultation has been adequate.
3. Pre-examination	You can register as an interested party and, by doing so, will be kept informed of progress and opportunities to put your case forward. Inspectors will hold a Preliminary Meeting and set the timetable for examination.
4. Examination	You can send in your comments in writing. You can request to speak at a public hearing. The Inspectorate has six months to carry out the examination.
5. Recommendation & Decision	A recommendation to the Secretary of State will be issued by the Inspectorate within three months. The Secretary of State then has a further three months to issue a decision on the proposal.
6. Post Decisions	There is the opportunity for legal challenge.

Table 3.1 DCO application process

- 3.13 More detail about the application process can be found on the PINS website:

[REDACTED]

Project timeline

- 3.14 Pre-application consultation is an important part of the planning and development process, and PA 2008 requires developers to publicise their proposals widely as well as consulting with the local community, local authorities, statutory bodies, and persons with an interest in land potentially affected by the proposed NSIP.
- 3.15 Stage One (non-statutory) consultation on early-stage proposals for Gate Burton Energy Park ran for six weeks from 11 January to 18 February 2022 (see Section 6 for further details).
- 3.16 Non-statutory consultation on an initial draft SoCC was also undertaken with the relevant local authorities (Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils and West Lindsey and Bassetlaw District Councils) over March/April 2022.
- 3.17 Statutory consultation on the SoCC (this document) with the relevant authorities was subsequently undertaken during the period 12 April to 13 May 2022 pursuant to Section 47(2)

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and (3) of the PA 2008. In preparing this final version of the SoCC, Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd has had regard to the feedback submitted during this formal consultation.

- 3.18 Stage Two (statutory) consultation on the proposed application for the Project will start on 22 June 2022 and run for a period of six weeks and three days (45 days), closing on 05 August 2022. This exceeds the requirement set out in the PA 2008 that consultation should take place for a minimum 28 days. Further information on the Stage Two consultation is set out in Sections 7 to 9.
- 3.19 The Project team will record all comments and feedback received during Stage Two consultation.
- 3.20 When the Stage Two consultation period has closed, we will review all the feedback received and have regard to these representations in further developing our proposals for the Project and preparing the DCO for submission, having regard to technical, economic and environmental, and health and safety considerations, amongst others.
- 3.21 A Consultation Report will be produced and submitted with the DCO application. This report will summarise the consultation carried out (in accordance with this SoCC), the comments received and how we have had regard to them. It will be available to view on the PINS website and the Project website when the application has been accepted by PINS for examination.
- 3.22 We currently anticipate that the application will be submitted to PINS late 2022 / early 2023. All application documents will be available to view on the PINS website and the Project website and will also be made available in alternative formats on request.

4. Environmental information

- 4.1 The Project is classed as 'EIA development' for the purposes of 'The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017' ('EIA Regulations 2017').
- 4.2 The application for development consent will therefore require an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') to be carried out to ensure the likely significant effects of the Project are properly understood and that where available, appropriate mitigation measures are identified to control or reduce environmental effects.
- 4.3 An EIA Scoping Opinion was issued by PINS on 12 November 2021. This identifies the environmental issues and topics relevant to the Project, and which should be assessed as part of the EIA. The Scoping Opinion is available to view on the PINS website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/gate-burton-energy-park/?ipcsection=docs>
- 4.4 A Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and PEIR Non-Technical Summary ('NTS') will be made available as part of the Stage Two consultation. This will provide initial information on the potential environmental effects of the Project and any proposed mitigation to help the local community understand the environmental effects and inform responses regarding the proposed development.
- 4.5 We will be asking for the views of individuals and organisations on the information set out in the PEIR as part of the consultation described in this SoCC. Feedback received during consultation on the PEIR will be considered before the application and EIA are finalised for submission. The final EIA will be set out in an Environmental Statement (ES) which will be submitted with the application for development consent.
- 4.6 Before an application for development consent can be made, Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd is required to consult with those living in the vicinity of the land on which the proposed Project will be delivered. This follows the requirements set out in Section 47 of the PA 2008. We must also consult with local authorities, persons with an interest in land and prescribed statutory consultees as set out in Section 42 of the PA 2008. We are also required to publicise our proposed

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application nationally as set out in Section 48 of the PA 2008. The Stage Two consultation will meet these statutory requirements, including consultation on the PEIR.

5. Consultation objectives

- 5.1 Gate Burton's overall objectives for the Stage Two consultation are to:
- 5.1.1 Raise awareness of the Project proposals and to give the local community, relevant local authorities, and other stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the proposals, based on consultation information which is clear, accessible and appropriately detailed.
 - 5.1.2 Provide consultees with an opportunity to influence aspects of the Project that are under development and to understand which elements of the Project are fixed and the reasons why.
 - 5.1.3 Provide a range of different opportunities for people to engage with the Project and comment on proposals. For example, online (website, webinars), in-person (events, briefings), in writing (feedback form, letters)
 - 5.1.4 Clearly signpost the different ways in which consultees can comment on the proposals.
 - 5.1.5 Show how the proposals have taken account of consultation and feedback in finalising the application for development consent prior to its submission.
 - 5.1.6 Build on dialogue established during Stage One consultation with consultees so that it can continue through the submission and examination phase of the consenting process.
- 5.2 The pre-application process for the Project comprises two stages, as follows:
- 5.2.1 Stage One – non-statutory consultation; and
 - 5.2.2 Stage Two – statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008

6. Pre-application consultation process

Stage One – Non-Statutory Consultation

- 6.1 The Stage One 'non-statutory' consultation on the Project was undertaken between 11 January and 18 February 2022. The aim of this consultation was to introduce the Project, present the emerging early proposals for the Site and its connection to the existing electricity transmission system at National Grid's Cottam sub-station, and give the local community and stakeholders the opportunity to provide their views. The consultation also invited local communities and stakeholders to suggest local schemes or projects that we could support or deliver to benefit those communities closest to the Project.
- 6.2 The consultation was publicised to the local communities including those lying within the West Lindsey District wards of Lea, Torksey and Stow, as well as the Bassetlaw District wards of Rampton, and Sturton.
- 6.3 At the time the Stage One Consultation took place, legal limits on social distancing associated with Covid-19 enabled five in-person consultation events to take place. In addition to these in-person events, two online events were convened to provide an opportunity for those with concerns about attending in-person events to engage with the Project team directly. Online events also provided an option to accommodate those without the time / availability to attend an in-person event. See **Appendix 1** for a table detailing the Stage One Non-Statutory Consultation event programme.

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- 6.4 Direct written and email communications were issued in advance of the consultation (December 2021) to provide local political representatives and parish councils with details of when the Stage One Consultation would take place. The communication was also issued to communities in the immediate vicinity of the Project as well as individuals registering their contact details with us to receive Project updates directly, along with a media release to local print, broadcast, and online media.
- 6.5 Subsequent communications were issued to the same stakeholders when the consultation launched on 11 January 2022 providing details of how they could find out more about the proposals being consulted on and inviting them to take part in the consultation. A consultation postcard was direct mailed to addresses lying within a defined consultation zone. A media release was issued to local print, broadcast and online media, and posters were displayed locally, publicising the events.
- 6.6 Through the publicity, the consultation events and a number of other means (e.g. the Project website, freephone community information line, bespoke email address), the local community and other stakeholders were provided with initial information on the Project and given the opportunity to submit feedback. In response to the issues most frequently raised during the consultation exercise, we prepared a series of frequently asked questions and answers which were made available on the project website in the FAQ section:

[REDACTED]

Stage Two – Statutory Consultation

- 6.7 The Stage Two 'statutory' consultation on the Project will take place for six weeks and three days (45 days) between 22 June 2022 and 5 August 2022. This will provide an opportunity for us to update the local community and other stakeholders on the progress that has been made on the Project since the Stage One consultation and how our proposals for the Project have developed. The Stage Two consultation will take place in accordance with the requirements of the PA 2008.
- 6.8 The SoCC (this document) will be published on 8 June 2022 in advance of Stage Two consultation launching. As required by Section 47(8) of the PA 2008, we will publish a Section 47 Notice in local newspapers for one week to advertise that the SoCC has been published. Table 6.1 below lists the newspaper outlets and dates when the Section 47 notice will appear:

Newspaper Outlet	Publication date
Lincolnshire Echo	09 June 2022
Retford Times	09 June 2022
Gainsborough Standard	09 June 2022

Table 6.1 Section 47 Notice Schedule

- 6.9 Stage Two consultation will be publicised to local communities within a defined core consultation zone (see Section 8) as well as other stakeholders using a variety of communication methods (these are set out in Section 9). Consultation documents and materials will be made available to view at in-person public consultation events (see Table 9.2) and at document inspection locations (see Table 9.3). They will also be available to view and download from the Project website [REDACTED]. Members of our Project team will attend consultation events and be available to answer questions about the proposals and provide information about the consultation.
- 6.10 We are required to provide a minimum period of 28 days for receipt of responses however the consultation period will run for 45 days (six weeks and three days) which will provide people with additional time to submit responses. Consultation responses should be submitted by 23.59 on 5 August 2022, unless agreed otherwise with us directly.

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7. What we will consult on

- 7.1 We will consult on the proposed DCO application for the Project and invite representations on the Project proposals. We will be inviting responses in relation to all elements of the proposed development, some of which featured in the earlier round of consultation and engagement.
- 7.2 For consultation we will provide people with documentation on what we propose to build, where and how we propose to build it, including any refinements made in response to feedback submitted to Stage One consultation, and provide preliminary information on environmental impacts and proposed mitigation based on the findings from the published PEIR.
- 7.3 We will welcome and consider feedback on all aspects of the Project and will specifically invite comments on the following:
- 7.3.1 The design of the solar energy park;
 - 7.3.2 The route of the electrical connection from the solar energy park to Cottam sub-station;
 - 7.3.3 The environmental effects of the Project (detailed in the PEIR) and any mitigation that is required;
 - 7.3.4 The timescales and next steps for the Project; and,
 - 7.3.5 Anything else you think Gate Burton needs to consider.
- 7.4 We will publish and seek feedback on the PEIR via Stage Two consultation as set out in this SoCC, and also in accordance with the Section 48 publicity and Section 42 statutory consultation. The PEIR is intended to give members of the community an understanding of the potential likely environmental effects of the Project and measures we propose implementing to manage and mitigate them. A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will accompany the PEIR, to summarise the content of the detailed preliminary environmental assessments in a non-technical manner.
- 7.5 Hard copies of the PEIR and the NTS, as well as associated technical documents, maps and plans, and public consultation documents will be available to view at document inspection locations (see Table 9.3 for a list of document inspection locations) and on the Project website: [REDACTED] in digital format to view and download. Information about the documents we will produce is set out in Section 9.
- 7.6 Individuals, communities and consultees will be invited to comment on all or any part of our proposals for the Project.
- 7.7 Following statutory consultation, an ES will be prepared in advance of submitting an application for development consent to ensure the likely significant effects of the Project are assessed and reported and, where effects cannot be avoided, the identification of any appropriate mitigation measures. The EIA will cover all elements of the Project.

8. Who we will consult

- 8.1 In accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008 we must make reasonable efforts to ensure that all communities potentially affected by our proposals are consulted. There is no set rule that defines those people, groups or organisations falling into this category. Therefore, Gate Burton has used professional judgement and taken advice from the relevant local planning authorities on what is appropriate for the Project.
- 8.2 To help determine the areas where we will consult, we have considered where the Project may have a direct or indirect impact, either permanently or temporarily, as a result of construction, operation and maintenance or decommissioning of the Project.

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Core consultation zone

- 8.3 Having considered these impacts, we have identified an appropriate core consultation zone by initially extending a minimum distance of two kilometres from the boundary of the Site in which the solar panels, energy storage system, on-site substation and supporting infrastructure will be located and one kilometre from the edge of the route corridor for the grid connection. The zone has then been extended further where proportionate and reasonable subject to consideration of:
- 8.3.1 Zone of theoretical visibility to assess the areas in vicinity of the Project boundary which could experience a degree of visual impact
 - 8.3.2 Existing natural and human geographical boundaries, for example the railway line that serves West Burton as the most easterly point of the core consultation zone, and the A631 as the most northerly point.
 - 8.3.3 Avoiding 'splitting' communities.
 - 8.3.4 Coverage of the host district council wards and parishes
 - 8.3.5 Where we propose to undertake additional works to enable construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications
- 8.4 We will seek to engage the people who live in, or have an interest in, land within our consultation zone including residents, local businesses and community organisations (including parish councils), to raise awareness and encourage participation in the consultation through a selection of communication channels (see Section 9).
- 8.5 The core consultation zone we have determined is shown in Figure 8.1.
- 8.6 At the same time as consulting with the local community we will be carrying out consultation on the same information (including the PEIR) with those bodies prescribed under Section 42 of the PA 2008:
- 8.6.1 Persons as prescribed under Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Application: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (as amended):
 - 8.6.2 Each local authority as defined under Section 43 of the PA 2008
 - 8.6.3 Each person who is within one or more of the categories as set out under Section 44 of the PA 2008.

Consultation with people who live outside the area

- 8.7 We recognise that people who live and work beyond the core consultation zone we have identified who may also have an interest in our proposals and may have participated in the Stage One (non-statutory) consultation. To make sure these individuals and organisations are given the opportunity to participate we will raise awareness of the consultation in the following ways:
- 8.7.1 Directly notify all those people who have registered their interest in the Project about consultation, including those who have expressed concern or opposition to our proposals
 - 8.7.2 Publish a Section 48 notice in the local and national press and London Gazette (see Table 9.4)
 - 8.7.3 Publicise the consultation by advertising in local media (see Table 9.5)
 - 8.7.4 Publish consultation materials online and make them available to view (see paragraph 9.5)

Consultation with under-represented or marginalized groups

- 8.8 We are committed to ensuring the consultation process and associated communications reach as many parts of the community as possible. We have identified a range of 'under-represented' or 'marginalised' groups and individuals within the consultation zone who are unlikely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation techniques. These groups and individuals

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that may find it harder to get involved in consultation and/or need additional support to access materials include:

- 8.8.1 Geographically isolated communities
 - 8.8.2 Economically inactive individuals and socially deprived communities
 - 8.8.3 Young people
 - 8.8.4 Older people
 - 8.8.5 Disabled people and those with learning disabilities
 - 8.8.6 Ethnic minorities
 - 8.8.7 Time poor, busy working people.
- 8.9 Our consultation methodology (see Section 9) has been developed to accommodate communicating as effectively as possible with these groups so they can have their say. We will contact all those bodies and organisations representing these groups ahead of consultation starting to ensure our approach meets the specific needs of their members. Requests for specific consultation activity to cater for their members will be considered on a case-by-case basis and agreed and planned with the requesting organisations. We will continue to notify them of further consultation and engagement activities.
- 8.10 A Freephone number (see **bullet 10.5.3**) staffed by our community relations team is available to assist people who may find it difficult to submit written comments to the consultation. Requests for consultation/Project information to meet specific requirements (such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments, or in an alternative language for those whom English is not their first language, to enable them to take part in the consultation) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.

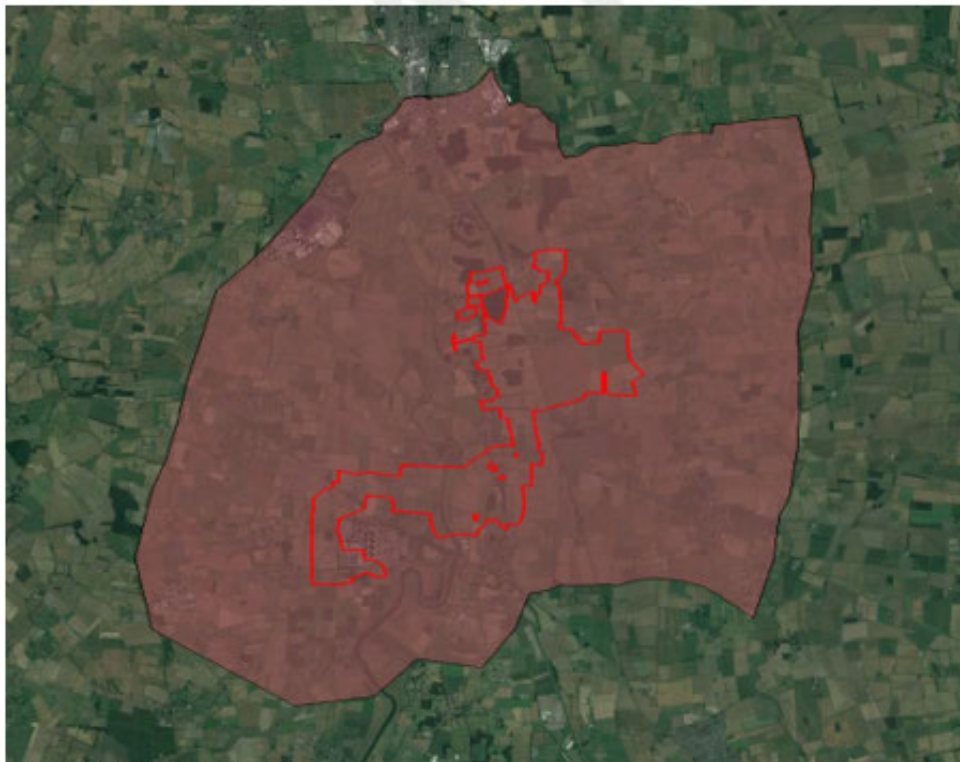


Figure 8.1 Core Consultation Zone

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9. How we will consult

- 9.1 During Stage Two consultation we will provide information about the consultation and the proposals being consulted ~~utilising~~ a range of methods we consider will ensure that people living and working within vicinity of the Project will be adequately consulted in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008.
- 9.2 We are endeavouring to conduct consultation in a way that gives as many people as possible the opportunity to access information about the Project and provide their views.
- 9.3 We have identified a number of ways in which, throughout the consultation period, people can:
- 9.3.1 Access clear and concise information about our proposals and their potential effects to aid constructive debate (this will include making all research, relevant Project and technical documents available); and,
 - 9.3.2 Submit feedback to the statutory consultation to express their views regarding our proposals.

Project website

- 9.4 The Project website [REDACTED] will be updated to provide information about the consultation and proposals being consulted, as well as being a resource for all the Project materials which will be available to view and download.
- 9.5 It will be possible to submit a response to the consultation via the website using a dedicated online feedback form during the consultation period. It will continue to provide facility for people to register their contact details with the Project so they can receive future updates directly.

Project consultation postcard

- 9.6 A Project consultation postcard will be published prior to consultation events starting. This will be our main form of direct communication about the consultation with the public confirming the dates of the consultation (including the deadline by which feedback needs to be submitted), details of in-person and online consultation events taking place, plus details of where they can find information about what is being consulted on and how they can take part.
- 9.7 A copy of this postcard/leaflet will be direct mailed to approximately 7,293 addresses which lie within the core consultation zone at the start of the consultation period including:
- 9.6.1 Local residents with postal addresses within the core consultation zone
 - 9.6.2 Local businesses with postal addresses within the core consultation zone
 - 9.6.3 Local interest groups/organisations which are active within the core consultation zone
 - 9.6.4 Elected representatives (Councillors, Members of Parliament) representing constituencies that lie within the consultation zone boundaries
- 9.8 The postcard will also be mailed to individuals, businesses or organisations registering postal addresses that lie beyond the core consultation zone with the Project to receive updates
- 9.9 The postcard will be made available online, at in-person public consultation events (see Table 9.2) and document inspection locations (see Table 9.3). The postcard will also be made available at community venues such as libraries, shops and village halls located in communities within the core consultation zone for people to take away subject to the consent of venue managers.

Project information booklet

- 9.10 A Project Information Booklet will be published at the start of the statutory consultation. This will provide a summary of the proposals we are consulting on, details of how people can take

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part in the consultation, how feedback will be considered and used to influence the shape of our proposals, and how we will provide information on the outcome of this consultation.

- 9.11 Printed copies of this document will be available to take away at all in-person public consultation events, and a digital version will be available to view and download from the Project website. Copies will also be made available on request in digital or hard copy format. This document has been provided as a source of information to support the consultation process.

Project Feedback Form

- 9.12 A Project Feedback Form will be prepared to enable people to provide us with feedback on our proposed application. Specific questions will guide people on the particular issues we are seeking comment. Hard copy forms will be available on request from the community relations team, and at public consultation events. An online version of the feedback form will also be available on the Project website so people can submit their feedback electronically.
- 9.13 Throughout the consultation period people will also be welcome to submit written comments as feedback either by post to **FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK** or by email to the Project email address: [REDACTED]. If arranged by appointment with Gate Burton, it will be possible to make a representation over the Project enquiry line 0800 860 6259. Feedback provided will be transcribed and agreed verbally prior to submission. To make an appointment to provide verbal feedback please contact us using the freepost, email addresses or telephone number described above.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 9.14 We will develop an FAQs document detailing the most frequently asked questions about our proposals and their corresponding answers. This will be available on the Project website and in hard copy at public consultation events.

Technical documents, maps, plans and non-technical summary (NTS)

- 9.15 We will make available all the technical documents we have produced which explain and assess our project proposals which are the subject of consultation. These technical documents include:
- 9.14.1 The PEIR, providing preliminary information on the likely significant environmental effects of the Project and how we propose to manage and mitigate them;
 - 9.14.2 The NTS; and,
 - 9.14.3 Maps and plans showing our proposed application at appropriate scales
- 9.16 Printed reference copies of the technical documents will also be available to view at in-person public consultation events (Table 9.2), and document inspection locations (Table 9.3) They will also be available to view and download from the Project website. Table 9.1 below for details of which documents will be available at each consultation activity or location type.
- 9.17 Requests for hard copies of the technical documents will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply (up to a maximum of £350 for one full suite of documents) to be paid for by the recipient.
- 9.18 A document navigation booklet will be developed to assist the review of these technical documents.

Document	Document Inspection Location	Consultation Events	Project website*
PEIR	Y	Y	Y
PEIR NTS	Y	Y	Y
SoCC	Y	Y	Y
Document navigation booklet	Y	Y	Y

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Consultation postcard	Y	Y	Y
Project information booklet	Y	Y	Y
Feedback form	Y	Y	Y
FAQ		Y	Y
Event display panels		Y	Y

Table 9.1 Consultation documents available at each activity or location type

*Documents and materials will be available in the 'Documents' section of the Project website www.gateburtonenergyfarm.co.uk as PDFs to view and download free of charge.

Public consultation events

- 9.19 During the statutory consultation, we will hold public consultation events on days and times that enable the maximum number of people to attend, including at least two events on a Saturday. At events you will be able to find information about the Project and what we are consulting on. Members of the Project team will be present to discuss the proposals and answer questions.
- 9.20 The programme of consultation events comprises five in-person events and two online events:
- 9.20.1 **In-person consultation events:** held at publicly accessible venues/locations located within the consultation zone. Information available to view at these consultation events will include:
- i. Project display panels
 - ii. Reference copies of technical documents, maps and plans published as part of the consultation (including the PEIR)
 - iii. Reference copy of the SoCC
 - iv. Copies of the printed Project Information Booklet, Feedback Form (including freepost envelopes), Consultation Postcards, FAQ, and Document Navigation Booklet available for people to take away
- 9.20.2 **Online consultation events:** these will take the form of a webinar, the date and time of which will be promoted along with details for those in-person consultation events being held. Online events will be held on Zoom, and you will need to register in advance if you would like to attend. The format for these events will comprise:
- i. The presentation of information consistent with that made available at in-person events i.e. event display panels by representatives from the project team
 - ii. Q&A whereby you will be invited to submit questions using the chat function so they can be collated and verbally responded to by the Project team at the end of the presentation.
 - iii. The webinar will be recorded and uploaded to the Project website along with a copy of the presentation further to the webinar taking place.
- 9.21 Members of the Project team in attendance at online and in-person events will include specialists who can talk about key issues relating to the Project, which may include:
- 9.19.1 The development and consenting process
 - 9.19.2 Environmental assessments
 - 9.19.3 Land
 - 9.19.4 Construction and engineering
 - 9.19.5 Consultation and community engagement
- 9.22 The timing for events has been coordinated to reflect working hours to maximise opportunities for engagement⁴. The dates, times, and locations of the consultation events we anticipate holding are set out in Table 9.2 below. A map showing the location of the in-person consultation events is included in Appendix 2.

⁴ The running times for in-person consultation events have also been determined based on venue availability.

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Event	Date	Opening Time	Location	Venue
1	Thurs 7 July 2022	18.30-20.00	Online event	Zoom – register to attend via website www.gateburtonenergypark.co.uk
2.	Fri 8 July 2022	14.00-20.00	Marton & Gate Burton	Marton & Gate Burton Village Hall, Trent Port Road, Marton, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5AR
3.	Sat 9 July 2022	10.00-14.00	Rampton	Rampton Village Hall, Manor Grounds Rampton, Retford, Notts, DN22 0JU
4.	Thurs 14 July 2022	14.00-20.00	Willingham-by-Stow	Willingham Village Hall, High Street, Willingham-by-Stow, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5JZ
5.	Sat 16 July 2022	10.00-14.00	Knaith	Knaith Park Village Hall, Willingham Road, Knaith Park, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5ET
6.	Tues 19 July 2022	14.00-20.00	Treswell	Treswell Village Hall, Town Street, Treswell, Notts DN22 0EE
7.	Wed 20 July 2022	18.30-20.00	Online event	Zoom - register to attend via website [REDACTED]

Table 9.2 Consultation event programme⁵

Document inspection locations

- 9.23 Hard copies of the PEIR and PEIR NTS will be available to view at document inspection locations, while Stage Two consultation materials including; Document Navigation Booklet, Consultation Postcard, Project Information Booklet, and Feedback Form will be made available to view and takeaway.
- 9.24 Document inspection locations have been selected on the criteria of them being in the locality of the Project, publicly accessible and secure. The location, opening times (as currently known) and contact details for the venues where materials will be located are set out in Table 9.3. A map showing the location of the document inspection locations listed below is included in Appendix 3.

⁵ Where any consultation event(s) referred to in Table 9.2 is cancelled or rearranged for any reason, as much notice as possible will be given. Notice of any alternative arrangements (if any) will be given as soon as possible after the cancellation or rearrangement is made. This may include alternative dates, venues and/or arrangements for the submission of representations to Low Carbon. The public will be informed via email and posters displayed locally and press releases issued to the local media.

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Address	Opening hours	Telephone
Lincolnshire		
Saxilby Library St Andrews Centre William Street Saxilby Lincolnshire LN1 2LP	Mon - Closed Tue – 10.30-15.30 We– 10.30 to 15.30 Thu - Closed Fri – 10.30 to 13.00 Sat - Closed Sun - Closed	01522 782010
Gainsborough Library Cobden Street Gainsborough Lincolnshire DN21 2NG	Mon – 09.00-17.00 Tue – 09.00-17.00 Wed – 09.00-17.00 Thu – 09.00-18.00 Fri – 09.00-17.00 Sat – 09.00-13.00 Sun - Closed	01522 782 010
Lincoln Central Library Free School Lane Lincolnshire LN2 1EZ	Mon – 09.00-17.00 Tue – 09.00-17.00 Wed – 09.00-17.00 Thu – 09.00-18.00 Fri – 09.00-17.00 Sat – 09.00-16.00 Sun - Closed	01522 782 010
Nottinghamshire		
Retford Library Churchgate Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 6PE	Mon – 09.00-18.00 Tue – 09.00-18.00 Wed – 09.00-18.00 Thu – 09.00-18.00 Fri – 09.00-18.00 Sat – 09.00-15 Sun – Closed	01623 677 200

Table 9.3 Document inspection locations

Section 48 Notice

- 9.25 As required by Section 48 of the PA 2008, we will publish Section 48 Notice advertising our intention to submit a DCO application in local newspapers for two consecutive weeks, and a national newspaper and the London Gazette for one week.
- 9.26 A list of the newspaper outlets and dates when the Section 48 notice will appear are set out in Table 9.4 below.

Newspaper Outlet	1 st publication date	2 nd publication date
Lincolnshire Echo	09 June 2022	16 June 2022
Retford Times	09 June 2022	16 June 2022
Gainsborough Standard	09 June 2022	16 June 2022
The Guardian	11 June 2022	N/A
London Gazette	15 June 2022	N/A

Table 9.4 Section 48 Notice schedule

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Media / advertising

- 9.27 To promote awareness of the Project and the consultation both within and beyond the consultation zone we will issue media releases:
- 9.27.1 At the start of the consultation period to provide an overview of the proposed application, why we are consulting, details of how people can access information about the Project, dates and locations of public consultation events being held, as well as the deadline by which feedback needs to be submitted
 - 9.27.2 Two weeks before the end of the consultation period to encourage people to have their say before the consultation closes
 - 9.27.3 When the consultation deadline has passed to provide a summary of participation and details of what happens next in the planning process
- 9.28 In addition to publishing a formal Section 48 Notice in regional and national newspapers, we will place advertisement in the local and regional media to promote the consultation and consultation events (online and in-person).
- 9.29 Table 9.5 provides a list of all the relevant media outlets to whom media releases will be issued and advertisements placed.

Press releases will be issued to:	Advertisements will be placed with:
BBC Look North	The Lincolnite
BBC Radio Lincolnshire	Gainsborough Standard
BBC Radio Nottingham	Lincolnshire Echo
The Gainsborough Standard	Retford Times
The Grantham Journal	Lincolnshire Life
The Lincolnite	Retford Life
Lincolnshire Echo	Gainsborough Life
Lincolnshire Free Press	
Lincolnshire In Focus	
Lincolnshire Life	
Lincolnshire Live	
Lincolnshire Reporter	
Lincolnshire Today	
Lincolnshire World	
Nottinghamshire in Focus	
Nottinghamshire Live	
Nottingham Local News	
Nottingham Post	

Table 9.5 Media outlets where press releases will be issued, and advertisements placed

Posters

- 9.30 Posters publicising consultation information will be produced and provided to those venues where in-person consultation events will take place. They will also be provided for display on local parish notice boards and at other community venues such as libraries, shops and civic buildings within the core consultation zone.

Stakeholder letters and meetings

- 9.31 We will issue communications to key stakeholders including local political representatives (Councillors and Members of Parliament) and Parish Council clerks representing wards, constituencies, and parishes within the consultation zone to provide information about the proposals we are consulting on and invite them to take part in the consultation.

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- 9.32 Communications will direct key stakeholders to digital versions of consultation materials to enable them to advertise and promote the consultation through their own online channels (websites, community forums, social media), with requests for hard copies of materials being considered.
- 9.33 In addition to public consultation events to which prescribed consultees and other bodies will be invited to attend at the start of the consultation; we will consider invitations to, or requests for, meetings with local groups or special interest organisations on a case-by-case basis.
- 9.34 We extend the offer to each local authority to brief councillors on the proposed application and consultation.

Information services

- 9.35 Our Project community relations team will operate a dedicated Project freephone enquiry line 0800 880 8259 (9am-5pm Mon-Fri), email (gateburton@islandgreenpower.com) and freepost address (FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK LTD, GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK, BURTON, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE19 4RQ). You will be able to speak to a member of the community relations team to ask questions and request information.
- 9.35 Requests for consultation information to meet specific requirements (such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments, or an alternative language to for those for whom English is not their first language, to enable them to take part in the consultation) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.

Other consultations

- 9.37 Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd is aware that there is a number of other solar DCO projects located in geographic proximity to our Project currently at the pre-application stage of the NSIP development process. As such there is a need to ensure that local communities potentially affected by our Project are aware of other proposals in the area so they consider Gate Burton Energy Park in context of other schemes; the most notable being Island Green Power's proposed Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project
- 9.38 Island Green Power anticipates carrying out its second stage of statutory consultation on its DCO proposals for Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project from June to July 2022. These projects are separate to the Gate Burton Energy Park project and consultees are encouraged to ensure that their consultation responses are directed appropriately.
- 9.39 We have coordinated with Island Green Power to limit the potential for confusion between the different developments and also limit, as far as possible, the risk of consultation fatigue for local communities during the period when our respective consultations will be running simultaneously. For example, we have sought to stagger the launch of our respective consultations and avoid any overlap in the programme of consultation events being held.
- 9.40 The public consultation materials we produce for Stage Two consultation for Gate Burton Energy Park will highlight that Island Green Power is carrying out consultation on its proposals for the West Burton and Cottam Solar projects, and signpost people to where they can find information about the projects and provide feedback specific to either of those projects.
- 9.41 Details of Island Green Power's proposals and associated consultation are expected to be made available to view at [\[redacted\]](#) and [\[redacted\]](#)

10. Next steps and contact details

Consultation responses

- 10.1 Feedback to the consultation should be submitted in writing or online to Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd by 23.59 on 05 August 2022.

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- 10.2 When a respondent submits feedback to the consultation online and automated acknowledgement to confirm receipt will be issued direct. Acknowledgement of submissions made offline (in writing or by completing a printed feedback form) will be issued to respondents once the feedback has been received and processed. If you have submitted feedback but are concerned that you not been received an acknowledgement of receipt, please contact our community relations team using the Freephone number or project email (see 10.8) and we will provide an update.
- 10.3 At the close of the consultation period we will review and finalise our proposed application having regard to the feedback received throughout the consultation. We will then produce a Consultation Report which will set out how the feedback from the pre-application consultation has shaped and influenced our proposed application.
- 10.4 Within the Consultation Report we will also make it clear where we have not altered our proposals to reflect comments received and explaining our reasoning. The Consultation Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State as part of the Development Consent Order application.
- 10.5 Any comments received could be made public but no personal information will be published. Any personal data received as part of the consultation will be stored and protected in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. The privacy notice for those visiting the project website is available at: [REDACTED]
- 10.6 Gate Burton anticipates submitting an application for development consent for the Project late 2022/early 2023. PINS will have up to 28 days to decide whether to accept the application for examination. If accepted, there will be an opportunity for community and other stakeholders to submit representations and participate in the examination of the application.

Continuing engagement

- 10.7 If, as a result of feedback, our proposals for the Project change to the extent that it is necessary to carry out further targeted consultation, this will be undertaken in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC.

Contact details

- 10.8 Our Project community relations team is available to provide you with assistance in finding out more about the Project and our consultation. You can contact the team using any of the methods listed below:
- 10.5.1 Email: [REDACTED]
 - 10.5.2 Freepost: FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK
 - 10.5.3 Freephone: [REDACTED]
- 10.9 Further information and copies of Project documentation can be downloaded from the Gate Burton Energy Park website: [REDACTED]
- 10.10 Questions and comments on this document, the Gate Burton Energy Park proposals and consultation responses can be submitted by using the contact details listed above.

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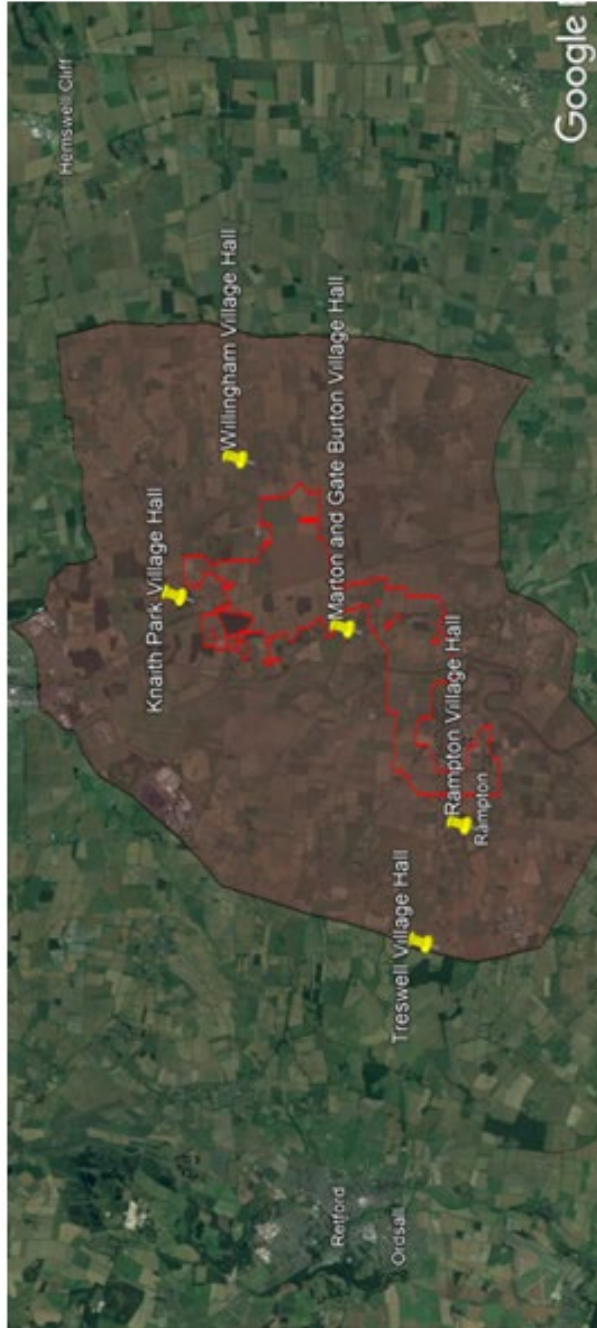
Appendix

Appendix 1 Stage One Non-statutory Consultation Event Programme

No	Event Date	Opening Time	Location	Venue
1	Tues 25 Jan	18.30-20.00	Online event	Zoom - register to attend via website www.gateburtonenergypark.co.uk
2	Wed 26 Jan	14.30-20.00	Knaith	Knaith Park Village Hall, Willingham Road, Knaith Park, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5ET
3	Thur 27 Jan	14.30-20.00	North Leverton	North Leverton Methodist Chapel, Sturton Road, North Leverton, Notts DN22 0AB
4	Tues 1 Feb	14.30-20.00	Treswell	Treswell Village Hall, Town Street, Treswell, Notts DN22 0EE
5	Thur 3 Feb	12.30-17.00	Willingham-by-Stow	Willingham Village Hall, High Street, Willingham-by-Stow, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5JZ
6	Sat 5 Feb	10.30-14.00	Marion & Gate Burton	Marion & Gate Burton Village Hall, Trent Port Road, Marion, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5AR
7	Tues 8 Feb	18.30-20.00	Online event	Zoom – register to attend via website [REDACTED]

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Appendix 2 Map showing location of consultation events within the consultation zone




DRAFT CONFIDENTIAL

Appendix 3 Map showing the location of the document inspection locations








Appendix C-3 Letter consulting local planning authorities on the draft SoCC

DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK

 Bullock, Alexander <alexander.bullock@aecom.com>
To:  sally.gill@nottsc.gov.uk
Cc:  info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk;  Adrian Smith

 20220411 GBEP_SoCC_Draft.docx
.docx File

  Reply  Reply All  Forward  ...
Mon 11/04/2022 10:06

Dear Sally & Adrian,

GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK

PLANNING ACT 2008 SECTION 47: DUTY TO CONSULT LOCAL COMMUNITY

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

I am writing to you regarding Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd's proposed Energy Park at Gate Burton. The Project will comprise solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and on-site energy storage facilities wholly contained within the boundary of one site consisting of agricultural land (approximately 684 hectares) located approximately four kilometres south of Gainsborough near Gate Burton (the Site) in Lincolnshire together with grid connection infrastructure to connect the Energy Park to National Grid's 400kV Cottam substation, located approximately 4km to the south-west of the site in Nottinghamshire.

The proposed scheme is identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 2008 Act) and therefore we are required to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate ('the Inspectorate'). We intend to make our application for a DCO in 2022/2023.

During the pre-application process, we must consult with the relevant host local authorities on the content of our draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The SoCC details how and when we will consult the local community and the channels available to respond to our consultation.

Please treat this email as notice of a request for comments on the contents of our draft SoCC from Nottinghamshire County Council in accordance with Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act.

This is an important opportunity for you to share your views on our draft SoCC. We strongly encourage you to provide your views to us; we will take these into account in developing and finalising our SoCC in advance of it being published. We will record how we have considered your views by responding to you directly in writing, and in our Consultation Report which forms part of our application for a DCO to the Inspectorate.

Please respond to this email with your comments on the draft SoCC by 11.59pm on Friday 13th May 2022.

To aid the process of providing your comments, please find attached a draft SoCC for you to review. Please provide any comments and suggested amendments in track changes, doing this will assist us in ensuring these are recorded and considered.

Please confirm receipt of this email and the accompanying draft SoCC. If you wish to discuss the content of this email, please do not hesitate in contacting me using my contact details provided as soon as possible to support provision of your comments by 11.59pm on Friday 13th May 2022 as this deadline cannot be extended.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Alexander Bullock

On behalf of James Hartley-Bond for the Gate Burton Energy Park

Email: 

Enc.

Copy of the draft SoCC

Alex Bullock, MSc, MRTPI
Associate Director
Infrastructure Consents and Town Planning, Environment and Sustainability UK&I

DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK



Bullock, Alexander <[redacted]@aecom.com>
To: [redacted]@bassetlaw.gov.uk; [redacted]@bassetlaw.gov.uk; [redacted]@bassetlaw.gov.uk
Cc: [redacted]@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk; [redacted]@bassetlaw.gov.uk

20220411 GBEP_SoCC_Draft.docx
.docx File

Reply Reply All Forward

Mon 11/04/2022 10:04

Dear Clare, Daniel, Will & John,

GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK

PLANNING ACT 2008 SECTION 47: DUTY TO CONSULT LOCAL COMMUNITY

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

I am writing to you regarding Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd's proposed Energy Park at Gate Burton. The Project will comprise solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and on-site energy storage facilities wholly contained within the boundary of one site consisting of agricultural land (approximately 684 hectares) located approximately four kilometres south of Gainsborough near Gate Burton (the Site) in Lincolnshire together with grid connection infrastructure to connect the Energy Park to National Grid's 400kV Cottam substation, located approximately 4km to the south-west of the site in Nottinghamshire.

The proposed scheme is identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 2008 Act) and therefore we are required to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate ('the Inspectorate'). We intend to make our application for a DCO in 2022/2023.

During the pre-application process, we must consult with the relevant host local authorities on the content of our draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The SoCC details how and when we will consult the local community and the channels available to respond to our consultation.

Please treat this email as notice of a request for comments on the contents of our draft SoCC from Bassetlaw District Council in accordance with Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act.

This is an important opportunity for you to share your views on our draft SoCC. We strongly encourage you to provide your views to us; we will take these into account in developing and finalising our SoCC in advance of it being published. We will record how we have considered your views by responding to you directly in writing, and in our Consultation Report which forms part of our application for a DCO to the Inspectorate.

Please respond to this email with your comments on the draft SoCC by 11.59pm on Friday 13th May 2022.

To aid the process of providing your comments, please find attached a draft SoCC for you to review. Please provide any comments and suggested amendments in track changes, doing this will assist us in ensuring these are recorded and considered.

Please confirm receipt of this email and the accompanying draft SoCC. If you wish to discuss the content of this email, please do not hesitate in contacting me using my contact details provided as soon as possible to support provision of your comments by 11.59pm on Friday 13th May 2022 as this deadline cannot be extended.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Alexander Bullock

On behalf of James Hartley-Bond for the Gate Burton Energy Park

Email: [redacted]

Enc.

Copy of the draft SoCC

Alex Bullock, MSc, MRTPI

DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK

BA Bullock, Alexander <[REDACTED]@paecom.com>
To: Neil McBride
Cc: info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk; [REDACTED]@lincolnshire.gov.uk
20220411 GBEP_SoCC_Draft.docx
Word document

Reply Reply All Forward
Mon 11/04/2022 16:02

Dear Neil & Duncan,

GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK

PLANNING ACT 2008 SECTION 47: DUTY TO CONSULT LOCAL COMMUNITY

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

I am writing to you regarding Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd's proposed Energy Park at Gate Burton. The Project will comprise solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and on-site energy storage facilities wholly contained within the boundary of one site consisting of agricultural land (approximately 694 hectares) located approximately four kilometres south of Gainsborough near Gate Burton (the Site) in Lincolnshire together with grid connection infrastructure to connect the Energy Park to National Grid's 400kV Cottam substation, located approximately 4km to the south-west of the site in Nottinghamshire.

The proposed scheme is identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 2008 Act) and therefore we are required to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate). We intend to make our application for a DCO in 2022/2023.

During the pre-application process, we must consult with the relevant host local authorities on the content of our draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The SoCC details how and when we will consult the local community and the channels available to respond to our consultation.

Please treat this email as notice of a request for comments on the contents of our draft SoCC from Lincolnshire County Council in accordance with Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act.

This is an important opportunity for you to share your views on our draft SoCC. We strongly encourage you to provide your views to us, we will take these into account in developing and finalising our SoCC in advance of it being published. We will record how we have considered your views by responding to you directly in writing, and in our Consultation Report which forms part of our application for a DCO to the Inspectorate.

Please respond to this email with your comments on the draft SoCC by 11.59pm on Friday 13th May 2022.

To aid the process of providing your comments, please find attached a draft SoCC for you to review. Please provide any comments and suggested amendments in track changes, doing this will assist us in ensuring these are recorded and considered.

Please confirm receipt of this email and the accompanying draft SoCC. If you wish to discuss the content of this email, please do not hesitate in contacting me using my contact details provided as soon as possible to support provision of your comments by 11.59pm on Friday 13th May 2022 as this deadline cannot be extended.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Alexander Bullock

On behalf of James Hartley-Bond for the Gate Burton Energy Park



Email: [REDACTED]





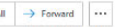
Enc:

Copy of the draft SoCC

Alex Bullock, MSc, MRTPI
Associate Director

DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK

 Bullock, Alexander - [REDACTED]@aecom.com>
To: Russell Clarkson
Cc: info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk; Sally Grindrod-Smith
 20220411 GREP_SoCC_Draft.docx
Word document

  Reply  Reply All  Forward 
Mon 11/04/2022 10:00

Dear Russell & Sally

GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK

PLANNING ACT 2008 SECTION 47: DUTY TO CONSULT LOCAL COMMUNITY

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

I am writing to you regarding Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd's proposed Energy Park at Gate Burton. The Project will comprise solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and on-site energy storage facilities wholly contained within the boundary of one site consisting of agricultural land (approximately 684 hectares) located approximately four kilometres south of Gainsborough near Gate Burton (The Site) in Lincolnshire together with grid connection infrastructure to connect the Energy Park to National Grid's 400kV Cottam substation, located approximately 4km to the south-west of the site in Nottinghamshire.

The proposed scheme is identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 2008 Act) and therefore we are required to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate). We intend to make our application for a DCO in 2022/2023.

During the pre-application process, we must consult with the relevant host local authorities on the content of our draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The SoCC details how and when we will consult the local community and the channels available to respond to our consultation.

Please treat this email as notice of a request for comments on the contents of our draft SoCC from West Lindsey District Council in accordance with Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act.

This is an important opportunity for you to share your views on our draft SoCC. We strongly encourage you to provide your views to us; we will take these into account in developing and finalising our SoCC in advance of it being published. We will record how we have considered your views by responding to you directly in writing, and in our Consultation Report which forms part of our application for a DCO to the Inspectorate.

Please respond to this email with your comments on the draft SoCC by 11.59pm on Friday 13th May 2022.

To aid the process of providing your comments, please find attached a draft SoCC for you to review. Please provide any comments and suggested amendments in track changes, doing this will assist us in ensuring these are recorded and considered.

Please confirm receipt of this email and the accompanying draft SoCC. If you wish to discuss the content of this email, please do not hesitate in contacting me using my contact details provided as soon as possible to support provision of your comments by 11.59pm on Friday 13th May 2022 as this deadline cannot be extended.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Alexander Bullock

On behalf of James Hartley-Bond for the Gate Burton Energy Park

Email: [REDACTED]

Enc:

Copy of the draft SoCC

Alex Bullock; MS; MRTPI

Appendix C-4 LPA responses to SoCC Consultation

Appendix C-4.1 Bassetlaw District Council Response



Alexander Bullock
3rd Floor, Portwall Place
Portwall Lane
Bristol
BS1 6NA

Our Ref: N/A
Officer: Daniel Galpin
Email: [REDACTED]

12th May 2022

Dear Mr Bullock,

GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK – PLANNING ACT 2008 SECTION 47: DUTY TO CONSULT LOCAL COMMUNITY – REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

I refer to your email dated 21st April, 2022 relating to a request for comments relating to the proposed Energy Park at Gate Burton. On the basis of the information provided, it is positive to see that some of our comments on the initial draft have already been incorporated.

We would however, like to make two further comments in relation to the updated Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC):

- Paragraphs 9.37 – 9.41: It would be really useful to produce a clear map depicting the geographical relationship between the different schemes – or at least to distinguish the Gate Burton project from the general location of the others.
- Paragraph 10.3: It would be helpful if all respondents received a follow-on notification of the publication of the Consultation Report and where / how they can view it.

If there is anything else you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact the Local Planning Authority again.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Development Team Manager

Appendix C-4.2 Notts County Council Response (x2)

RE: DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK

Sally Gill <[redacted]@nottscc.gov.uk>
To: Beth Motley <[redacted]>, Adrian Smith <[redacted]>
Cc: info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk, Alex Bullock <[redacted]@aecom.com>, Norman, Emma
You replied to this message on 16/05/2022 15:30.
Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

Reply Reply All Forward

Mon 16/05/2022 15:30

Hi Beth,
We didn't have any thing to add. I reviewed the locations for the events with our local councillor – Cllr Ogle, who felt they were appropriate for the nature of the event you intend to hold.

Sally
From: Beth Motley <[redacted]>
Sent: 16 May 2022 12:14
To: Sally Gill <[redacted]@nottscc.gov.uk>, Adrian Smith <[redacted]>
Cc: Alex Bullock <[redacted]@aecom.com>, Norman, Emma <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK

Dear Sally, Adrian –
Further to the consultation on the SoCC for Gate Burton Energy Park closing on Friday 13 May I was keen to find out whether you had any comments on the final draft of the SoCC to which you would like us to have regard in finalising the document for publication on 8 June.
Alex is currently on leave so I'm dropping you a quick email in his absence.
If you do have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to give me a call or drop me an email direct.

Kind regards
Beth
Beth Motley
Associate Director
Camargue
Corporate and B2B Communications
T: [redacted]
F: [redacted]
E: [redacted]
W: [redacted]
Follow us on Twitter Connect with us on LinkedIn Subscribe to our weekly Viewpoint bulletin



RE: GBEP - SoCC (draft attached for informal comment)

Sally Gill <[redacted]@nottscc.gov.uk>
To: Beth Motley <[redacted]>
Cc: Stephen Pointer <[redacted]>
You replied to this message on 08/04/2022 14:32.
Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

Reply Reply All Forward

Fri 08/04/2022 14:23

Hi Beth,
I've discussed possible venues for drop in events with Cllr Ogle, explaining that you were proposing to use Treswell and Rampton Villages Halls for two of the drop in events. Cllr Ogle agrees they are appropriate venues as the local community is aware of them.

Sally
From: Beth Motley <[redacted]>
Sent: 04 April 2022 10:41
To: Sally Gill <[redacted]@nottscc.gov.uk>
Cc: Alex Bullock <[redacted]@aecom.com>, James Hartley-Bond <[redacted]>, Katherine Wingate <[redacted]>
Subject: GBEP - SoCC (draft attached for informal comment)

Hi Sally –
Thank you for your time just now – good to speak to you.
As discussed please find attached a draft of the SoCC for gate Burton Energy Park.
The plan is to publish for formal consultation on Monday 11 April – with formal consultation starting Tuesday 12 April and closing on Friday 13 May.
If ahead of next Monday you do have any considerations/thoughts on the draft as it stands - particularly in respect of practical details re. consultation delivery such as venues for events, document inspection locations, informal advertising and/or press outlets for us to include in the circulation of press releases please do let me know so we can factor in ahead of publishing the SoCC for consultation next week.
There are still various updates I need to make to the current draft (particularly crops references between sections/tables/paragraphs etc) so this will all be addressed in version we circulate next week – we were mainly keen for you to have sight of the practical details ahead 11 April so if there is any advice you might have in practical details we have the opportunity to factor in.
Any queries please do give me a call – my autosignature below includes all my contact details.
I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
Beth
Beth Motley
Associate Director
Camargue
Corporate and B2B Communications
T: [redacted]
F: [redacted]
E: [redacted]
W: [redacted]
Follow us on Twitter Connect with us on LinkedIn Subscribe to our weekly Viewpoint bulletin



Appendix C-4.3 Lincs County Council Response

RE: DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK



Neil McBride <[redacted]@lincolnshire.gov.uk>
To: Bullock, Alexander
Cc: info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk; Beth Motley

Reply Reply All Forward

Mon 25/04/2022 15:26

Afternoon Alex

Set out are our comments in relation to the draft SOCC

Please see my feedback in bold in relation to the Gate Burton Energy Park SoCC.

Non-bold text is quoted from the SOCC.

Other similar projects have included in their documentation a list of "seldom heard groups" and bodies representing these groups that they have identified. This would be good practice to ensure that the Project is aware of who they are and through which groups they will reach out to them.

"We are committed to ensuring the consultation process and associated communications reach as many parts of the community as possible. We have identified a range of 'under-represented' or 'marginalised' consider using the phrase "seldom heard groups" groups and individuals within the consultation zone who are may be unlikely less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation techniques. These groups and individuals that may find it harder to get involved in consultation and/or need additional support to access materials include:

In-person consultation events: held at publicly accessible venues/locations located within the consultation zone. Reference should be made to the times of day these events will be held on / that they will be held at venues which are have suitable access arrangements (e.g. ramps / other facilities) to accommodate those with limited mobility

Online consultation events: these will take the form of a webinar, the date and time of which will be promoted along with details for those in-person consultation events being held. Reference should be made to the times of day these events will be held on particularly to ensure there is availability to those who can only attend after normal working hours.

Stakeholder letters and meetings

9.27 We will issue communications to key stakeholders including local political representatives (Councillors and Members of Parliament) and Parish Council clerks representing wards, constituencies, and parishes within typo should be within the consultation zone to provide information about the proposals we are consulting on and invite them to take part in the consultation.

Information services

9.28 Our Project community relations team will operate a dedicated Project freephone enquiry line 0800 860 6259 (9am-5pm, Mon-Fri), consider offering a call back service / out of working hours time to call for those working / with other commitments during these times email [redacted] and freepost address (FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK). Through these channels you will be able to speak to a member of the community relations team to ask questions and request information.

Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd is aware that there is should be "there are" a number of other solar DCO projects located in geographic proximity to our Project currently at the pre-application stage of the NSIP development process.

Hope this is helpful to you.

Kind regards

Neil McBride
Head of Planning
Lincolnshire County Council,
County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL

Mobile: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]
Website: [redacted]

Appendix C-4.4 West Lindsey District Council Response



Guildhall
Marshall's Yard
Gainsborough
Lincolnshire DN21 2NA

Telephone [REDACTED]
Web www.west-lindsey.gov.uk

Your contact for this matter is:
Russell Clarkson

Alex Bullock MSc MRTPI
AECOM
3rd Floor, Portwall Place
Portwall Lane,
Bristol
BS1 6NA

[REDACTED]
12th May 2022

By Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Bullock,

PINS REF: EN010131-000006

LPA REF: 144006

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – s47 draft Statement of Community Consultation

Application by Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Gate Burton Energy Park (the Proposed Development)

LOCATION: Gate Burton Energy Park

Thank you for your email dated 11th April 2022, which enclosed a copy of your draft Statement of Community Consultation ("draft SoCC"), in order to comply with your general duty to consult the local authority in accordance with s47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).

We have now taken the opportunity to review the draft SoCC, and as a host authority, wish to make the following comments to be taken into consideration under s47(5).

Paragraph 1.10 – The final SoCC should set out in detail the feedback received from the host authorities and how this has been incorporated into the final statement.

Paragraph 1.11 – A 45 day consultation (exceeding the 28 day statutory requirement) is welcomed.

Paragraph 3.16 – *"In preparing this final version of the SoCC, Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd has had regard to the feedback submitted during this formal consultation."* Again, this should be set out in the final SoCC, showing where comments have been incorporated. Where the developer does not intend to follow such advice, discussion on this would be welcome and encouraged.

Paragraph 6.8 – As a local paper, widely circulated in the locality, it is recommended that the Market Rasen Mail is also added to this list.

Paragraph 8.3 / Figure 8.1 – it is noted that a 2km core consultation zone (1km from the route corridor) is proposed, and is displayed at figure 8.1.

Unfortunately figure 8.1 is provided at such a small scale, that it is not possible to distinguish any landmarks or settlements. This needs to be provided at a much clearer, higher scale, and features such as settlements labelled. It should be provided on both an aerial base map and Ordnance Survey (or equivalent) base map.

It is noted that the zone has been extended further due to other influences such as the ZTV, although this is not clear as to where and how on the diagram.

It is noted for instance that the proposed assessment zone in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) would extend as far as 5km.

This should be clearly demonstrated.

Taking a 2km zone – I believe this would include the settlements of Lea, Gate Burton, Marton, Upton, Kexby, Willingham by Stow, Normanby by Stow and Stow – could this be made clear and confirmed?

However, I believe that it would exclude the settlement of Sturton by Stow – if this is the case, we consider that the zone should definitely be extended to include this settlement too.

Paragraph 8.8 – We would agree with the groups that you have identified as “*under represented and marginalised*”. Whilst it is noted that you will “*contact all those bodies and organisations representing these groups ahead of consultation starting*” it is not clear who these bodies are and how you will contact them. For instance, do you intend to directly contact schools and learning institutions, on behalf of “young people”? Will you be contacting care facilities on behalf of older and disabled residents? Lincolnshire Voluntary Centre Services may be a helpful contact on this aspect.

Paragraph 8.10 – The proposed freephone number is welcomed. Will this be made freely and widely available?

Paragraph 9.4 – Use of the website is noted. We would recommend other online “social media” options also be considered and pursued. In particular, I am mindful of some of the marginalised groups that you have identified, and whether such means would be more accessible to them.

Paragraph 9.7 – A direct mail drop to those addresses within the consultation zone is welcomed.

It would be beneficial to include a copy of the consultation invitations within the SoCC.

It would be helpful for the SoCC to contain a list of “*local interest groups /organisations which are active within the consultation zone*”.

Will this only extend to those with addresses within the zone?

Or will it include groups from outside the zone that are active within it – such as local walking groups for example? We recommend that the latter are included.

Elected representatives should include all elected Ward Members and members of Parish Councils within the consultation zone.

Paragraph 9.19 onwards – it is noted that there will be three “in-person” events in West Lindsey, to the north (Knaith Park), east (Willingham by Stow) and south-west (Marton & Gate Burton) of the site, as well as two online events, and that these give options for both workdays and weekends.

We are generally agreeable to this approach.

Paragraph 9.30 – Posters (and documents?) should be provided to Parish Councils to display.

P18, footnote 5 – arrangements in the event of cancellation/rearrangement, are noted. In such an event, West Lindsey DC would wish to be notified immediately.

Table 9.3 – Document Inspection locations. We would agree to, and recommend, that the Council's office is added to the list of document inspection locations:

West Lindsey District Council
Guildhall
Marshall's Yard
Gainsborough
Lincolnshire
DN21 2NA
[REDACTED]

The Council offices are open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

Paragraph 9.27 onward – the proposed media strategy is noted. As a widely circulated local newspaper, it is requested that the Market Rasen Mail is added to the list both for advertisements and press releases.

Paragraph 10.7 – this is not altogether clear. In the event that the scheme is amended, are you proposing a further 45 day consultation period? The SoCC needs to be clear as to what will happen in such a scenario.

Overall, West Lindsey DC consider that the proposed consultation strategy is proportionate. A 45-day consultation is welcomed. The proposed consultation zone appears to be appropriate, but it must be made clear through a more legible map – it must also be expanded to include the settlement of Sturton by Stow.

Recognition of harder to reach, under represented and marginalised groups is welcomed – but the draft SoCC remains unclear as to what measures will be put in place to engage with these groups. This must be expanded.

There seems a missed opportunity to use social media as an effective consultation tool.

It is trusted the above is of assistance, and it is requested that this is given regard to, in accordance with s47(5).

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Russell Clarkson BA(Hons) DipTP MRTPI
Development Management Team Manager

On behalf of West Lindsey District Council

CC – gateburtonsolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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Appendix C-5 Regard the Applicant had to host authority comments on the draft SoCC submitted in response to consultation under s47(2) (12 April to 13 May 2022)

Appendix C-5 Regard the Applicant had to host authority comments on the draft SoCC submitted in response to consultation under s47(2) (12 April to 13 May 2022)

C-5.1 The Applicant has had regard to responses from host authorities consulted on the draft SoCC as prescribed by s47(2) of the PA 2008. The table below sets out the comments made by host authorities in their feedback to the consultation and the regard the Applicant had for those comments.

Summary of host authority comments on draft SoCC and regard the Applicant had to comments

Topic / Section of Draft SoCC	Local Authority	Local authority comment	Regard had to comment	Action to SoCC
General comment		Overall, West Lindsey DC consider that the proposed consultation strategy is proportionate.	We welcome your comments.	Noted
General comment		A 45-day consultation is welcomed.	We welcome your comments.	Noted
General comment		The proposed consultation zone appears to be appropriate, but it must be made clear through a more legible map – it must also be expanded to include the settlement of Sturton by Stow.	Low Carbon can confirm that the core consultation zone includes the settlement of Sturton by Stow and has updated the documentation to include a more legible map clearly articulating the communities that lie within the defined core consultation zone to reflect this change in advance of publishing the SoCC.	Change
General comment	West Lindsey District Council	Recognition of harder to reach, under represented and marginalised groups is welcomed – but the draft SoCC remains unclear as to what measures will be put in place to engage with these groups. This must be expanded.	<p>Low Carbon can confirm that the consultation methodology set out in the SoCC has been developed to accommodate communicating as effectively as possible with seldom heard groups so they can have their say. We have identified those gateway bodies and organisations representing these groups and will write to them ahead of consultation starting to ensure our approach meets the specific needs of their members. Requests for specific consultation activity to cater for their members will be considered on a case-by-case basis and agreed and planned with the requesting organisations.</p> <p>We will continue to notify them of further consultation and engagement activities.</p> <p>In advance of publishing the SoCC it has been updated to include an appendix listing all the gateway organisations and bodies we will contact.</p>	Noted

General comment		There seems a missed opportunity to use social media as an effective consultation tool.	Low Carbon can confirm that it will use its existing social media platforms to promote the consultation and encourage participation, in addition to online advertising. Details of social media channels utilised to promote and support public consultation will be included as an appendix to the Consultation Report that will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in our final application for development consent.	Noted
General comment	Bassetlaw District Council	I refer to your email dated 21st April, 2022 relating to a request for comments relating to the proposed Energy Park at Gate Burton. On the basis of the information provided, it is positive to see that some of our comments on the initial draft have already been incorporated.	We welcome your comments	Noted
General comment	Nottinghamshire County Council	We didn't have anything to add. I reviewed the locations for the events with our local councillor – Cllr Ogle, who felt they were appropriate for the nature of the event you intend to hold.	We welcome your comments	Noted
Introduction / Quick Facts (page 4)	West Lindsey District Council	Paragraph 1.10 – The final SoCC should set out in detail the feedback received from the host authorities and how this has been incorporated into the final statement.	Low Carbon can confirm that its response to all the issues raised by host authorities in response to consultation on the SoCC will be provided directly to those authorities prior to the final SoCC being published. Including details of the feedback host authorities have provided in response to an earlier draft of the SoCC in the final published version has potential to cause confusion for members of the public reviewing that final version. Low Carbon will however include details of the issues raised in response to the formal SoCC Consultation and our response to them as an appendix to the Consultation Report that will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in our final application for development consent.	No change
Introduction / Quick Facts (page 4)	West Lindsey District Council	Paragraph 1.11 – A 45 day consultation (exceeding the 28 day statutory requirement) is welcomed.	Noted	Noted
The application process / Project timeline (page 8)	West Lindsey District Council	Paragraph 3.16 – "In preparing this final version of the SoCC, Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd has had regard to the feedback submitted during this formal consultation." Again, this should be set out in the final SoCC, showing where comments have been incorporated. Where the developer does not intend to follow such advice, discussion on this would be welcome and encouraged.	Low Carbon can confirm that its response to all the issues raised by host authorities in response to consultation on the SoCC will be provided directly to those authorities prior to the final SoCC being published. Including details of the feedback host authorities have provided in response to an earlier draft of the SoCC in the final published version has potential to cause confusion for members of the public reviewing that final version. Low Carbon will however include details of the issues raised in response to the formal SoCC Consultation and our response to them as an appendix to	No change

the Consultation Report that will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in our final application for development consent.

Pre-application consultation process / Stage Two – Statutory Consultation (page 11)	West Lindsey District Council	Paragraph 6.8 – As a local paper, widely circulated in the locality, it is recommended that the Market Rasen Mail is also added to this list.	Low Carbon welcomes this proposed amendment and has updated the documentation to reflect this change in advance of publishing the SoCC.	Change
Who we will consult / Core consultation zone (page 13)	West Lindsey District Council	<p>Paragraph 8.3 / Figure 8.1 – it is noted that a 2km core consultation zone (1km from the route corridor) is proposed, and is displayed at figure 8.1.</p> <p>Unfortunately figure 8.1 is provided at such a small scale, that it is not possible to distinguish any landmarks or settlements. This needs to be provided at a much clearer, higher scale, and features such as settlements labelled. It should be provided on both an aerial base map and Ordnance Survey (or equivalent) base map.</p> <p>It is noted that the zone has been extended further due to other influences such as the ZTV, although this is not clear as to where and how on the diagram.</p> <p>It is noted for instance that the proposed assessment zone in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) would extend as far as 5km. This should be clearly demonstrated.</p> <p>Taking a 2km zone – I believe this would include the settlements of Lea, Gate Burton, Marton, Upton, Kexby, Willingham by Stow, Normanby by Stow and Stow – could this be made clear and confirmed?</p> <p>However, I believe that it would exclude the settlement of Sturton by Stow – if this is the case, we consider that the zone should definitely be extended to include this settlement too.</p>	<p>Low Carbon welcomes this feedback and has used an Ordnance Survey base map to produce an updated map showing the extent of the consultation zone with features and settlements lying within it being labelled for clarity, including all those settlements identified, including Sturton-by-Stow.</p> <p>Low Carbon recognises the importance of having clarity on the issue raised, however while taking note of the recommendation to provide version of the map showing the core consultation zone using an OS base map and an aerial base map, it will not provide a map using an aerial base map as it does not believe this would show anything that is not already shown on the plan prepared.</p>	Change
Who we will consult / Consultation with under-represented or marginalised groups (page 13)	Lincolnshire County Council	Other similar projects have included in their documentation a list of "seldom heard groups" and bodies representing these groups that they have identified.	Low Carbon welcomes this proposed amendment and has updated the SoCC to incorporate this information in advance of publishing the SoCC. Details of relevant gateway organisations for identified seldom heard groups have been sourced further to engagement with host authorities and utilisation of resources available including lincolnshire.connecttosupport.org .	Change

		<p>This would be good practice to ensure that the Project is aware of who they are and through which groups they will reach out to them.</p>		
Who we will consult / Consultation with under-represented or marginalised groups (page 13)	Lincolnshire County Council	<p>8.8 "We are committed to ensuring the consultation process and associated communications reach as many parts of the community as possible. We have identified a range of 'under-represented' or 'marginalised' consider using the phrase "seldom heard groups" groups and individuals within the consultation zone who are may be unlikely less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation techniques. These groups and individuals that may find it harder to get involved in consultation and/or need additional support to access materials include:</p>	<p>Low Carbon welcomes this proposed amendment and will review and update the SoCC to reflect this change in advance of publishing the SoCC.</p>	Change
Who we will consult / Consultation with under-represented or marginalised groups (page 13)	West Lindsey District Council	<p>Paragraph 8.8 – We would agree with the groups that you have identified as "under represented and marginalised".</p> <p>Whilst it is noted that you will "contact all those bodies and organisations representing these groups ahead of consultation starting" it is not clear who these bodies are and how you will contact them.</p> <p>For instance, do you intend to directly contact schools and learning institutions, on behalf of "young people"? Will you be contacting care facilities on behalf of older and disabled residents?</p> <p>Lincolnshire Voluntary Centre Services may be a helpful contact on this aspect.</p>	<p>Low Carbon can confirm that it will be writing to all those gateway organisations and bodies representing identified seldom heard groups ahead of statutory consultation launching to provide advance notice of the consultation dates and ways in which information will be made available - including details of events taking place (both in-person and online) - so the information can be shared through the appropriate channels with those people whose interests the organisation represents. We will also invite representatives to advise of any specific consultation activity that we could consider to cater for their members more effectively in regards increasing awareness of, and maximise the opportunity for participation in, the consultation - with suggestions being considered on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>A table setting out details of gateway organisations we have identified as representing the interests of identified seldom heard groups will be included in the appendix on the final published SoCC.</p> <p>We welcome your suggestion of Lincolnshire Voluntary Centre Services as a helpful contact and have reviewed the information it provides to update the document in advance the SoCC being published.</p>	Change
Who we will consult / Consultation with under-represented or marginalised groups (page 14)	West Lindsey District Council	<p>Paragraph 8.10 – The proposed freephone number is welcomed. Will this be made freely and widely available?</p>	<p>Low Carbon can confirm that details of the project Freephone number will be made freely and widely available, with it being included as standard on the print and digital materials produced to support S42 consultation as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project website - Project consultation postcard 	No action

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project information booklet - Project feedback form - Document navigation booklet - Event display panels - Posters - Section 48 Notice - Local paper advertisements 	
How we will consult / Project website (page 15)	West Lindsey District Council	<p>Paragraph 9.4 – Use of the website is noted. We would recommend other online "social media" options also be considered and pursued. In particular, I am mindful of some of the marginalised groups that you have identified, and whether such means would be more accessible to them.</p>	<p>Low Carbon can confirm that it will use its existing social media platforms to promote the consultation and encourage participation, in addition to online advertising. Details of social media channels utilised to promote and support public consultation will be included as an appendix to the Consultation Report that will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in our final application for development consent.</p>	Noted
		<p>Paragraph 9.7 – A direct mail drop to those addresses within the consultation zone is welcomed.</p> <p>It would be beneficial to include a copy of the consultation invitations within the SoCC.</p>	<p>Low Carbon acknowledges this request but does not believe that including a copy of the consultation postcard would provide any information additional to that already provided in the SoCC. A copy of the Consultation Postcard, along with all the other materials published to support public consultation, will be included as an appendix to the Consultation Report that will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in our final application for development consent.</p>	No change
How we will consult / Project Consultation Postcard (page 15)	West Lindsey District Council	<p>It would be helpful for the SoCC to contain a list of "local interest groups /organisations which are active within the consultation zone". Will this only extend to those with addresses within the zone? Or will it include groups from outside the zone that are active within it – such as local walking groups for example? We recommend that the latter are included.</p>	<p>Low Carbon welcomes this proposed amendment and has updated the documentation to include a table setting out details of local interest groups/organisations it has identified as being active within the consultation zone. It also includes details of groups that lie beyond the consultation zone but may be active within it. This table will be included in the appendix on the final published SoCC. We continue to welcome any further suggestions of any additional groups you believe should be included.</p>	Change
		<p>Elected representatives should include all elected Ward Members and members of Parish Councils within the consultation zone.</p>	<p>Low Carbon welcomes this proposed amendment and has updated the SoCC to incorporate this information in advance of publishing the SoCC.</p> <p>Low Carbon can confirm that a record of all the parties to whom a consultation postcard is sent will be captured in the Consultation Report that will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in our final application for development consent.</p>	Change

How we will consult / Project Consultation Events (page 17)	West Lindsey District Council	<p>Paragraph 9.19 onwards – it is noted that there will be three “in-person” events in West Lindsey, to the north (Knaith Park), east (Willingham by Stow) and south-west (Marton & Gate Burton) of the site, as well as two online events, and that these give options for both workdays and weekends.</p> <p>We are generally agreeable to this approach.</p>	Noted	Noted
How we will consult / Project Consultation Events (page 17)	Lincolnshire County Council	<p>9.20.1 In-person consultation events: held at publicly accessible venues/locations located within the consultation zone.</p> <p>Lincs CC comment in reference to para 9.20.1: Reference should be made to the times of day these events will be held on / that they will be held at venues which have suitable access arrangements (e.g. ramps / other facilities) to accommodate those with limited mobility</p>	<p>Low Carbon recognises the importance of having clarity on the issues raised and has updated the SoCC to address this point in advance of publishing to confirm the following:</p> <p>In-person consultation event venue accessibility - all the venues being used to hold in-person events were chosen based on their suitability in terms of the facilities offered, including disabled access and parking. All of the venues selected for events have been fully risk assessed in advance to ensure their suitability and that they can be accessed by people with limited mobility.</p> <p>To maximise opportunities to take part we are holding both in-person and online events, whereby online events serve to offer anyone with disabilities, health and/or mobility difficulties that might prevent them for accessing information or attending in-person events the opportunity to take part, including by watching recording of online events via the website.</p> <p>Event times - events have been programmed to take place on different days at different times to ensure they were not restricted to taking place during typical working hours or days.</p>	Change
How we will consult / Project Consultation Events (page 17)	Lincolnshire County Council	<p>9.20.2 Online consultation events: these will take the form of a webinar, the date and time of which will be promoted along with details for those in-person consultation events being held.</p> <p>Lincs CC comment in reference to para 9.20.2: Reference should be made to the times of day these events will be held on particularly to ensure there is availability to those who can only attend after normal working hours.</p>	<p>Low Carbon recognises the importance of having clarity on the issue raised and has updated the SoCC in advance of publishing to address this point and confirm the following:</p> <p>Event times: online events have been programmed to take place on different days at different times to ensure they are not restricted to taking place during typical working hours to enable people to attend after normal working hours. For anyone unable to attend an online event recordings will be made available on the website immediately following for them to watch/listen to.</p>	Change

How we will consult / Project Consultation Events (page 18, footnote 5)	West Lindsey District Council	P18, footnote 5 – arrangements in the event of cancellation/rearrangement, are noted. In such an event, West Lindsey DC would wish to be notified immediately.	Low Carbon can confirm that if a public consultation event is cancelled or re-arranged host authorities - including West Lindsey District Council - will be notified immediately.	Noted
How we will consult / Project Consultation Events (page 18)	Nottinghamshire County Council	I've discussed possible venues for drop in events with Cllr Ogle, explaining that you were proposing to use Treswell and Rampton Villages Halls for two of the drop in events. Cllr Ogle agrees they are appropriate venues as the local community is aware of them.		Noted
How we will consult / Document Inspection Locations (page 19)	West Lindsey District Council	Table 9.3 – Document Inspection locations. We would agree to, and recommend, that the Council's office is added to the list of document inspection locations: West Lindsey District Council Guildhall Marshall's Yard Gainsborough Lincolnshire DN21 2NA Tel: 01427 676676 The Council offices are open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.	Low Carbon welcomes this proposed amendment and has updated the documentation to reflect this change in advance of publishing the SoCC.	Change
How we will consult / Media / advertising (page 20)	West Lindsey District Council	Paragraph 9.27 onward – the proposed media strategy is noted. As a widely circulated local newspaper, it is requested that the Market Rasen Mail is added to the list both for advertisements and press releases.	Low Carbon welcomes this proposed amendment and has updated the documentation to reflect this change in advance of publishing the SoCC.	Change
How we will consult / Stakeholder Letters and Meetings (page 20)	Lincolnshire County Council	9.31 We will issue communications to key stakeholders including local political representatives (Councillors and Members of Parliament) and Parish Council clerks representing wards, constituencies, and parishes within [typo should be within] the consultation zone to provide information about the proposals we are consulting on and invite them to take part in the consultation.	Low Carbon welcomes this proposed amendment and has updated the documentation to reflect this change in advance of publishing the SoCC.	Change
How we will consult / Posters (page 20)	West Lindsey District Council	Paragraph 9.30 – Posters (and documents?) should be provided to Parish Councils to display.	Low Carbon has taken note of this recommendation and has updated the final SoCC to include reference that posters will be sent to host parish council clerks for displaying on parish notice boards.	Change
How we will consult / Information Services (page 21)	Lincolnshire County Council	9.28 Our Project community relations team will operate a dedicated Project freephone enquiry line 0800 860 6259 (9am-5pm Mon-Fri), [COMMENT: consider offering a call back service / out of working hours time to call for those working / with other commitments during these times] email (info@gateburtonenergypark.co.uk) and freepost address (FREEPOST GATE BURTON ENERGY PARK). Through these channels you will be able to	Low Carbon has taken note of this recommendation and has updated the final SoCC to include reference to the messaging service enabling callers to leave a voicemail so a member of the team can return the call.	Change

Speak to a member of the community relations team to ask questions and request information.

How we will consult / Other Consultations (page 21)	Lincolnshire County Council	9.37 Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd is aware that there is should be "there are" a number of other solar DCO projects located in geographic proximity to our Project currently at the pre-application stage of the NSIP development process.	Low Carbon welcomes this proposed amendment and has updated the document to reflect this change in advance of publishing the SoCC.	Change
How we will consult / Other Consultations (page 21)	Bassetlaw District Council	Paragraphs 9.37 – 9.41: It would be really useful to produce a clear map depicting the geographical relationship between the different schemes – or at least to distinguish the Gate Burton project from the general location of the others.	Low Carbon welcomes this proposed amendment and has updated the document to include a map depicting the geographical relationship between Gate Burton Energy Park and the other schemes in advance of publishing the SoCC.	Change
Next steps and contact details / Consultation responses (page 22)	Bassetlaw District Council	Paragraph 10.3: It would be helpful if all respondents received a follow-on notification of the publication of the Consultation Report and where / how they can view it.	Low Carbon can confirm that this will happen as part of the Section 56 process - the statutory notification procedure whereby the persons falling under section 42 of the PA 2008 are notified to confirm when our application for development consent is accepted by the Planning Inspectorate and where they can view the final application which includes the Consultation Report.	Noted
Next steps and contact details / Continuing engagement (page 22)	West Lindsey District Council	Paragraph 10.7 – this is not altogether clear. In the event that the scheme is amended, are you proposing a further 45 day consultation period? The SoCC needs to be clear as to what will happen in such a scenario.	Low Carbon can confirm that if its proposals change as a result of responses to the statutory consultation and those changes result in the scheme being fundamentally different to that which was consulted on, then further consultation would be carried out. Low Carbon would follow the guidance in "Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process" in this regard and such consultation would be delivered in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the SOCC.	Noted