

Cottam Solar Project

Consultation Report

Prepared by: Counter Context
January 2023

PINS reference: EN010133
Document reference: APP/C5.1
APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)



Contents

0	<u>GLOSSARY</u>	4
1	<u>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</u>	5
	BACKGROUND	5
	PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION OVERVIEW	5
	KEY STAGES OF CONSULTATION	15
2	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	21
	THE APPLICANT'S APPROACH TO CONSULTATION	21
	COORDINATED CONSULTATION WITH WEST BURTON SOLAR PROJECT	21
	THE PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THIS CONSULTATION REPORT	22
3	<u>LEGISLATION, GUIDANCE AND ADVICE</u>	25
	CONSULTATION REPORT	25
	RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE	25
4	<u>THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHEME TO CONSULTEES</u>	27
	BACKGROUND	27
	STAKEHOLDER INTRODUCTION TO THE SCHEME (SEPTEMBER 2021)	27
	PUBLICATION OF SCHEME INFORMATION	28
	APPLICANT APPROACH TO 'NEAR NEIGHBOURS'	30
5	<u>NON-STATUTORY PHASE ONE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2021)</u>	32
	BACKGROUND	32
	PUBLICITY, INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE	32
	PHASE ONE CONSULTATION FEEDBACK	39
	INTERIM REPORTING	53
6	<u>CONSULTATION UNDER EIA REGULATIONS</u>	54
	INTRODUCTION	54
	EIA SCOPING PHASE	54
	PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION UNDER THE EIA REGULATIONS	54
	NON-STATUTORY ENGAGEMENT FOR EIA	55
7	<u>PREPARATION FOR STATUTORY CONSULTATION</u>	56
	STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE	56
	APPROACH TO JOINT CONSULTATION	56
	DEVELOPMENT OF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (SoCC)	57
	CONSULTATION ON DRAFT SoCC AND RESPONSES	58
	PUBLICATION OF SoCC	70
	STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH SoCC	71
8	<u>STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 47 OF THE 2008 ACT</u>	84

INTRODUCTION	84
SECTION 47 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AREA	84
UNDERTAKING CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 47 OF THE 2008 ACT	86
COMMUNITY ACCESS POINTS (CAPs)	87
ELECTED MEMBER BRIEFING MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENT	88
SECTION 47 PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENTS	88
SCHEME WEBSITE	92
CONSULTATION PUBLICITY	93
CONSULTATION RESPONSE	93
INTERIM REPORTING	94
STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 47 OF THE 2008 ACT	94
<u>9</u> STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE ACT (JUNE 2022 – JULY 2022)	<u>96</u>
INTRODUCTION	96
STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE	96
PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION	97
IDENTIFYING SECTION 42 CONSULTEES	97
IDENTIFYING SECTION 43 CONSULTEES	98
IDENTIFYING SECTION 44 CONSULTEES	99
DUTY TO NOTIFY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE OF THE PROPOSED APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 46 OF THE 2008 ACT	101
UNDERTAKING SECTION 42 CONSULTATION	101
STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FORMAL CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 42	102
<u>10</u> STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 48 OF THE 2008 ACT	<u>103</u>
INTRODUCTION	103
STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE	103
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE	103
STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FORMAL CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 48	104
<u>11</u> SECTION 47 STATUTORY CONSULTATION: RESPONSES RECEIVED, ISSUES RAISED AND CHANGES MADE	<u>105</u>
OVERVIEW	105
QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES RECEIVED	105
QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES RECEIVED	116
<u>12</u> SECTION 42 STATUTORY CONSULTATION: RESPONSES RECEIVED, ISSUES RAISED AND CHANGES MADE	<u>131</u>
<u>13</u> CONCLUSION	<u>149</u>
CONCLUDING REMARKS	149

Issue Sheet

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Consultation Report:

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Date: January 2023

Revision: Version 4.0

0 Glossary

Table 0.1: Document glossary and list of abbreviations

Term or abbreviation	Definition
The 2008 Act	The Planning Act 2008
The Applicant	Cottam Solar Project Limited, which is part of Island Green Power
The Application	The Development Consent Order application
BMV	Best and Most Versatile (in relation to agricultural land)
CAP sites	Community Access Points (identified publicly accessible venues which agreed to host hard copies of consultation materials)
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
Island Green Power	Island Green Power Limited
MP	Member of Parliament
MW	Megawatts
NETS	National Electricity Transmission System
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
NTS	Non-technical summary
PoC	Point of Connection
The Scheme	Cottam Solar Project
Scheme communications channels	Free-to-use communications channels hosted by the Applicant throughout the pre-application period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freephone: 0808 1691848 - Freepost: CAWB Solar Projects - Email: info@cottamsolar.co.uk
Scheme website	████████████████████
Section 42 consultees	Prescribed and non-prescribed consultees that which the Applicant included in the Section 42 consultation

1 Executive summary

Background

- 1.1.1 Cottam Solar Project (the Scheme) is a proposed solar farm with energy storage which will generate and store renewable electricity for export to the National Grid.
- 1.1.2 The Scheme comprises a number of land parcels (the 'Site' or 'Sites') described as Cottam 1, 2, 3a and 3b for the solar arrays, grid connection infrastructure and energy storage; and the Cable Route Corridors. The Sites are located approximately 6.5km south east and 4km north east of Gainsborough (see Site Location Plan [EN010133/APP/C2.1]).
- 1.1.3 The Scheme is described in full in Chapter 4 of the Environmental Statement (ES), Scheme Description [EN010133/APP/C6.2.4] supporting the application.
- 1.1.4 As each of the four Sites have a generating capacity that exceeds 50 megawatts (MW), the Scheme is defined under the Planning Act 2008 as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and will therefore require a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Secretary of State. This Consultation Report has been prepared by the Applicant to support the DCO application and should be read alongside all other documents submitted by the Applicant.
- 1.1.5 The Scheme will have an export and import connection to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). The Point of Connection (PoC) will be located at the existing Cottam 400kV National Grid substation within the site of the now-decommissioned Cottam Power Station, currently owned by EDF.
- 1.1.6 The Scheme is being developed by Cottam Solar Project Limited (the Applicant). The Applicant is part of Island Green Power Limited (IGP), who is a leading international developer of renewable energy projects, established in 2013. developer of renewable energy projects, established in 2013.
- 1.1.7 The Applicant has endeavoured to undertake an open and meaningful pre-application consultation process with a wide range of consultees. This Consultation Report seeks to evidence the consultation and engagement that has taken place throughout the pre-application period and demonstrate how this has complied with the requirements under the Planning Act 2008 and influenced the final design of the Scheme.

Pre-application consultation overview

- 1.1.8 This Consultation Report accompanies the Development Consent Order ("DCO") application (the "Application") by the Applicant to the Secretary of State under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "2008 Act"). The DCO would grant powers to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Scheme.
- 1.1.9 This Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 37(7)(c) of the 2008 Act. This report will demonstrate how the Applicant has complied with Sections 42, 44, 47, 48 and 49 of the 2008 Act and associated legislation and

guidance. This report also sets out the extensive non-statutory community involvement and consultation undertaken for the Scheme.

- 1.1.10 In accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant undertook pre-application consultation on the Scheme ahead of submission of the Application to the Secretary of State with the following consultees:
- Prescribed bodies (in accordance with Section 42(1)(a));
 - Those with an interest in the land (in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) and as set out in Section 44);
 - Community and other organisations in the “vicinity” of the Scheme who may be affected both directly and indirectly by the Scheme (in accordance with Section 47); and
 - Wider communities and organisations (local, national and regional) in order to seek their comments on the Scheme proposals (in accordance with Section 48).
- 1.1.11 The Applicant also consulted with local authorities in accordance with Section 42(1)(b) and as set out in Section 43(1) of the 2008 Act. In addition to formally consulting with relevant local authorities under Section 42 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant commenced ongoing regular meetings with West Lindsey District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council, in September 2021.
- 1.1.12 Given the close geographical proximity of the Scheme to the West Burton Solar Project, and due to the fact that the promoter for the West Burton Solar Project is also part of Island Green Power, the proposals for both schemes have been developed in parallel, including the coordination of consultation activities across both projects. This involved:
- Joint consultation periods for both projects being held in parallel;
 - A shared core consultation zone receiving information and hosting events with information relevant to both projects; and
 - Combined feedback mechanisms allowing respondents to confirm whether they consider their feedback relevant to both projects or whether they would like to comment on one project (or site) specifically.
- 1.1.13 The Applicant introduced the Scheme to stakeholders and the community in September 2021 and commenced ongoing non-statutory engagement from this point onwards. This process has included ongoing engagement with neighbours and residents closest to the Scheme.
- 1.1.14 The Applicant undertook a multi-phased community consultation to enable the iterative development of the Scheme proposals in accordance with feedback received during the pre-application consultation process. The pre-application community consultation comprised of:
- A non-statutory phase one consultation on early-stage proposals, held for six weeks between 03 November 2021 and 16 December 2021;

- Publication of the Applicant's Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) on 09 June 2022; and
- A statutory phase two consultation on more detailed proposals in accordance with section 47 of the 2008 Act, including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), held for six weeks between 15 June 2022 and 27 July 2022. This phase of community consultation was held in parallel with consultation under sections 42 and 48 of the 2008 Act.

- 1.1.15 During the non-statutory phase one consultation, the Applicant received 574 feedback submissions from the community. These were received through feedback forms returned by Freepost, feedback forms submitted at information events, responses to an online version of the feedback form, and comments submitted through an interactive map linked to the Scheme website. Of these, 392 feedback submissions indicated the feedback was relevant to the Scheme (rather than the West Burton Solar Project only). This feedback is presented in Chapter 5.
- 1.1.16 The Applicant welcomed 369 attendees across five in-person information events, 25 attendees to an online information webinar, and recorded 1,189 visits to their digital engagement platform during the phase one consultation period.
- 1.1.17 During the statutory phase two consultation, the Applicant received 694 feedback submissions from the community. These were received through feedback forms returned by Freepost, feedback forms submitted at information events, responses to an online version of the feedback form, comments submitted through an interactive map linked to the Scheme website, and comments provided by email. Of these, 335 feedback submissions indicated the feedback was relevant to the Scheme (rather than West Burton Solar Project only). This feedback is presented in Chapter 11 and Appendix 5.10: Section 47 Applicant Responses **[EN010133/APP/C5.10]**.
- 1.1.18 The Applicant welcomed 263 attendees across six in-person information events, 15 attendees to an online information webinar, and recorded 1,621 visits to their digital engagement platform during the phase two consultation period.
- 1.1.19 The Applicant published a Consultation Summary Report following each phase of community consultation, to share key themes and report back to consultees on how their feedback was being considered.
- 1.1.20 Prior to undertaking their phase two consultation, and under Section 47 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant developed a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and consulted on the contents of it with the following local authorities In April 2022:
- West Lindsey District Council;
 - Bassetlaw District Council;
 - Lincolnshire County Council; and
 - Nottinghamshire County Council
- 1.1.21 In response to the comments received from local authorities, the Applicant made changes to the SoCC as set out in Table 7.1.

- 1.1.22 The final SoCC was published on 09 June 2022 as set out in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report.
- 1.1.23 Under section 42 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant consulted on the Scheme with the statutory bodies listed in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) ("APFP Regulations") and listed by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulations 11(1)(a) and 11(1)(c) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ("the EIA Regulations") in the Scoping Opinion it issued dated 09 March 2022. In addition, the Applicant scoped in 13 non-prescribed organisations to be consulted (see Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010133/APP/C5.8], which includes a list of those prescribed and non-prescribed consultees). All of these consultees received the same information regarding the Scheme and were included in the Section 42 consultation in the same way as those prescribed under Section 42. All of these parties who were included within this consultation are referred to in this Consultation Report as 'Section 42 consultees.'
- 1.1.24 46 responses were received to the Section 42 consultation, of which 5 were received after the deadline of 27 July 2022 but still considered by the Applicant.
- 1.1.25 9 responses were received to the Section 42 consultation from Section 44 landowners.
- 1.1.26 This feedback is presented in Chapter 12 and Appendix 5.11: Section 42 Applicant Response [EN010133/APP/C5.11].
- 1.1.27 As required under Section 48 of the 2008 Act and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations, the proposed Application was publicised in local and national newspapers as detailed in Chapter 10 of this Consultation Report.
- 1.1.28 No responses received by the Applicant indicated that they were submitted specifically in relation to the Section 48 notice. Any feedback to the Section 48 notice will have therefore been considered as feedback to consultation under Section 42 or Section 47, and consequently reported in Chapters 11 and 12 of this report.
- 1.1.29 Non-statutory consultation has taken place with technical consultees (see Chapter 6) to inform the environmental impact assessment ('EIA') process and to identify key Scheme impacts, constraints and design changes.
- 1.1.30 The responses received during the pre-application consultation process raised a number of issues in relation to the Scheme. Key issues raised through consultation which have influenced the Scheme design and resulted in a change are described in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Overview of Scheme changes in response to feedback received

Key issue	Summary of change to the Scheme
The use of 'Green Lane' off Ingham Road for	Following phase two consultation, the Applicant updated their proposals to confirm that the Green

Key issue	Summary of change to the Scheme
<p>construction vehicles to access the Cottam 1 site area.</p> <p>Wider feedback was received regarding the use single tracks.</p>	<p>Lane will not be used as a construction access route to the site.</p> <p>Instead, access will now take place from Ingham Road to the east of the Green Lane. Operational access by a light van or similar vehicle will still take place from the Green Lane. It is expected that there will only be one or two movements at the junction per month by a transit van (or similar).</p> <p>Careful design consideration has been given to minimise the number of new field access points for construction and operation meaning that the vast majority of access points will utilise existing farm gateways with only 12 permanent new locations required within the Scheme.</p>
<p>The potential impact on higher grade agricultural land.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges concerns raised regarding the use of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land for the Scheme. The Applicant understands that stakeholders and the community have raised concerns regarding the potential impact of the Scheme on food security, and has addressed this in their application.</p> <p>Impacts upon agricultural land have been assessed within Chapter 19 (Soils and Agriculture) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.19], which includes detailed agricultural land classification (ALC) assessment of the Sites.</p> <p>The ALC results have informed the removal of some fields containing best and most versatile land.</p> <p>Table 5.6-5.9 of Chapter 5 (Alternatives and Design Evolution) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.5] details the design evolution that has led to the majority of BMV land being removed from the Scheme.</p> <p>The finalised Scheme contains only 4.1% Best and Most Versatile land and clear justification for why these small areas remain within the Scheme is set out at Tables 5.6 - 5.9 of Chapter 5 (Alternatives and Design Evolution) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.5].</p>

Key issue	Summary of change to the Scheme
	<p>The Applicant also notes that the Scheme will be temporary with no permanent loss of agricultural land extent or quality, and that some agricultural land could be retained during the operational phase, for example pasture grazed by sheep.</p>
<p>Feedback included requests for permissive paths and bridleways to be upgraded or included within the Scheme.</p> <p>Public routes were noted as important for recreational amenity and wellbeing.</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of paragraph 98 of the National Planning Policy Framework in that consideration is given to the enhancement of the network of open spaces, footpaths, and bridleways.</p> <p>The Applicant has introduced a permissive footpath across the Cottam 1 site area, increasing recreational connectivity to the village of Stow. The permissive path from Stow village will contribute to the wider network of footpaths in the area and facilitate greater public access to the countryside.</p> <p>The Scheme avoids impacts on the rights of way network and where users of these routes are close to the Site, mitigation measures would look to provide effective screening and softening of views where effects are predicted.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, as described in Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual Impact) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8], looks to provide landscape mitigation that seeks to enhance the public footpath, permissive footpath and green lane network. This is aimed to benefit the community as a whole as well as tourists, visiting walkers, local residents, ornithologists and cyclists. The landscape mitigation measures will seek to provide new planting which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover, and this will also include their management and maintenance.</p> <p>The Applicant has explored alternative permissive path routes but these proved to be incompatible with existing farming activities, or required land beyond the Applicant's control.</p>

Key issue	Summary of change to the Scheme
<p>Mitigation of potential landscape and visual impacts was a key issue, with requests for embedded mitigation alongside specific setbacks and buffers from residential properties.</p>	<p>Mitigation associated with the Scheme is included in the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Measures forming part of the LVIA with details shown on Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10 and at Section 8.8 of Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual Impact) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8].</p> <p>This mitigation has been informed by feedback received and visits undertaken by the Applicant’s landscape consultants throughout the surrounding landscape to satisfy themselves that the extent of embedded and secondary mitigation is appropriate to mitigate the effects of the Scheme on the nearby properties.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, such as presented in Section 8.6 and Table 8.22 of Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual Impact) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8], takes embedded mitigation into account to include the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries. - Panels to be set minimum of 20m from major watercourses and minimum of 8m from minor watercourses. - Panels to be set 50m (min) from boundary curtilage to outer edge of solar panel. - Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth. - Let existing hedges grow out and managed at 5m. Encourage hedgerow trees to grow out within existing hedges to add further thickening and growth within the field boundaries. <p>Table 5.6-5.9 of Chapter 5 (Alternatives and Design Evolution) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.5] details the design evolution,</p>

Key issue	Summary of change to the Scheme
	<p>which includes the removal of panels from certain fields following assessment and consultation feedback.</p>
<p>Refinement of Cable Route Corridor</p>	<p>The Applicant initially presented a cable route search corridor, which has been refined through engagement and consultation with landowners and the community.</p> <p>Table 5.13: Main Stages of Refinement for the Cable Route Corridor within Chapter 5 (Alternatives and Design Evolution) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.5] explains how the cable route has been refined.</p> <p>The initial cable corridor search area included whole fields with multiple river crossing options. This was then narrowed to a target route, predominantly 100m in width, which was fully surveyed by geophysical surveys, ecological surveys, and landscape assessments to generate options within the target route. The final cable corridor is 50m in width over the majority of its length.</p>
<p>A common issue has been a request for solar panels to be installed on rooftops or on brownfield sites and at a smaller scale, instead of the Site areas identified for the Scheme.</p>	<p>While the Applicant hasn't identified new Sites, they have presented their methodology and evidence to consultees.</p> <p>A Statement of Need [EN010133/APP/C7.11] has been submitted as part of the application. In reviewing the policies and information available regarding solar generation and the need to decarbonise, it is the Applicant's view that large-scale solar must be considered as additional to, as opposed to instead of, the need for continued development in distribution connected, smaller scale solar, and this includes the development of rooftop solar.</p> <p>An assessment of commercial rooftops in the host authorities of West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts identified no rooftops or combined premises of an adequate area to facilitate a large-scale solar project or provide a viable network of sites. See Appendix</p>

Key issue	Summary of change to the Scheme
	<p>5.1: Site Selection Assessment of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.3.5.1].</p>
<p>Feedback raised a general concern regarding the impact that the Scheme could have on local ecology and biodiversity.</p> <p>Some respondents doubted if mitigation could go far enough to offset harm.</p>	<p>Chapter 9 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.9] considers the potential impacts and mitigations regarding the Scheme and birds and wildlife.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that Appendix 9.12 to Chapter 9 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.3.9.12] provides the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment for the Scheme. The assessment shows how the Scheme will likely result in a net percentage gain in Habitat Units of approximately 96%.</p> <p>The mitigation associated with the Scheme is included in the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Measures forming part of the LVIA with details shown on Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10 and the report at Section 8.8 of Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual Impact) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8]. The LVIA picks up the delivery of landscape mitigation to address biodiversity net gain through the enhancement of existing habitats and green infrastructure proposals.</p> <p>The landscape measures also include the preparation of an Outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010133/APP/C7.3] which prescribes how the landscape and ecology mitigation measures identified and proposed would be implemented and managed to ensure the effectiveness and certainty in achieving the objectives.</p> <p>The Applicant and its LVIA consultants at Lanpro have worked closely with the ecology consultant throughout the application process to inform the LVIA and associated mitigation plans. The mitigation proposals allow for flexibility, but they can also be fixed, where appropriate and applicable.</p>
<p>Respondents expressed concern regarding the Scheme increasing the</p>	<p>Chapter 10 (Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.10] sets out the likely significant</p>

Key issue	Summary of change to the Scheme
<p>risk of flooding or water contamination.</p>	<p>environmental effects of the Scheme on the local hydrology during its construction, operation and decommissioning phases.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that a Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [EN010133/APP/C6.3.10.3] has been produced for each of the solar Sites which demonstrate that flood risk will not be exacerbated as a result of their installation and is likely to provide betterment over the existing surface water regime due to the reintroduction of natural land cover beneath the panels.</p> <p>Where additional infrastructure is proposed (e.g. battery sites), additional Drainage Strategies have been produced which indicate how sustainable drainage systems will be provided on-Site to attenuate any increased runoff to greenfield rates.</p>
<p>Respondents expressed concern regarding traffic and other potential disruption resulting from construction vehicles associated with the Scheme.</p>	<p>An outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared and will be secured through a DCO Requirement to manage the effects of construction traffic on the local highway network. The outline CTMP is located in Appendix 14.2 of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.3.14.2].</p> <p>Section 14.6 of Chapter 14 (Transport and Access) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.14] explains that a number of embedded mitigation / management measures are set out within the outline CTMP for the control of vehicles associated with the construction phase. These will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wheel wash facility will be provided ahead of exiting the Site allowing vehicles to be hosed down so that no construction vehicles will take mud or debris onto the local highway network; • A road sweeper will be provided for surrounding local roads along the designated route to alleviate any residual debris generated during the construction phase, as required; and

Key issue	Summary of change to the Scheme
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spraying of areas with water supplied as and when conditions dictate to prevent the spread of dust.

Key stages of consultation

1.1.31 Figure 1.1 and Table 1.2 summarise, in chronological order, the pre-application stages and consultation activities that have taken place up to the point of the Application submission. Further explanation of where these pre-application activities are explained in this Consultation Report is provided in Table 2.1.

Figure 1.1: Overview of pre-application consultation process for the Scheme

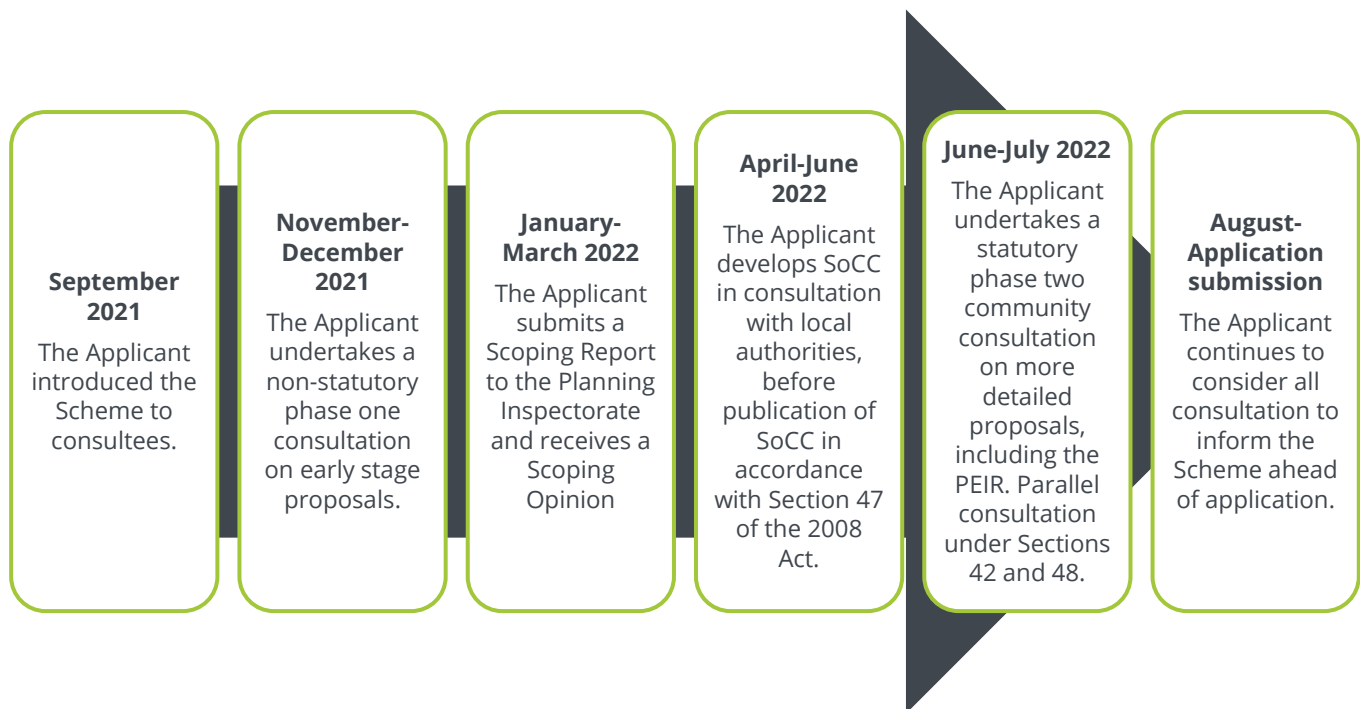


Table 1.2: Pre-application stages and consultation activities undertaken

	Date	Consultation Undertaken
1	Q3 2021 – onwards	<p>Ongoing engagement and consultation with local authorities, technical consultees, and members of the community</p> <p>The Applicant commenced early engagement with relevant consultees, such as RSPB and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, in 2021 with regards to the Scheme. Consultation and engagement with these stakeholders on specific environmental topics is set out in the relevant chapters of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/6.2].</p>

		<p>The Applicant met with West Lindsey District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council in September of 2021 to introduce the Scheme and continued ongoing consultation with the local authorities throughout the pre-application period.</p> <p>The Applicant also commenced engagement with locally elected members and representatives including ward and parish councillors and Members of Parliament (MPs) through briefing meetings. For example, the Applicant introduced the proposals to parish councils by hosting an online webinar on 28 September 2021.</p> <p>The Scheme website was launched on 29 September 2021. The Scheme website included information on the Scheme, upcoming consultation, answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and publicised the Scheme free-to-use communication channels (Freephone, Freepost, and email).</p>
2	03 November – 15 December 2021	<p>Phase one community consultation</p> <p>The Applicant held a six-week community consultation on early-stage proposals for the Scheme.</p> <p>During this time the Applicant held five in-person information events and an online webinar.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised the events and consultation information by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing a community consultation leaflet and feedback form to over 9,000 local homes and business; • Advertising the events across local media; • Distributing posters to identified local information points for them to display; • Providing details of the events on the Scheme website; and • Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed. <p>The Applicant invited feedback from the community via a paper feedback form, an online digital engagement platform (comprising an online version of the feedback form and an interactive map), and feedback to the Scheme communication channels over a stated 42-day response period.</p>
3	27 January 2022	<p>Scoping Report submitted</p>

		The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate of behalf of the Secretary of State on 27 January 2022. Through this report, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate that it intended to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Scheme pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations.
4	09 March 2022	Scoping Opinion and receipt of Schedule 1 A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 09 March 2022 and included the list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations.
5	14 April 2022	Phase one consultation summary report The Applicant published a phase one consultation summary report to summarise the feedback received during the phase one consultation and how this feedback was being used to inform the Scheme. The phase one consultation summary report was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed to over 9,000 local homes and business in the vicinity of the Scheme; • Shared by email with stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed; and • Uploaded to the Scheme website.
6	09 April 2022 – 18 May 2022	Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with local authorities under Section 47 of the 2008 Act The Applicant consulted with the Section 43(1) local authorities on the draft SoCC between 09 April and 18 May 2022 as detailed in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report.
7	09 June 2022	Publication of SoCC in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act The final SoCC was publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act on 09 June 2022 as detailed in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report.
8	10 June 2022	Notification to the Planning Inspectorate under Section 46 of the 2008

		<p>The Applicant notified the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, in writing under Section 46 of the 2008 Act on 10 June 2022 that it was intending to commence consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act on the PEIR commencing on 15 June 2022 and closing on 27 July 2022.</p> <p>The Applicant included the following consultation documents with this notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB on request; • example copies of the Section 42 covering letters (one letter type being for prescribed consultees and the other one to landowners); • A site plan showing the location of the Scheme; and • A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).
9	15 June 2022	<p>Publication of Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (and Non-Technical Summary)</p> <p>The Applicant published a PEIR on 15 June 2022 to be consulted on as part of the statutory Section 42, 47 and 48 consultation with prescribed consultees and the community (phase two consultation), requesting responses by 27 July 2022 (providing a 42-day consultation response period).</p> <p>The Applicant undertook consultation on the PEIR from 15 June to 27 July 2022. Section 42 consultees were formally notified of the commencement of statutory consultation on or before 15 June 2022 by written letter and/or email, depending on the availability of contact details to the Applicant. The deadline for responding to the Section 42 consultation was 27 July 2022 (therefore exceeding the 28-day requirement).</p> <p>The consultation documents provided to Section 42 consultees comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB on request; • A site plan showing the location of the Scheme; and

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge). <p>The PEIR and PEIR Non-technical Summary (NTS) were made available to the community as part of the phase two Section 47 consultation via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scheme website; • In hard copy form at the community consultation events; and • In hard copy form at the Community Access Point (CAP) sites. <p>Details of how to access the PEIR and PEIR NTS were provided via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Scheme website; • the community consultation leaflet; and • the Section 48 notice.
10	15 June – 27 July 2022	<p>Parallel consultation under Section 42, 44, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act</p> <p>The Applicant commenced consultation under Section 42 on 15 June 2022 in parallel with its phase two Section 47 consultation and Section 48 consultation providing a consultation response deadline of 27 July 2022 (providing a 42-day consultation response period).</p> <p>The Applicant requested written feedback to the Scheme from all consultees.</p>
11	15 June – 27 July 2022	<p>Phase two community consultation (statutory under Section 47 of the 2008 Act)</p> <p>The Applicant held a six-week community consultation on more detailed proposals for the Scheme, including the PEIR in accordance with the SoCC.</p> <p>During this time the Applicant held six in-person information events and two online webinars.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised the events and consultation information by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing a community consultation leaflet and feedback form to over 9,000 local homes and business; • Publishing two rounds of Section 48 notices in relevant newspapers; • Erecting Section 48 notices around the Scheme site;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing a press release containing details of the consultation to regional media publications; • Distributing posters to identified local information points for them to display; • Distributing hard copies of consultation documents to seven CAP sites; • Providing details of the events on the Scheme website; and • Contacting identified stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed. <p>The Applicant invited feedback from the community via a paper feedback form, an online digital engagement platform (comprising an online version of the feedback form and an interactive map), and feedback to the Scheme communication channels over a stated 42-day response period.</p>
12	30 September 2022	<p>Phase two consultation summary report</p> <p>The Applicant published a phase two consultation summary report to summarise the feedback received during the phase two consultation and how this feedback was being used to inform the Scheme.</p> <p>The phase two consultation summary report was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed to over 9,000 local homes and businesses in the vicinity of the Scheme; • Shared by email with stakeholders and individuals who had registered to be kept informed; and • Uploaded to the Scheme website.
13	September 2022 - submission of Application	<p>Consultation report prepared in accordance with Section 49 of the 2008 Act</p> <p>In accordance with Section 49 of the 2008 Act the Applicant prepared this Consultation Report detailing the pre-application consultation for the Scheme.</p>

2 Introduction

The Applicant's approach to consultation

2.1.1 The Applicant recognises that consultation is a vital stage in the development of proposals and is committed to listening to consultee views and working with local people and organisations to deliver the Scheme sensitively and in cohesion with the local environment.

2.1.2 Throughout the consultation process the Applicant has welcomed feedback from a range of stakeholders, including communities, landowners and occupiers, on the Scheme proposals. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is presented in this Consultation Report and reflected in the design of the Scheme as explained in Chapters 11 and 12.

Coordinated consultation with West Burton Solar Project

2.1.3 Given the close geographical proximity of the Scheme to the West Burton Solar Project, and due to the fact that the promoter for the West Burton Solar Project is also part of Island Green Power, the proposals for both schemes have been developed in parallel, including the coordination of consultation activities across both projects. This involved:

- Joint consultation periods for both projects being held in parallel;
- A shared core consultation zone receiving information and hosting events with information relevant to both projects; and
- Combined feedback mechanisms allowing respondents to confirm whether they consider their feedback relevant to both projects or whether they would like to comment on one project (or site) specifically.

2.1.4 The Applicant considered the benefits of a coordinated consultation approach to be:

- Increased efficiency for respondents, as stakeholders and communities interested in both projects could access information on both projects simultaneously and provide feedback on both projects with a single response;
- Providing clarity to communities and stakeholders, as aligning the consultation programmes and providing information on both the Scheme and West Burton Solar Project in consultation literature allowed the Applicant to clearly explain both projects (and their relationship with one another) simultaneously and in single documents;
- Increased opportunities for consultation and engagement, as a coordinated approach resulted in each project benefiting from a larger consultation zone and number of public information events than would be the case were they being consulted on separately.
- Benefitting from learnings across the Scheme and the West Burton Solar Project, as a consistent approach and aligned programme allowed the

Applicant to consider feedback and potential cumulative impacts to inform both projects where relevant.

The purpose and structure of this Consultation Report

- 2.1.5 This Consultation Report has been prepared to accompany the Application to the Secretary of State for a DCO which would grant powers to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Scheme.
- 2.1.6 This Consultation Report details how the Applicant has complied with the provisions of the 2008 Act and other relevant legislation and guidance.
- 2.1.7 This Report has been prepared in accordance with Sections 37(3)(c) and 37(7) of the 2008 Act and details the consultation undertaken under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act as well as ongoing informal consultation and how consultation responses have been responded to by the Applicant. This Report also sets out how the Applicant has complied with Section 49 of the 2008 Act.
- 2.1.8 Two defined phases of consultation were undertaken by the Applicant. These comprised of:
- A non-statutory phase one consultation on early-stage proposals, held for six weeks between 03 November 2021 and 16 December 2021; and
 - A statutory phase two consultation on more detailed proposals, including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), held for six weeks between 15 June 2022 and 27 July 2022. This phase of community consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act was held in parallel with consultation under Sections 42 and 48 of the 2008 Act.
- 2.1.9 Responses to the non-statutory phase one consultation, and how the Applicant has had regard to these comments, are described in Chapter 5.
- 2.1.10 Responses to statutory phase two consultation, and how the Applicant has had regard to these comments, are described in Chapters 11 and 12, and provided in greater detail in Appendix 5.10: Section 47 Applicant Response [EN010133/APP/C5.10] and Appendix 5.11: Section 42 Applicant Response [EN010133/APP/C5.11].
- 2.1.11 Table 2.1 presents the structure of this Consultation Report. The document has been structured through consideration of the chronological order of consultation activities and the relevant Sections of the 2008 Act.

Table 2.1: Structure and explanation of Consultation Report chapters

Report Chapters	Overview
1. Executive Summary	Summarises the information in the Consultation Report.

2. Introduction	Introduces the structure and information presented in the Consultation Report.
3. Legislation, Guidance and Advice	Sets out how the Applicant has complied with the requirements of the 2008 Act and accompanying guidance.
4. The introduction of the Scheme to consultees	A summary of how the Applicant introduced the Scheme to consultees and the community and commenced ongoing non-statutory engagement.
5. Non-statutory phase one community consultation (November – December 2021)	A summary of how the Applicant undertook a non-statutory phase of consultation on early-stage proposals, including the responses received.
6. Consultation Under EIA Regulations	Describes how the Applicant has consulted according to the EIA Regulations.
7. Preparation for Statutory Section 47 Consultation	Sets out how the Applicant prepared for statutory Section 47 consultation including the development and publication of the SoCC.
8. Statutory Consultation Under Section 47 of the 2008 Act (15 June – 27 July 2022)	Sets out and describes how the Applicant consulted with the community in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Act and the SoCC.
9. Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the 2008 Act (15 June – 27 July 2022)	Sets out and describes how the Applicant consulted on the PEIR with prescribed consultees and those with an interest in the land in accordance with Section 42 and Section 44 of the 2008 Act.

<p>10. Statutory Consultation Under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (15 June – 27 July 2022)</p>	<p>Describes the development and publication of the Section 48 notice and Section 48 consultation.</p>
<p>11. Section 47 Statutory Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made</p>	<p>The Applicant lists a summary of the responses received to the Section 47 community consultation, divided up by theme or EIA topic. The Applicant details how it has had regard to those responses in accordance with Section 49 of the 2008 Act.</p>
<p>12. Section 42 Statutory Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made</p>	<p>The Applicant lists a summary of the responses received to the Section 42 consultation, divided up by theme or EIA topic. The Applicant details how it has had regard to those responses in accordance with Section 49 of the 2008 Act.</p>
<p>13. Conclusion</p>	<p>Summarises the consultation undertaken by the Applicant.</p>

3 Legislation, guidance and advice

Consultation Report

- 3.1.1 This Consultation Report is submitted with the Application in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the 2008 Act.
- 3.1.2 Relevant responses are defined in Section 49(3) of the 2008 Act as responses received to the consultation under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act by the deadline published. However, the Applicant has also taken account of late responses.
- 3.1.3 Pre-application consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act has taken place with:
- Prescribed bodies (statutory consultees), being those listed in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) ("APFP Regulations") and those specified by the Planning Inspectorate in the list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations;
 - Non-statutory bodies treated as prescribed by the Applicant, including local charities, initiatives and member organisations;
 - Local authorities, in accordance with Section 42(1)(b) and Section 43(1); and
 - Persons with an interest in land or persons who would or might be eligible to make a relevant claim, in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44.
- 3.1.4 Pre-application consultation under Section 47 has taken place with:
- The local community i.e. those living within the vicinity of the Scheme. A core consultation zone was identified and defined (as described in Chapter 8 and shown in Figure 8.1), although any interested members of the community were welcome to take part;
 - Local elected representatives including parish councils and members of West Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council;
 - Members of Parliament (MPs) for Bassetlaw, Gainsborough, and Newark.
- 3.1.5 Pre-application consultation has also taken place in accordance with Section 48 of the 2008 Act through publicity of the Scheme, as described in Chapter 10.

Relevant legislation and guidance

- 3.1.6 The following legislation has been complied with or considered when undertaking the pre-application consultation and when compiling the Consultation Report:
- Planning Act 2008 (as amended);
 - The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations) Regulations 2017 (as amended);
 - The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended);

- Department for Communities and Local Government Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (2015) ('DCLG guidance');
- The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 3: EIA Consultation and Notification (August 2017) ('Advice Note 3'); and
- The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 14: Compiling the Consultation Report (February 2021) ('Advice Note 14').

3.1.7 A table setting out how the Applicant has complied with the relevant legislation and guidance is presented in Appendix 5.2: Statement of Compliance **[EN010133/APP/C5.2]** of this Consultation Report.

4 The introduction of the Scheme to consultees

Background

- 4.1.1 The Applicant commenced early engagement with relevant technical consultees, such as RSPB and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, from August 2021 with regards to the Scheme. Consultation and engagement with these stakeholders on specific environmental topics is set out in the relevant chapters of the Environmental Statement **[EN010133/APP/6.2]**.
- 4.1.2 The Applicant communicated their intention to develop proposals for the Scheme to key stakeholders, and subsequently the local community, in September 2021.
- 4.1.3 This introduction to the Scheme marked the start of ongoing engagement with Section 42 consultees and the local community leading up to the statutory Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 consultation on more developed proposals, including the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), which commenced in June 2022.
- 4.1.4 Ongoing non-statutory engagement with consultees enabled two-way dialogue between the Applicant and consultees on Scheme updates and allowed the Applicant to continuously consider consultee feedback in the iterative design of the Scheme.

Stakeholder introduction to the Scheme (September 2021)

- 4.1.5 The Applicant contacted officers from local authorities based on the administrative boundaries for the proposed Scheme. These local authorities are West Lindsey District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, and Nottinghamshire County Council.
- 4.1.6 The purpose of this initial contact was to introduce local authorities to the Scheme and arrange and hold introductory meetings between themselves and the Applicant. This communication resulted in meetings being arranged with relevant officers from West Lindsey District Council on 09 September 2021, Bassetlaw District Council on 09 September 2021, Lincolnshire County Council on 15 September 2021, and Nottinghamshire County Council on 23 September 2021.
- 4.1.7 Ward and District councillors from these Local Authorities were also offered introductory briefing meetings with the Applicant. These meetings were held with West Lindsey District Councillors on 22 September 2021, Lincolnshire County Councillors on 23 September 2021, and Nottinghamshire County Councillors on 22 September 2021 and 06 October 2021. Councillors from Bassetlaw District Council attended an introductory webinar hosted by the Applicant on 28 September 2021. Councillors from Bassetlaw District Council were also invited to attend the briefing meeting held with West Lindsey District Councillors on 22 September 2021 but were unable to do, and so the Applicant offered for a separate briefing meeting to be arranged.

4.1.8 The Applicant contacted the MPs for whom the Scheme would be sited in their constituency by email on 23 September 2021. The MPs for Bassetlaw, Gainsborough, and Newark were contacted. This communication introduced the Scheme to them, the Applicant’s intention to shortly hold a phase of non-statutory community consultation with their constituents, and to invite them to meet with the Applicant to discuss the Scheme in more detail. Following the communication, a meeting was held between the Applicant and the MP for Bassetlaw on 07 October 2021.

4.1.9 The Applicant held an online webinar meeting on the evening of 28 September 2021 to introduce the Scheme and upcoming public communication to parish councils within the vicinity of the proposals. The online webinar meeting was also offered to District and Ward Councillors and was attended by councillors from Bassetlaw District Council.

Publication of Scheme information

4.1.10 Information regarding the Scheme was published in the public domain on 29 September 2021. This involved the launch of a dedicated Scheme website (██████████) and the issue of a media release to identified regional and industry publications.

4.1.11 These activities publicised the Applicant’s free-to-use communications channels for community enquiries regarding the Scheme. The Scheme communication channels include a Freephone number (0808 169 1848), a Freepost address (CAWB Solar Projects) and an email address (info@cottamsolar.co.uk).

4.1.12 Following the release of this information, the Applicant responded to meeting requests from members of the local community.

4.1.13 Table 4.1 provides a summary of the early engagement briefing meetings described in Sections 4.2 and 4.3 of this Consultation Report.

Table 4.1: Early engagement meetings held by the Applicant

Date	Stakeholder / Organisation	Summary of meeting
09 September 2021	West Lindsey District Council (officers)	Presentation from the Applicant to introduce the Scheme and upcoming public communication, followed by a question and answer discussion with attendees.
09 September 2021	Bassetlaw District Council (officers)	
15 September 2021	Lincolnshire County Council (officers)	
22 September 2021	West Lindsey District Council (councillors) and a county councillor from Nottinghamshire County Council	

Date	Stakeholder / Organisation	Summary of meeting
23 September 2021	Nottinghamshire County Council (officers)	
23 September 2021	Lincolnshire County Council (councillors)	
28 September 2021	Torksey Parish Council, Sturton by Stow Parish Council, Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council, Gringley on the Hill Parish Council, Clayworth Parish Council, Rampton and Woodbeck Parish Council, Bassetlaw District Council (councillors), and Nottinghamshire County Council (councillor)	
06 October 2021	Nottinghamshire County Council (councillors)	
18 October 2021	Local residents at Fillingham (Cottam 1 Site)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion focus on Cottam 1 site area. • Potential visual impact effects on property. Suggestions of potential planting on particular fields were discussed as possible mitigation measures. • The Applicant committed to exploring possible mitigation measures and to further engagement on this issue.
24 November 2021	Northorpe Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning process for nationally significant solar projects. • Potential impacts, assessment and mitigation for topics such as visual impact,

Date	Stakeholder / Organisation	Summary of meeting
		agricultural land, noise, and ecology. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of solar technology. • Construction and maintenance.
06 December 2021	Brendan Clarke-Smith MP (Bassetlaw)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of phase one non-statutory consultation and community response.
29 April 2022	Councillor Taylor (Nottinghamshire County Councillor for Misterton)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of phase one non-statutory consultation and community response.
04 May 2022	Sturton Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of phase one non-statutory consultation and community response.

Applicant approach to 'near neighbours'

- 4.1.14 While the Applicant's communications channels were open to all and any interested parties, and efforts were made to publicise the Scheme and consultation opportunities within the vicinity of the Scheme, the Applicant made additional efforts to contact owners and occupiers of residential properties within the closest proximity to the Scheme.
- 4.1.15 The Applicant identified 59 residential properties as being 'near neighbours' to Cottam and West Burton Solar Projects. These properties were considered near neighbours due to their proximity to the Scheme (being less than 50 metres) and an absence of existing built infrastructure between the residential property and the proposed Scheme boundary.
- 4.1.16 The Applicant issued letters to these properties in November 2021, to introduce them to the Scheme, publicise consultation opportunities, and offer a meeting between themselves and the Applicant.
- 4.1.17 This commenced an ongoing series of meetings between the Applicant and near neighbours throughout the pre-application period, as presented in Table 4.2 below. Please note that names and addresses of local residents have been anonymised for this report.

Table 4.2: Meetings held between the Applicant and near neighbours

Date	Stakeholder / Organisation	Key meeting notes
17/02/22	Local resident in Fillingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion between local residents and the Applicant's landscape consultants regarding potential visual impacts and assessment process, individual circumstances to consider, and possible mitigation measures to develop.
17/02/22	Local resident in Thorpe in the Fallows	
17/02/22	Local resident in Stow	
22/03/22	Local resident in Broxholme	
22/03/22	Local resident in Broxholme	
23/03/22	Local residents in Normanby	
23/03/22	Local resident in Stow	
13/06/22	Local resident in Fillingham	

5 Non-statutory phase one community consultation (November – December 2021)

Background

- 5.1.1 Following the introduction to the Scheme (as described in Chapter 4), the Applicant undertook a phase of non-statutory consultation at an early stage of the project development process, which commenced in November 2021. This consultation preceded the publication of a Statement of Community Consultation and subsequent statutory consultation.
- 5.1.2 As described in Chapter 2, this phase of consultation was coordinated to provide a combined consultation on the Scheme and West Burton Solar Project. Consequently, the publicity and consultation opportunities described in this Chapter pertain to both the Scheme and West Burton Solar Project. Respondents to the consultation could indicate if their feedback was specifically relevant to the Scheme and/or the West Burton Solar Project. The Applicant has considered all feedback received.
- 5.1.3 Ahead of commencing their phase one (non-statutory) consultation, the Applicant prepared a document detailing their intended approach to consultation on the Scheme. The Applicant shared this document with the four host local planning authorities (West Lindsey District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, and Nottinghamshire County Council) by email on 13 October 2021 for their review. Bassetlaw District Council noted that a relevant host ward councillor had not been listed in the approach to consultation document. The Applicant confirmed this was a formatting error and that the councillor would be notified of the upcoming consultation opportunities. No other comments were received by the Applicant.
- 5.1.4 A copy of the Applicant's Approach to consultation document is provided as Appendix 5.3: Consultation Approach for Local Authorities [EN010133/APP/C5.3].
- 5.1.5 The feedback received through early engagement and non-statutory consultation helped to refine the Scheme proposals and approach to consultation, ahead of publicising the Statement of Community Consultation and undertaking statutory consultation.

Publicity, information and opportunities to engage

- 5.1.6 The Applicant undertook a non-statutory phase one community consultation for six weeks between 03 November 2021 and 15 December 2021.
- 5.1.7 To publicise this consultation and encourage responses, the Applicant distributed a community consultation leaflet and accompanying feedback form to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme. These properties were identified by being within a zone defined as a minimum of 2km from the proposed solar panel site areas within the Scheme and the West Burton Solar Project, and a minimum of 1km from the cable route search corridors (as presented at the time of consultation).

This zone was further extended to include additional properties where proportionate and reasonable based on existing boundaries in order to avoid inappropriate 'severance' of communities.

- 5.1.8 Copies of the Phase One Community Consultation Leaflet and Phase One Feedback Form are provided in Appendix 5.4: Phase One Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.4]**.
- 5.1.9 The Applicant contacted identified local parish councils by email on 20 October 2021 to offer to provide them with hard copies of consultation materials to host during the phase one (non-statutory) consultation.
- 5.1.10 The Applicant placed advertisements in two local newspapers – the Retford Times and Lincolnshire Echo – on 04 November 2021 to publicise the Scheme and phase one consultation opportunities. A copy of this newspaper advert is provided in Appendix 5.4: Phase One Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.4]**.
- 5.1.11 The Applicant notified identified stakeholders, as listed in Table 5.1, of the launch of the phase one consultation by email on 03 November 2021.
- 5.1.12 The Applicant notified identified stakeholders, as listed in Table 5.1, of the launch of the phase one consultation by email on 03 November 2021. This email included an electronic copy of the Phase One Community Consultation Leaflet.

Table 5.1: Stakeholders notified of the phase one consultation by email on 03 November 2021.

Stakeholder
Lincolnshire County Councillors
Councillor Brockway (Lincolnshire County Councillor for Nettleham and Saxilby)
Councillor Perraton-Williams (Lincolnshire County Councillor for Scotter Rural)
Councillor Butroid (Lincolnshire County Councillor for Gainsborough Rural South)
Councillor Hill (Lincolnshire County Councillor for Folkingham Rural and Leader of the Council)
Councillor Bradwell (Lincolnshire County Councillor for (Woodhall Spa and Wragby and Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Davie (Lincolnshire County Councillor for Ingoldmells Rural)
Nottinghamshire County Councillors
Councillor Taylor (Nottinghamshire County Councillor for Misterton)
Councillor Ogle (Nottinghamshire County Councillor for Tuxford)
Councillor Bradley (Nottinghamshire County Councillor for Mansfield North and Leader of the Council)

Stakeholder
Councillor Laughton (Nottinghamshire County Councillor for Muskham and Farnsfield and Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Clarke (Nottinghamshire County Councillor for Bingham West)
Councillor Adams (Nottinghamshire County Councillor for Carlton East)
Councillor Girling (Nottinghamshire County Councillor for Newark West)
West Lindsey District Councillors
Councillor Milne (West Lindsey District Councillor for Lea)
Councillor Patterson (West Lindsey District Councillor for Scampton and Vice Chairman of the Council)
Councillor Coulson (West Lindsey District Councillor for Stow)
Councillor Ellis (West Lindsey District Councillor for Torksey)
Councillor Brockway (West Lindsey District Councillor for Saxilby)
Councillor Cotton (West Lindsey District Councillor for Saxilby)
Councillor Howitt-Cowan (West Lindsey District Councillor for Hemswell)
Councillor Clews (West Lindsey District Councillor for Scotter and Blyton)
Councillor Rollings (West Lindsey District Councillor for Scotter and Blyton)
Councillor J Snee (West Lindsey District Councillor for Gainsborough)
Councillor Bierley (West Lindsey District Councillor for Caistor and Yarborough and Leader of the Council)
Councillor McNeill (West Lindsey District Councillor for Market Rasen)
Councillor Bunney (West Lindsey District Councillor for Market Rasen)
Councillor Darcel (West Lindsey District Councillor for Cherry Willingham)
Councillor Devine (West Lindsey District Councillor for Gainsborough East)
Councillor England (West Lindsey District Councillor for Dunholme and Welton)
Councillor Regis (West Lindsey District Councillor for Wold View)
Councillor M Snee (West Lindsey District Councillor for Scotter and Blyton)
Councillor Young (West Lindsey District Councillor for Gainsborough South West)
Councillor Fleetwood (West Lindsey District Councillor for Bardney)
Councillor Waller (West Lindsey District Councillor for Sudbrooke)
Councillor Boles (West Lindsey District Councillor for Gainsborough North)

Stakeholder
Councillor Hill (West Lindsey District Councillor for Cherry Willingham)
Councillor McCartney (West Lindsey District Councillor for Market Rasen)
Councillor Rainsforth (West Lindsey District Councillor for Gainsborough South West)
Councillor White (West Lindsey District Councillor for Nettleham)
Bassetlaw District Councillors
Councillor Sanger (Bassetlaw District Councillor for Beckingham)
Councillor Sofflet (Bassetlaw District Councillor for Clayworth)
Councillor Watson (Bassetlaw District Councillor for Everton)
Councillor Coultate (Bassetlaw District Councillor for Rampton)
Councillor Naish (Bassetlaw District Councillor for Sturton, and Leader of the Council)
Councillor Greaves (Bassetlaw District Councillor for Worksop North)
Councillor White (Bassetlaw District Councillor for Worksop East)
Parish Councils
Upton Parish Council
Kexby Parish Council
Fillingham Parish Council
Ingham Parish Council
Cammeringham Parish Council
Brattleby Parish Council
Scampton Parish Council
Willingham by Stow Parish Council
Stow Parish Council
Sturton Parish Council
Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council
Torksey Parish Council
Fenton and Torksey Lock Parish Council
Saxilby Parish Council
Corringham Parish Council

Stakeholder
Glentworth Parish Council
Hemswell Parish Council
Laughton Parish Council
Blyton Parish Council
Northorpe Parish Council
Scotton Parish Council
Walkeringham Parish Council
Beckingham cum Saundby Parish Council
Clayworth Parish Council
Hayton Parish Council
Gringley on the Hill Parish Council
Rampton and Woodbeck Parish Council
Treswell with Cottam Parish Council
North and South Wheatley Parish Council
South Leverton Parish Council
North Leverton & Hablesthorpe Parish Council
Sturton le Steeple Parish Council
Representatives of identified seldom heard groups
Age UK Lincolnshire and South Lincolnshire
Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
Lincolnshire Deaf Association.
Autistic Nottingham
The WI Nottinghamshire Federation
Lace Housing
Lincolnshire Council For Voluntary Youth Services
Disability Nottinghamshire
Nottinghamshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
Lincoln and Lindsey Blind Society
Lincolnshire Traveller Initiative

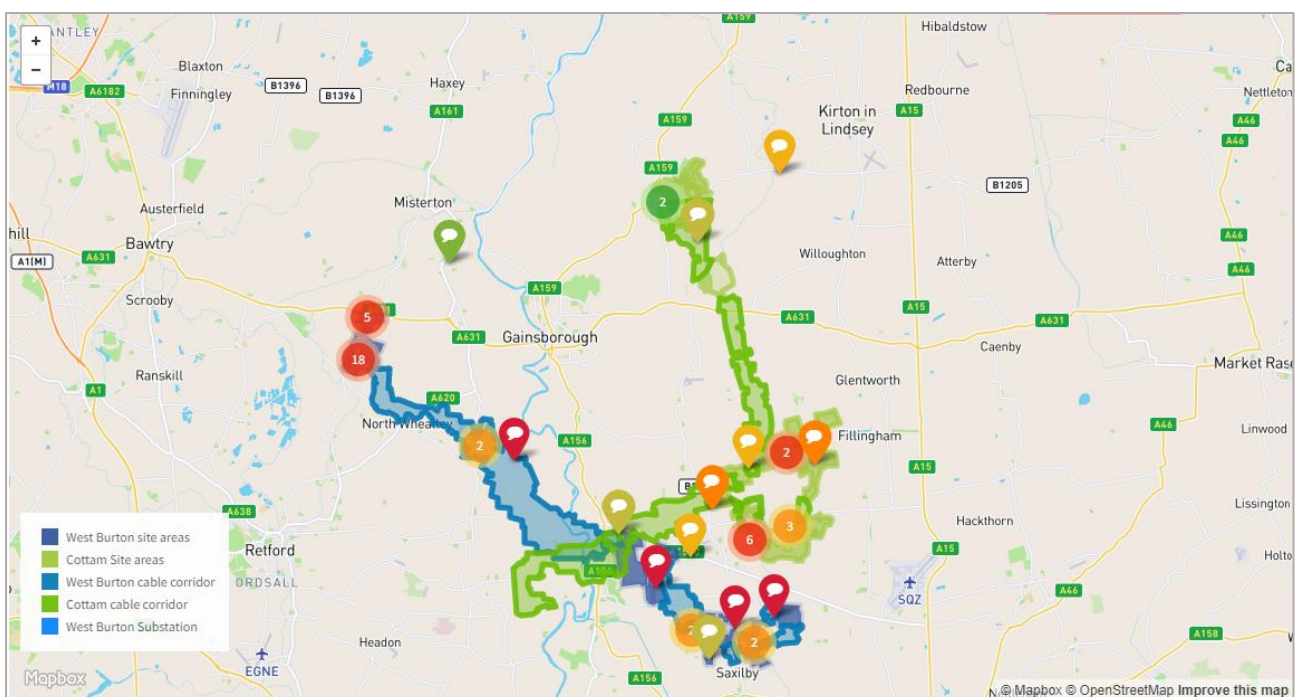
Stakeholder
Identified community and interest groups
Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group
Nottingham Friends of the Earth
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Lincolnshire Climate Conscious Students
Railfuture Lincolnshire
Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce
East Midlands Chamber
Lincolnshire Rural Support Network
Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Youth Council North Lincolnshire
Lincoln Golf Club
The Ramblers Association Lincolnshire Area
Lincolnshire Agricultural Society
Thonock Park (Golf Club)
Lincoln Conservation Group
East Midlands Farming and Wildlife Group
Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
Lincolnshire Community Foundation
Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Services
Lincolnshire YMCA
National Farmers Union (NFU) East Midlands
The Ramblers Association - Lincolnshire Area

- 5.1.13 The Applicant also issued an email on 03 November 2021 to 113 email addresses which had registered to be kept informed of the Scheme via the Scheme website.
- 5.1.14 The Phase One Community Consultation Leaflet presented information on the Scheme at an early stage in the design process and publicised how to find out more information and respond to the consultation.
- 5.1.15 The Phase One Feedback Form included a series of questions to encourage responses on key issues during the consultation period. The feedback form could

be submitted to the Applicant by a Freepost address (FREEPOST: CAWB Solar Projects), by email, or by attending an in-person information event. The same questions could also be responded to online via a digital engagement platform linked to the Applicant’s Scheme website.

5.1.16 In addition to hosting online versions of the Phase One Feedback Form questions, the digital engagement platform (linked to the Scheme website) also invited comments through an interactive map. This allowed respondents to pin their responses to specific locations within or surrounding the Scheme. An image of the digital engagement platform interactive map is provided as Figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1: Image of the phase one digital engagement platform interactive map, accessible through the Scheme website



5.1.17 Consultation materials were uploaded to the document library section of the Scheme website. The following documents were uploaded on the first day of the consultation period (03 November 2021):

- Phase One Community Consultation Leaflet;
- Phase One Feedback Form;
- Phase One Consultation Advert;
- Phase One site area and cable route search corridor maps;
- Phase One information event boards; and
- Phase One information event maps.

5.1.18 A copy of each of these materials are provided in Appendix 5.4: Phase One Community Consultation Materials [EN010133/APP/C5.4].

- 5.1.19 An updated FAQ document was uploaded to the Scheme website during the Phase One consultation, in response to questions asked during the Phase One online public meeting. The Cottam and West Burton Webinar Summary FAQs document was uploaded to the Scheme website on 30 November 2021 and is provided in Appendix 5.4: Phase One Community Consultation Materials [EN010133/APP/C5.4].
- 5.1.20 During the Phase One consultation period, the Applicant held five in-person and one online public information event for members of the local community to attend. These events provided an opportunity to discuss the Scheme with the Applicant and members of their team. Large scale maps and a series of information boards were displayed at the events. Copies of the consultation leaflet and feedback were available in hard copy to view and take away. Details of these events are provided in Table 5.2 below.

Table 5.2: Phase one community consultation information events

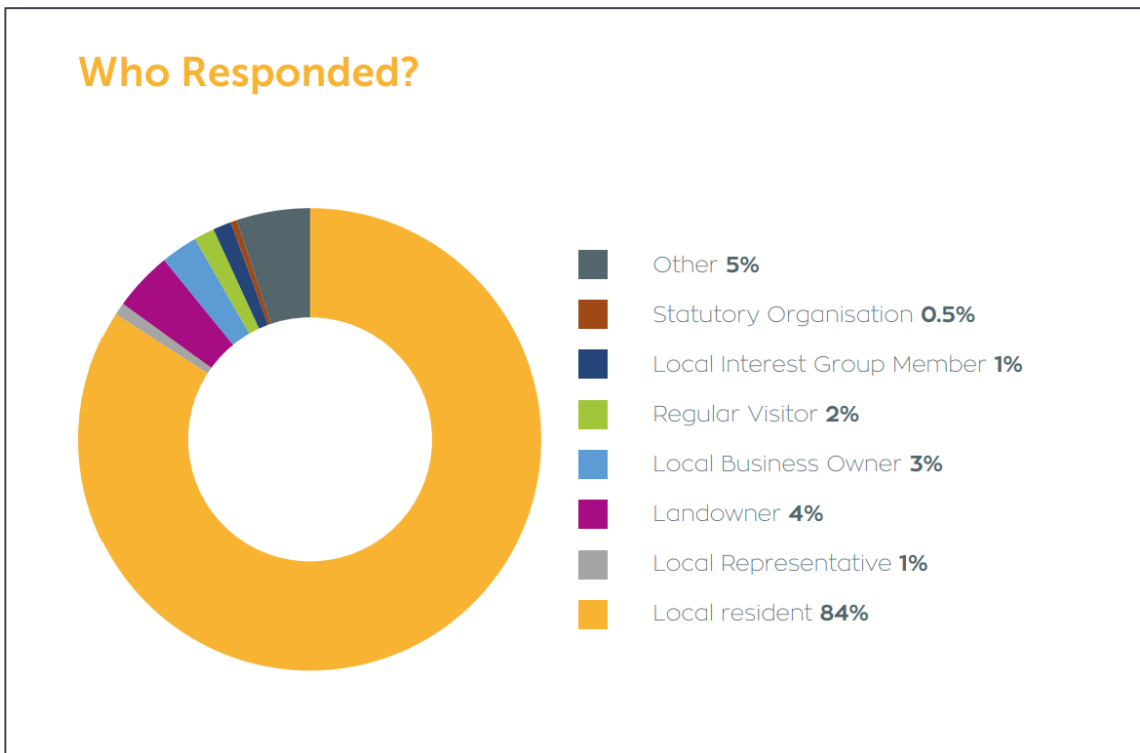
Date (time)	Venue	No. attendees
16 November 2021 (14:30 – 18:30)	Gringley on the Hill Community Centre, West Wells Lane, Gringley on the Hill, DN10 4QY	136
18 November 2021 (10:30 – 14:30)	Willingham Village Hall, High Street, Willingham by Stow, DN21 5JZ	90
20 November 2021 (12:30 – 16:30)	Marton and Gate Burton Village Hall, Trent Port Road, Marton, DN21 5AR	33
24 November 2021 (14:30 – 18:30)	Blyton Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Blyton, DN21 3JZ	40
25 November 2021 (10:30 – 14:30)	Saxilby Village Hall, High Street, Saxilby, LN1 2HA	70
30 November 2021 (18:30 – 19:30)	Online meeting (hosted using Zoom for attendees to join by internet or telephone)	25
Total attendees		394

Phase one consultation feedback

- 5.1.21 The Applicant invited feedback to be submitted in writing or online via the free-to-use project communications channels. This included an online digital engagement platform, through which respondents could answer questions and submit location-specific feedback through an interactive map.

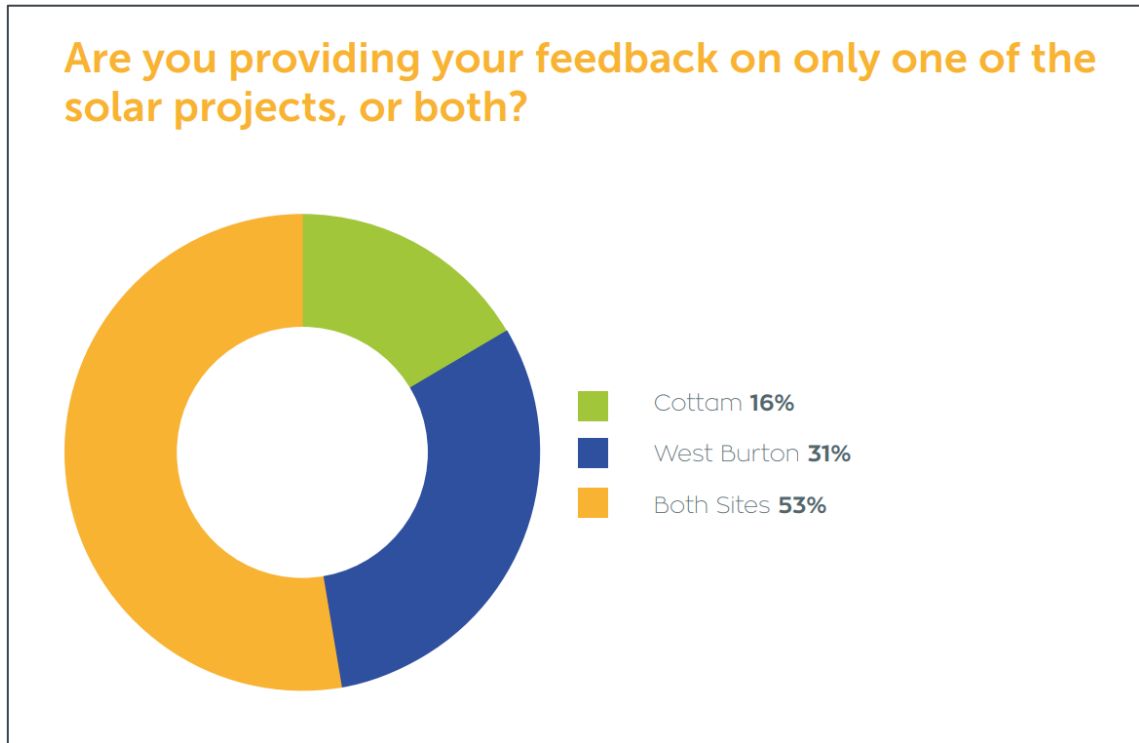
- 5.1.22 In total, the Applicant received 574 submissions of feedback in response to the phase one community consultation.
- 5.1.23 The phase one feedback form (both the online version and paper copy) included a mix of closed and open-ended questions to encourage responses regarding the respondent’s interest in the Scheme, the early-stage proposals, potential opportunities to explore, and the consultation process.
- 5.1.24 A significant majority of respondents identified as being a local resident, as shown in **Figure 5.2**.

Figure 5.2: How would you describe your interest?



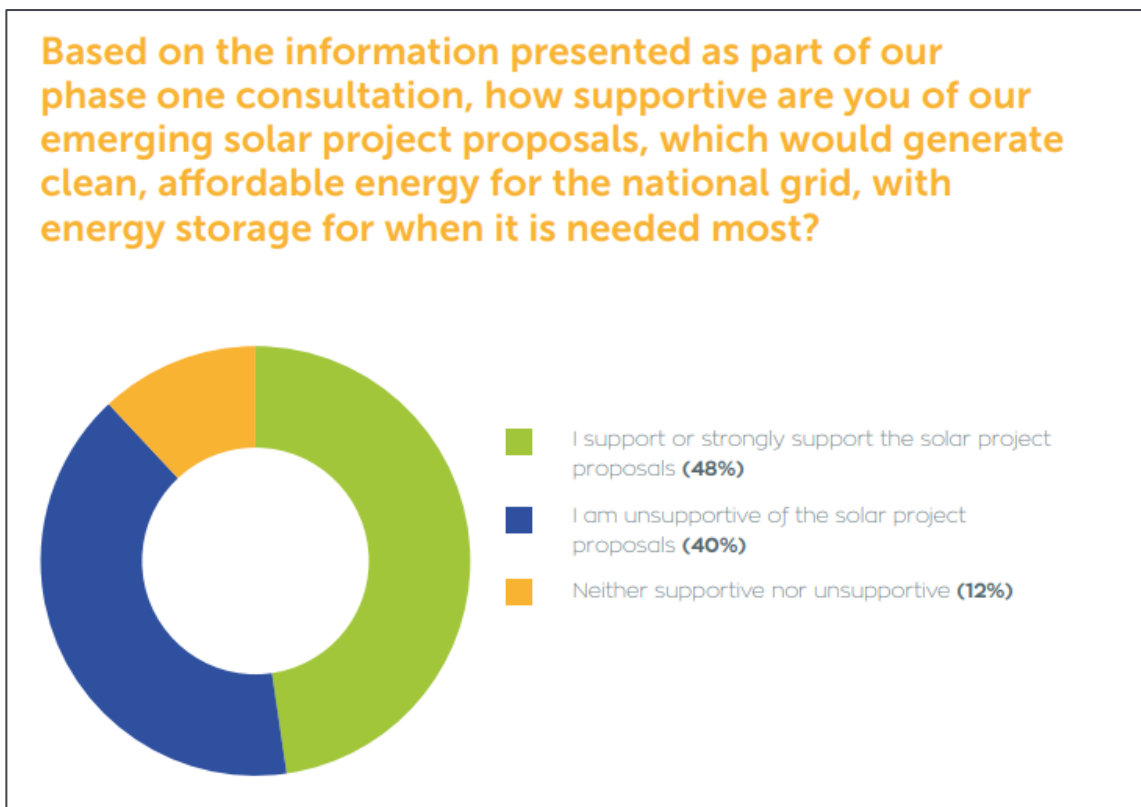
5.1.25 69% of respondents indicated that their feedback was relevant to the Scheme (either specifically, or being relevant to the both the Scheme and the West Burton Solar Project), as shown in Figure 5.3.

Figure 5.3: Are you providing your feedback on only one of the solar projects, or both?



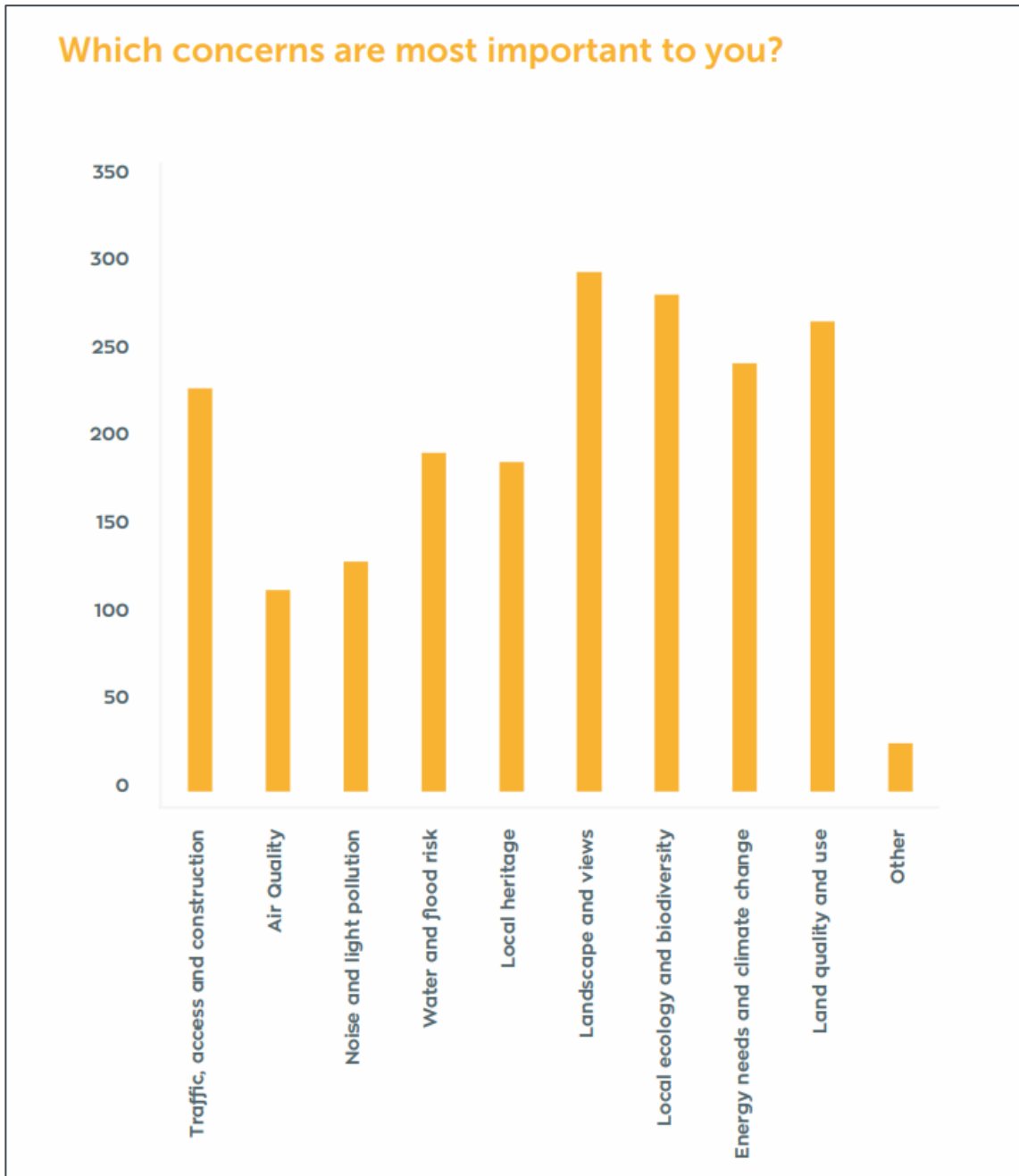
5.1.26 Overall, 48% of respondents indicated levels of support for the Scheme and West Burton Solar Project, while 40% indicated opposition and 12% were neutral, as shown in Figure 5.4. The Applicant recognises that, as this question aggregates responses across the Scheme and West Burton Solar Project, the levels of opposition and support differ across site areas.

Figure 5.4: Based on the information presented as part of our phase one consultation, how supportive are you of our emerging solar project proposals, which would generate clean, affordable, and reliable renewable energy for the national grid, with energy storage for when it is needed most?



5.1.27 'Landscape and views', 'Local ecology and biodiversity', and 'Land quality and use' were cited by respondents as being the most important issues to consider, as shown in Figure 5.5.

Figure 5.5: What environmental issues relating to the proposals are most important to you?



- 5.1.28 The Applicant recognises the importance of understanding the context and explanation that accompany these statistics. The Applicant considered qualitative analysis of the written feedback received.
- 5.1.29 A summary of these comments is presented in Table 5.3. The Applicant response provided is contemporary for this stage in the pre-application process (i.e. before commencing statutory consultation in June 2022), to show how this feedback was considered at the time.

Table 5.3: Phase one non-statutory consultation key comments and Applicant responses

Phase one consultation feedback	Site (if specific)	Applicant response
<p>Some recognition of the need to develop renewable energy projects as an essential part of meeting net zero.</p> <p>However, there is clear concern regarding the size and scale of Scheme and component Sites.</p> <p>A number of comments indicated there would be greater acceptance for the proposals if the site areas were scaled down.</p> <p>Preference for rooftop solar instead of ground-mounted solar.</p>	<p>General</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this feedback and acknowledges this concern.</p> <p>The Applicant recognises there is a balance between maximising the generation of renewable energy at low cost, and the scale of the site areas in relation to local communities.</p> <p>The decommissioning of the Cottam and West Burton Power Stations presents an opportunity to repower the region with clean, green energy.</p> <p>In reviewing the policies and information available regarding solar generation and the need to decarbonise, it is the Applicant's view that large-scale solar must be considered as additional to, as opposed to instead of, the need for continued development in distribution connected, smaller scale solar, and this includes the development of rooftop solar.</p> <p>The Applicant seeks to make best use of the grid connection capacity which has been made available to it (noting that grid connections are currently, and projected to remain, constrained over the coming decade), ensuring the Scheme is highly viable scheme and therefore helping to ensure that the need for large-scale solar generation can be fulfilled. This is an important and relevant factor in the decision-making process.</p> <p>Potential impacts to local communities were considered in the selection of site areas. The Applicant's strategy for the Scheme is to utilise several site areas, rather than a single larger site area, to help manage and disperse potential</p>

Phase one consultation feedback	Site (if specific)	Applicant response
		<p>impacts. The Applicant's site selection approach took into account the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capability of delivering to the required scale (in relation to the need for the scheme); - Technical and environmental feasibility within the stated timeframes; and - Commercial viability and attractiveness. <p>During the phase one consultation, the Applicant noted that not all of the site areas would be used for solar panels (the installation area). The Scheme area also includes space for environmental mitigation and potential enhancement measures such as tree planting, new habitats for wildlife or areas for recreation, which will be developed through further design, assessment and consultation.</p>
<p>Comment that solar panels should be sited on brownfield land, rather than agricultural land.</p> <p>Specific examples of brownfield site areas were provided, including existing / decommissioned power stations and airfields.</p>	<p>General</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that Large-scale solar farms are more likely to be sited in more rural, rather than more developed, areas - simply because of where land that meets the basis screening criteria is more likely to be available.</p> <p>In their Phase One Consultation Summary Report, the Applicant responded to the specific brownfield site areas that were proposed by members of the community. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the existing power station sites, which the Applicant understands EDF, as the landowner, intends to keep ownership of for future use and potential redevelopment. For Cottam Power Station, it is understood that application may be made for the land use to change to residential, and for West Burton Power Station it is understood that part of the

Phase one consultation feedback	Site (if specific)	Applicant response
		<p>site area may be allocated for STEP nuclear fusion, while the gas component part of power station continues to operate;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land surrounding the power station which was discounted due to flood risk; and • RAF Scampton, which the Applicant understands will be retained by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).
<p>Concern regarding the use of agricultural land and the impact this could have on food production.</p> <p>Preference for lower agricultural grade site areas to be used.</p>	<p>General</p>	<p>The Applicant is committed to responsible land use and believes that the Scheme and delivery of large-scale solar farms can be achieved in harmony with their surroundings.</p> <p>There is a need to achieve energy security alongside food security, and the Applicant notes that some of the site areas for the Scheme is currently used to grow crops for biomass energy.</p> <p>At the timing of the phase one consultation, available survey data identified the majority of the land as being of a lower grade.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that further consideration of, and consultation on, the assessment of soil quality and agricultural land classification will inform further Scheme refinement and ultimate DCO application.</p>
<p>Concern regarding potential impacts to existing local wildlife.</p> <p>This included comments regarding how security fencing could impact the movement of large mammals such as</p>	<p>General, Cottam, Cottam 2, Cottam 3</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that a full and thorough EIA of the Scheme is to be undertaken. This assessment considers the specific site areas and species raised through consultation.</p> <p>Preliminary results and early mitigation proposals were prepared for presentation by the Applicant through the PEIR at their phase two consultation with community and prescribed consultees.</p>

Phase one consultation feedback	Site (if specific)	Applicant response
<p>deer. Respondents noted that the villages of Blyton and Corringham have large deer populations.</p> <p>Further concern about the potential impact that panels could cause to birds.</p> <p>The community expressed that they wanted to see wildlife and biodiversity improvements as a result of the projects, including creating wildflower meadows and other habitats, new ponds, additional tree planting and rewilding around the site areas and neighbouring villages.</p>		<p>The Applicant set out how a stepwise approach of avoidance, mitigation and compensation would be followed to reduce potential impacts to ecology and biodiversity.</p>

Phase one consultation feedback	Site (if specific)	Applicant response
<p>Suggestions for the Applicant to work with local groups, to preserve and possibly enhance local wildlife populations.</p> <p>Comments noted that Blyton has several species of birds of prey that should be prioritised in this way.</p>	<p>General, Cottam 3</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that, while it is not yet formally within the relevant legislation, they intend and are confident of meeting the upcoming Biodiversity Net Gain requirements. It is anticipated the project will significantly exceed the new standards.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that further consultation will be held on preliminary ecological assessments and proposed mitigation measures with local communities and relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Through applying a mitigation hierarchy and committing to delivering net gain in biodiversity, the Applicant will follow a stepwise approach of avoidance, mitigation and compensation to reduce potential impacts to ecology and biodiversity.</p> <p>Delivery of a net gain in biodiversity will deliver an enhancement to local wildlife, in addition preserving and supporting existing species.</p>
<p>Concern regarding flooding in the surrounding villages.</p> <p>Comments suggested that the residents of Blyton should be consulted RE: flooding in their area.</p> <p>Respondents also noted that there are problems with flooding west from the</p>	<p>General, Cottam, Cottam 1, Cottam 3</p>	<p>The Applicant has committed to a responsibility to not worsen existing flood problems as part of the proposals for the Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant has an obligation to assess the potential impact of the sites on flooding as part of the EIA. The Applicant notes that further consultation will be held on preliminary hydrology and flood risk assessments and proposed mitigation measures with local communities and relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Feedback received from local communities about flooding in phase one has been helpful in</p>

Phase one consultation feedback	Site (if specific)	Applicant response
<p>River Till along Ingham Road and towards and along Fleets Lane.</p> <p>Comments stated that do not want this to be exacerbated by the projects and that the projects could be used as an opportunity for flood reduction along those roads.</p>		<p>ensuring appropriate assessment is being undertaken and considering the feasibility of measures that go beyond mitigation.</p>
<p>Concern about potential glare from the panels. Further concern about how the sites will impact the views and the overall character of the local landscape.</p> <p>A number of comments expressed concerns about the visual impact of security fencing around the site. Comments stated that the security measures are akin to ‘industrialising’ the area.</p> <p>Respondents suggested that the land surrounding Coates should not be</p>	<p>General, Cottam 1</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that a full and thorough EIA of the Scheme is to be undertaken. This assessment includes a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, to understand and mitigate potential visual impacts to near neighbours and local communities.</p> <p>This assessment is informed by engagement with the nearest neighbours to the sites and feedback from the wider community during the consultation process.</p> <p>The Applicant is also undertaking a glint and glare assessment as a part of the EIA, which considers the potential impact on people, including residents and travellers on foot, by car and by train, and from the air as well.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that further consultation will be held with local communities and relevant stakeholders on preliminary landscape and visual, and glint and glare, assessments and proposed mitigation measures.</p> <p>The viewpoints from which the landscape and visual impacts are assessed are agreed in</p>

Phase one consultation feedback	Site (if specific)	Applicant response
<p>used for the siting of panels.</p> <p>Some comments added that this is because of the aesthetics of the area around Stow and Coates.</p>		<p>consultation with local planning authority landscape officers.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges that community feedback helps shape mitigation proposals.</p>
<p>Community feedback provided regarding the sources of local heritage in the community, such as historical villages and monuments.</p> <p>Some comments noted that the area around Coates is close to the site of a 'scheduled monument' and the site should be moved so it is further away from the protected area in Coates.</p>	<p>General, Cottam 1</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that a full and thorough EIA of the Scheme is to be undertaken. This includes a cultural heritage assessment undertaken by specialist archaeology and heritage consultants.</p> <p>The solar sites have been designed to avoid detrimental impacts to archaeology, either by not putting panels upon areas of high potential for archaeology, or by avoiding the use of piling in those areas.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that further consultation will be held with local communities and relevant stakeholders on preliminary landscape and visual, and glint and glare, assessments and proposed mitigation measures.</p>
<p>Community concern regarding the suitability of local roads for additional traffic and in particular heavy goods vehicles during construction.</p>	<p>General, Cottam 1</p>	<p>The Applicant is committed to developing the projects in a way which minimises impact on local roads and communities as much as possible. The Applicant is aware of other solar development proposals in this area and is working with other developers to minimise disruption during construction as much as possible.</p> <p>Following phase one consultation, the Applicant notes that more detail on proposed construction</p>

Phase one consultation feedback	Site (if specific)	Applicant response
<p>Some respondents raised concerns about the impact construction could have on the roads surrounding Sturton by Stow and Stow, and the importance of these for accessing vital services.</p>		<p>vehicle routes and associated traffic management measures will be presented for consultation with communities and stakeholders through the PEIR, at phase two consultation.</p> <p>Further assessment and consultation feedback will inform an outline Construction Traffic Management Plan to be submitted as part of the Applicant's DCO application. This will set out measures to manage potential disruption and impacts from traffic movements.</p>
<p>Comments were received indicating an expectation for the Scheme to deliver a benefit to the local community.</p> <p>An example of this feedback is a suggestion for solar panels to be provided for church and village hall roofs.</p> <p>Further proposed community benefits included improvements to local roads.</p>	General	<p>The Applicant will consider all suggestions that are made about potential community benefits.</p> <p>The Applicant is working with a number of local groups in order to further explore further the collaborative opportunities to deliver these benefits to the surrounding communities as part of the projects. This includes the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Community Foundations.</p> <p>The Applicant is proposing to introduce a new permissive footpath across the Cottam 1 site area, increasing recreational connectivity around the village of Stow by providing a route east of the village to Stow Pasture, offering an alternative to walking along road verges.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that further consultation on this proposed footpath and other potential community benefits will be undertaken.</p>
<p>Some respondents commented that they were appreciative that the Applicant had begun community engagement at such</p>	General	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the level of interest in the Scheme and recognises the value of consultation with local communities.</p> <p>There is a balance between consulting early on in the development of proposals and meaningfully</p>

Phase one consultation feedback	Site (if specific)	Applicant response
<p>an early stage of the projects.</p> <p>However, other respondents commented that the phase one consultation were simply a 'tick box exercise' and that their participation would not be valuable.</p>		<p>consulting on a level of information to inform detailed responses.</p> <p>The Applicant has sought to address this by undertaking a multi-phased approach to consultation and is grateful to the many people who have taken time to engage with the Scheme at this stage.</p> <p>The Applicant has committed to undertaking further consultation on more detailed proposals for the Scheme.</p>

Interim reporting

- 5.1.30 A Phase One Consultation Summary Report was published on 14 April 2022 to communicate a summary of the level of response to the phase one community consultation, the key themes raised through feedback, and how the Applicant was considering this feedback in the development of their proposals.
- 5.1.31 The Phase One Consultation Summary Report was published on the dedicated Scheme website and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase One Consultation Summary Report is provided as Appendix 5.5: Phase One Consultation Summary Report **[EN010133/APP/C5.5]** .
- 5.1.32 The Phase One Consultation Summary Report was also shared with elected representatives alongside the offer of a meeting to discuss its contents.

6 Consultation under EIA Regulations

Introduction

6.1.1 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process under which a development proposal is assessed for its likely significant environmental impacts before an application for consent is considered. The submission of the findings of the EIA in an ES allows the body deciding the application to fully understand the environmental impact of a proposal when it makes its decision.

EIA scoping phase

6.1.2 The Applicant submitted a Scoping Request for the Scheme to the Secretary of State on 27 January 2022, and in this request notified the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that the Applicant would provide an ES in respect of the Scheme.

6.1.3 The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, consulted with the relevant competent authorities and key statutory stakeholders to seek comments on the scope of the proposed EIA. A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, on 09 March 2022.

6.1.4 Appended to the Scoping Opinion, the Planning Inspectorate provided an updated list of consultation bodies notified by the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 11(1)(a) and (1)(c) of the EIA Regulations.

6.1.5 The responses received to the Scoping Opinion and how the Applicant has responded are detailed in each chapter of the Environmental Statement **[EN010133/APP/C6.2]**.

Pre-application consultation under the EIA Regulations

6.1.6 In accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, a copy of the notice under Section 48(1) of the 2008 Act was sent to consultation bodies and other persons notified to the Applicant under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations on 15 June 2022. The consultation documents provided to all consultation bodies and other persons notified to the Applicant under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations are comprised of:

- A covering letter (provided in Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**), which publicised the consultation opportunities, including an offer of a USB device containing the full PEIR and associated consultation documents, as well as a link to where these documents are available on the dedicated project website;
- A site plan showing the location of the Scheme (provided in Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**); and
- A hard copy of the notice publicised in accordance with Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of

charge) (provided in Appendix 5.9: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010133/APP/C5.9]).

- 6.1.7 In addition, both the PEIR and NTS, which included a summary of EIA matters, were available to all attendees at the phase two (statutory) consultation information events. The PEIR and NTS were available on the Scheme website and at the designated Community Access Point sites as detailed in the SoCC.
- 6.1.8 Ongoing non-statutory consultation undertaken by the Applicant with technical consultees in addition to the statutory Section 42 consultation is described in Chapter 6 of this Consultation Report.

Non-statutory engagement for EIA

- 6.1.9 Prior to the pre-application consultation under Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations (as set above), a series of discussions and meetings were held with a number of technical consultees regarding the Scheme as part of the Applicant's ongoing engagement with consultees.
- 6.1.10 The ongoing non-statutory engagement with technical consultees enabled a continuous two-way dialogue between the Applicant and consultees on Scheme updates and enabled the Applicant to continuously consider consultee feedback in the iterative design of the Scheme proposals.
- 6.1.11 Following the adoption of the Scoping Opinion on 09 March 2022, the Applicant continued engagement with several technical 42 consultees to discuss the opinion, the surveys and assessments undertaken as part of the EIA and Scheme design changes ahead of the publication of PEIR.
- 6.1.12 Relevant chapters of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2] include a section on consultation, which details the engagement and meetings held stakeholders and consultees throughout the pre-application and EIA phase of the Scheme.

7 Preparation for statutory consultation

Statutory Requirements and Guidance

- 7.1.1 Section 47(1) of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult on the proposed application with people living in the 'vicinity' of the land to which the Scheme relates.
- 7.1.2 Section 47(2) requires that the Applicant must consult relevant local authorities on the content of this statement, known as the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).
- 7.1.3 In accordance with Section 47(3) of the 2008 Act, the deadline given for receipt of local authority responses to consultation on the content of the SoCC should be no less than the end of a 28-day period (commencing on the day after the day on which the local authority received the request for comments).
- 7.1.4 In developing the SoCC, regard must be had to the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance relating to pre-application procedure. Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations stipulates that the SoCC must set out whether the proposal is EIA development and, if so, how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on its PEIR.
- 7.1.5 The PEIR was published as part of the formal Section 42 consultation, which took place in parallel to the phase two community consultation (statutory consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act) between 15 June and 27 July 2022.
- 7.1.6 Details of the requirements regarding the SoCC from the legislation and guidance and how the Scheme complied with these requirements are set out in the Statement of Compliance, provided as Appendix 5.2 to this Consultation Report **[EN010133/APP/C5.2]**.

Approach to joint consultation

- 7.1.7 As the proposals for the Scheme and for West Burton Solar Project were being developed in parallel, and given the geographical proximity of the two projects, the Applicant's strategy was to coordinate consultation activities across both projects.
- 7.1.8 The Applicant considered the benefit of this joint strategy to be:
- Increased efficiency for respondents, as stakeholders and communities interested in both projects could access information on both projects simultaneously and provide feedback on both projects with a single response;
 - Providing clarity to communities and stakeholders, as aligning the consultation programmes and providing information on both the Scheme and West Burton Solar Project in consultation literature allowed the Applicant to clearly explain both projects (and their relationship with one another) simultaneously and in single documents;
 - Increased opportunities for consultation and engagement, as a coordinated approach resulted in each project benefiting from a larger consultation

zone and number of public information events than would be the case were they being consulted on separately.

- Benefitting from learnings across the Scheme and the West Burton Solar Project, as a consistent approach and aligned programme allowed the Applicant to consider feedback and potential cumulative impacts to inform both projects where relevant.

7.1.9 As the Scheme and West Burton Solar Project are separate projects, subject to their own applications, two separate SoCCs were developed (one for the Scheme and one for West Burton Solar Project). However, the contents and commitments within these SoCCs were consistent with one another, and local authorities were therefore consulted on both SoCCs in parallel.

7.1.10 In addition, the Applicant was mindful of the Gate Burton Energy Park, another solar DCO also being developed in the vicinity of the Scheme. The Applicant engaged with the developer of this project (Low Carbon) to manage consultation activities to reduce the risks of consultation fatigue and confusion for communities. This included avoiding any overlap when arranging public information events and presenting a graphic which showed the locations of the Scheme, West Burton Solar Project, and Gate Burton Energy Park.

Development of Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

7.1.11 Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act states that before preparing the SoCC, the Applicant must consult each local authority that is within Section 43(1) in regard to the content of the SoCC. At the time of preparing the SoCC the relevant authorities within Section 43(1) were:

- West Lindsey District Council;
- Bassetlaw District Council;
- Lincolnshire County Council; and
- Nottinghamshire County Council.

7.1.12 The draft SoCC was sent to the local authorities on 19 April 2022 with a deadline for responses of 18 May 2022. The response period was 29 days (20 April 2022 – 18 May 2022), and therefore complied with the statutory requirement to allow a minimum of 28 days for responses.

7.1.13 The draft SoCC was issued alongside a covering email to explain the purpose of the draft SoCC, the response process and deadline for comments.

7.1.14 Consultation on the draft SoCC was undertaken in parallel to consultation on the draft SoCC for West Burton Solar Project.

7.1.15 Given the Applicant's approach to coordinate consultation activities between the Scheme and West Burton Solar Project, and therefore the similarities between the SoCC for each project, comments received from Local Authorities on either draft SoCC were considered in the finalisation of the SoCC for the Scheme.

Consultation on draft SoCC and responses

- 7.1.16 The Applicant received comments in response to the SoCC consultation from West Lindsey District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, and Nottinghamshire County Council.
- 7.1.17 The comments received from the local authorities and how the Applicant responded and incorporated the comments are shown in Table 7.1.

Table 7.1: Comments received through consultation on draft SoCC and Applicant response

Local Authority (date received)	Comments on draft SoCC	Applicant Response
Lincolnshire County Council (17 May 2022)	<p>[Regarding <i>Section 5. What will we consult on?</i> on page 8 of the draft SoCC:]</p> <p>Consider also including “raising awareness” of the project as one of the aims.</p> <p>Also consider an aim to be showing how the proposals have taken account of consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>The publicity of consultation opportunities and having regard to feedback received are integral features of effective consultation.</p> <p>The SoCC will set out how consultation opportunities will be publicised (for example, <i>Section 7. How we will consult</i>), and the importance of demonstrating how feedback has been responded to (for example, <i>Section 4. Our public consultation process</i>).</p>
	<p>Comments provided on suggested proofing and grammar amendments, and consistency of cross-referencing between the Cottam Solar Project draft SoCC and the West Burton Solar Project draft SoCC.</p>	<p>Noted. A further consistency and proofing review was undertaken following the receipt of comments and ahead of finalising the SoCC for publication.</p>
	<p>[Regarding the phrase “Hard to reach groups”:]</p> <p>This phrase can cause offence, as groups may be seldom heard rather than hard to reach.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment, and updated any previous references to “Hard to reach groups” to instead refer to “Seldom heard groups” (see page 15 of published SoCC).</p>

Local Authority (date received)	Comments on draft SoCC	Applicant Response
	<p>Consider using the phrase “seldom heard groups” instead.</p>	
	<p>[Regarding the description of the Applicant’s Freephone information line]</p> <p>Consider offering a call back service / out of working hours time to call for those working / with other commitments during these times.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>The SoCC will clearly publicise the dedicated project Freephone number and confirm that a voicemail service will operate to record any enquiries outside of operating hours (Monday – Friday, 09:00-17:00).</p>
	<p>[Regarding providing parish councils with materials to and promote the consultation via their own websites, social media and online community forums:]</p> <p>Consider also requesting that other bodies share the information on their social media channels and other media platforms. This may help in increasing the reach of the communications.</p>	<p>Information regarding consultation will be shared with a range of statutory, community, and media stakeholders to publicise the consultation opportunities.</p> <p>While the Applicant does not host a social media account for the Scheme, the SoCC does commit to providing information to parish councils for them to post on their social media. The Applicant considers this would reach a wider audience than a project social media account.</p>
	<p>[Regarding information events:]</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Details of public information events were included in the final version of the SoCC for publication (see page 22).</p>

Local Authority (date received)	Comments on draft SoCC	Applicant Response
	<p>accommodate those with limited mobility</p> <p>[Regarding seldom heard groups:]</p> <p>Consideration should be made to publishing the “seldom heard groups” as this demonstrates that these stakeholders are fully included in the SOCC process. This also shows that appropriate effort has been made to find out who these groups are and how they will be contacted.</p> <p>[Regarding webinars:]</p> <p>Reference should be made to the time of day for this this event to ensure there is availability to those who can only attend after standard working hours.</p>	<p>A list of identified seldom heard groups was included in the final version of the SoCC for publication (see page 15).</p> <p>The Applicant publicised two online webinars on page 22 of the SoCC. These were scheduled on different days of the week and at different times in the evening to increase availability.</p>
<p>Bassetlaw District Council (12 May 2022)</p>	<p>The document covers the issues that we would expect to find but it is generally lacking in detail. More specifically, the documents read as more of a generic strategy outlining intentions, as opposed to a specific consultation plan with clear commitments. The consultation offer does not feel definitive. Whilst it is acknowledged that some specifics may still be emerging, and that more detail will inevitably feature in the</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>Further details of consultation (such as specific event venues and timings, identified seldom heard groups) were included within the final SoCC ahead of publication.</p> <p>Section 5 of the SoCC details what will be consulted on, Section 6 details who the Applicant will consult and Section 7 details how the Applicant will consult.</p> <p>The Applicant liaised with the developer of the Gate Burton</p>

Local Authority (date received)	Comments on draft SoCC	Applicant Response
	<p>subsequent Consultation Report, it would be helpful for clearer information to be included up-front. This will not only enable consultees to appreciate exactly what opportunities for interaction are available, but will also display a clearer commitment on the part of the Applicant to getting the best out of the community. It may be useful to have a look at the SoCC produced for the Gate Burton Energy Park, by way of comparison.</p>	<p>Energy Park to coordinate their consultation activities and SoCC commitments.</p>
	<p>[Regarding other solar DCO consultations:]</p> <p>It would be useful to produce a map that articulates the relationship between the various schemes, including Gate Burton, even in a schematic form.</p>	<p>The SoCC was updated to include a schematic map to show the proximity of the Scheme alongside West Burton Solar Project and Gate Burton Energy Park (see page 11 of the SoCC).</p>
	<p>[Regarding Core and Wider Consultation Zones:]</p> <p>It would be useful to know exactly what materials will be mailed to properties in the Core Consultation Zone. In addition, it would be helpful to know the specifics of the publicity proposed, including proposed publications, outlets, platforms and dates.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The SoCC commits to consultation leaflets and feedback forms being posted to all properties within the core consultation zone. This is consistent with the approach taken to the non-statutory phase one consultation and is therefore familiar to the local community.</p> <p>The SoCC commits to notices being published in the Retford Times and Lincolnshire Echo as local papers, as well as the London Gazette and a</p>

Local Authority (date received)	Comments on draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		national newspaper. Dates of publication were not committed to in the SoCC as these are not confirmed at the time of writing.
	<p>[Regarding Section 7: How we will consult:]</p> <p>In terms of information events, as above, the commitment to hosting a varied schedule of events is welcomed, but it would be helpful to know the specifics (locations, dates, times) in order to assess their suitability. For instance, the two events in Bassetlaw would ideally be arranged to provide different offers as to date, day, and time of day, with a view to maximising opportunities for people to attend.</p>	<p>Details of public information events were included in the final version of the SoCC for publication (see page 22). These events were scheduled to take place on different days of the week and at different times of day to increase accessibility.</p> <p>The two events within Bassetlaw District Council's administrative area were scheduled for different locations, on different days, and at different times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clayworth Memorial Hall, Wednesday 22 June 2022 at 14:00-18:00 • Gringley on the Hill Community Centre, Saturday 02 July 2022 at 11:00-15:00.
	<p>[Regarding Section 7: How we will consult:]</p> <p>In terms of briefing sessions, discussion of the potential to host briefing sessions with parish councils etc. seems a little weak. This could be reinforced, potentially through suggesting that additional sessions / briefings will be hosted as required, to meet the needs of consultees, and that they are initially encouraged to</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>Local councillors, parish councils, and MPs were contacted at the start of the phase two consultation and offered the opportunity to arrange a meeting during the consultation period.</p>

Local Authority (date received)	Comments on draft SoCC	Applicant Response
	<p>make contact to discuss their requirements.</p>	
	<p>[Regarding <i>Section 7: How we will consult.</i>]</p> <p>In terms of next steps, a useful addition would be to reiterate / detail the next steps after Phase 2 has completed, particularly in respect to how the comments received will be acknowledged, processed, reported, and if / how consultees will be notified of subsequent updates to the project (including any GDPR considerations, as appropriate).</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. Several updates were made to the contents of the SoCC prior to publication to more clearly explain the next steps following the close of the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>For instance, <i>Section 9. The Planning Process</i> was updated to show and explain the purpose and timing of the Consultation Report (see page 11 of published SoCC).</p>
	<p>[Regarding <i>Section 8. Community Access Points.</i>]</p> <p>Inclusion of the opening days and times of the venues would be a useful addition.</p>	<p>The SoCC was updated prior to publication to confirm the addresses and opening hours of seven Community Access Points (see page 23).</p>
	<p>The Nottinghamshire County Council Rights of Way Team has requested that the following organisations are consultation as part of the consultation process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ramblers – Nottinghamshire group and head office • Nottinghamshire Footpath Preservation Society • British Horse Society • Cycle UK • Sustrans 	<p>Noted.</p>

Local Authority (date received)	Comments on draft SoCC	Applicant Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail riders Fellowship • Open Spaces Society • British Drive Society • Byways and Bridleway Trust • Auto-cycle Union Ltd • Nottinghamshire Local Access Forum (managed by NCC) • All Parish Councils with land within the development boundaries 	
<p>West Lindsey District Council (18 May 2022)</p>	<p>[In regard to presenting the Scheme site area:]</p> <p>We would recommend that this is accompanied by maps at a lower scale in order that people can further see detail.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment.</p> <p>An updated high resolution site area map was provided as Figure 2 of the SoCC (see pages 6 and 7), annotated with the locations of local communities to aid readers.</p> <p>Individual site area maps were provided through the phase two consultation materials, including consultation leaflets, on the dedicated project website, through copies of the PEIR available at CAP sites, and in large print at public information events.</p>
	<p>We welcome a six-week statutory phase 2 consultation.</p>	<p>Noted. This six-week consultation period was confirmed in the published SoCC.</p>
	<p>[Regarding consultation reporting:]</p> <p>We consider it would be helpful for the final SoCC to set out how feedback from the host authorities has been given</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The final SoCC confirms that the list of seldom heard groups was developed after consultation with the relevant local authorities (see page 15).</p>

Local Authority (date received)	Comments on draft SoCC	Applicant Response
	<p>regard, in addition to formally reporting this within the submission Consultation Report.</p>	<p><i>Section 1. Introduction</i> confirms that “the approach to consultation has been consulted on with Lincolnshire County Council, West Lindsey District Council, Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, under Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008. The feedback received was taken into account and used to inform this SoCC.”.</p>
	<p>We agree that there is the possibility for consultation confusion and fatigue, on the basis that your proposed consultation would take place at the same time as that proposed by Low Carbon for the Gate Burton Energy Project. We agree that your consultation launch and events should be staggered to avoid conflict with the schedule put in place for Gate Burton.</p> <p>We agree with your suggestion to make direct reference to the Low Carbon consultation, within your own consultation materials.</p>	<p>The Applicant liaised with the developer of the Gate Burton Energy Park to coordinate their consultation activities and SoCC commitments.</p> <p>Information events were deliberately scheduled to ensure they were not held at conflicting times.</p> <p>The SoCC includes information acknowledging other solar projects and consultations. The Applicant commits to their upcoming consultation materials indicating to local communities that the Low Carbon Gate Burton Energy Park consultation is also taking place through June and July 2022 and making clear how to find relevant information and respond to that consultation, independent of their own feedback channels.</p> <p>The SoCC was updated to include a schematic map to show the proximity of the Scheme alongside</p>

Local Authority (date received)	Comments on draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		West Burton Solar Project and Gate Burton Energy Park (see page 11 of the SoCC).
	<p>[Regarding the Core Consultation Zone:]</p> <p>It is noted that this is to be set at 2km and “extended further where proportionate and reasonable..”. As the draft SoCC does not provide a clear map / diagram of the Core Consultation Zone, we cannot yet comment on its extent. We will require sight of this and will wish to agree it. Fundamentally, we will wish to see that all settlements in proximity of the site are included within the core consultation zone.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. The core consultation zone builds on the principle and approach established by the Applicant as part of the non-statutory phase one consultation. Ahead of this consultation, the Applicant shared their proposed core consultation zone with local authorities.</p> <p>The final SoCC included an image of the Core Consultation Area, to show the communities included (see pages 16 and 17).</p>
	<p>[Regarding the proposed joint consultation approach:]</p> <p>We agree to the approach to undertake consultation on both the Cottam and West Burton Solar Projects simultaneously. We believe this will help reduce the possibility of consultation fatigue and confusion.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>This is described in <i>Section 4. Our consultation process</i> (see page 8) and <i>Section 6. Who will we consult?</i> (see page 14 of SoCC).</p>
<p>[Regarding seldom heard groups:]</p> <p>The draft SoCC does not set out the organisations that you have identified. This should be clearly set out.</p>	<p>A list of identified seldom heard groups was included in the final version of the SoCC for publication (see page 15 of SoCC).</p>	

Local Authority (date received)	Comments on draft SoCC	Applicant Response
	<p>Your proposal to use free-to-use communication via email, freephone and freepost is welcomed.</p>	<p>Noted. The published SoCC confirmed these details.</p>
	<p>[Regarding public information events:]</p> <p>It is noted to hold six 'in person' events – of which, four (Willingham by Stow; Blyton; Marton and Gate Burton; and Saxilby) would be in West Lindsey district. It is considered that more events should be held – at Sturton by Stow / Stow; and Corringham in addition to those proposed in the draft SoCC.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment but considers the offer and coverage of in-person events within West Lindsey to be proportionate. The proposed event venues were informed by experience of events held during the non-statutory phase one consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the in-person public information events are just one of the ways for members of the local community to engage with the Scheme, alongside webinars, online information, CAP sites and free-to-use communications channels.</p>
	<p>It is recommended that two webinars be held – one towards the start, and one towards the end of the consultation period.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Applicant originally intended to hold one community webinar. In response to this comment, the SoCC was updated to publicise two online webinars. The first webinar was scheduled within the opening fortnight of the consultation period, and the second being over two weeks' later, after the in-person information events have been held.</p>
	<p>Details of the above events (time and venue) should be set out in the final SoCC.</p>	<p>Details of public information events and webinars were included in the final version of the SoCC for publication (see page 22).</p>

Local Authority (date received)	Comments on draft SoCC	Applicant Response
	<p>Consultation leaflets to all properties in the consultation zone is agreed. This should be clear – is this only for residential properties? Will business properties be included? A copy of the leaflet should be included within the SoCC.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>All properties within the core consultation zone receive consultation leaflets. The wording of the publicised SoCC was updated to clarify this.</p> <p>Extract from <i>Section 6. Who will we consult?</i>(see page 13 of SoCC):</p> <p><i>"All homes and businesses within the core consultation zone will directly receive communications such as consultation leaflets from us in the post."</i></p>
	<p>It is recommended that the Consultation Strategy includes a press release issued to all local newspapers / media at the start of the consultation event – and that adverts are placed in local newspapers.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and issued a press release to identified regional publications.</p> <p>The SoCC commits to placing notices in the Lincolnshire Echo and Retford Times as local publications (see page 19).</p> <p><i>Section 7. How we will consult?</i> describes how local information points (such as village halls, places of worship, shops and civic buildings) will be provided with posters containing information to further publicise consultation opportunities.</p>
	<p>Consideration should also be given to using social media – particularly in seeking to engage with marginalised groups.</p>	<p>Noted. While the Applicant does not host a social media account for the Scheme, the SoCC does commit to providing information to parish councils for them to post on their social media. The Applicant considers this would reach a wider</p>

Local Authority (date received)	Comments on draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		audience than a project social media account.
	Proposals to provide posters to the Parish Councils and businesses are welcomed.	Noted.
	[Regarding Community Access points:] We are agreeable to using WLDC offices. Please note that public opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9am -5pm.	Noted. Addresses and opening hours for seven agreed CAP sites are publicised in <i>Section 8. Community Access Points</i> (see page 23).
Nottinghamshire County Council (12 May 2022)	[Regarding Minerals and Waste:] The Minerals and Waste team do not have any comments on the Statement of Community Consultation.	Noted.
	[Regarding Strategic Highways:] The County Council does not have any strategic planning observations to make.	Noted.
	[Regarding Public Health:] The Public Health Team do not have comments on the Statement of Community Consultation.	Noted.
	[Regarding Rights of Way:] The Rights of Way Team consider that the following Groups be included in any consultation on the West Burton Solar Farm Project:	Noted.

Local Authority (date received)	Comments on draft SoCC	Applicant Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ramblers – Notts group and Head office • Nottinghamshire Footpath Preservation Society • British Horse Society • Cycle UK • Sustrans • Trail riders Fellowship • Open Spaces Society • British Drive Society • Byways and Bridleway Trust • Auto-cycle Union Ltd • Nottinghamshire Local Access Forum (managed by NCC) • All Parish Councils with land within the development boundaries 	

Publication of SoCC

- 7.1.18 The SoCC was made available to view and download from the Scheme website on 09 June 2022.
- 7.1.19 A copy of the SoCC is provided as Appendix 5.6: Statement of Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.6]**.
- 7.1.20 Hard copies of the SoCC were available to view and collect from the seven CAP sites published in the SoCC, which are listed in Table 8.1. Hard copies of the SoCC could also be provided on request to the Applicant.
- 7.1.21 The availability of the SoCC was publicised in local newspapers on 09 June 2022 in accordance with Section 47(6) of the 2008 Act. Table 7.2 details the newspapers that were used to publicise the SoCC. Copies of the SoCC advertisement as it appeared in each of these publications are provided in Appendix 5.6: Statement of Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.6]**.

Table 7.2: Publication schedule for SoCC advertisements

Newspapers	Publication Date(s)
The Lincolnshire Echo	9 June 2022
The Retford Times	9 June 2022

7.1.22 The availability of the SoCC was also publicised by email on 09 June 2022 to District ward councillors, County division councillors, parish councils, and interested parties that had registered to be kept informed.

Statement of compliance with SoCC

7.1.23 Table 7.3 describes how the Applicant complied with commitments made in the SoCC.

Table 7.3: Statement of compliance with SoCC

Commitment Made	Evidence of Compliance
Introduction	
<p>Cottam Solar Project Ltd recognises that consultation is a vital stage in the development of our proposals. We want to listen to your views and to work with local people and organisations to deliver these projects sensitively and in cohesion with the local environment.</p>	<p>The Applicant ran a multi-phased consultation process with a range of stakeholders in order to inform the iterative development of their proposals.</p> <p>The Applicant commenced early consultation with the community through a non-statutory phase one consultation in November 2021.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook a second round of statutory consultation with the community under Section 47 of 2008 Act, which commenced in June 2022.</p> <p>Consultation Summary Reports were published following defined periods of consultation, to communicate to respondents and local communities how their feedback was being considered.</p> <p>This Consultation Report evidences the feedback received through consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to comments made.</p>
<p>The approach to consultation has been consulted on with Lincolnshire County Council, West Lindsey District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, and Nottinghamshire County Council under Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008.</p>	<p>The Applicant provided opportunity for the relevant local authorities to provide feedback on a draft version of the SoCC, prior to publication. A response period of over 28 days was provided for comments to be submitted. Table 7.1 describes the comments received and the Applicant’s response to this feedback.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of Compliance
Public Consultation	
<p>Our consultation will consist of two joint phases of consultation.</p>	<p>Recognising the proximity of the Scheme and West Burton Solar Project, and that the proposals for both projects are being developed in parallel, the Applicant undertook combined phases of consultation. This involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint consultation periods for both projects being held in parallel; • A shared core consultation zone receiving information and hosting events with information relevant to both projects; and • Combined feedback mechanisms allowing respondents to confirm whether they consider their feedback relevant to both projects or whether they would like to comment on one project (or site). <p>The Applicant undertook two clear, joint phases of consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A non-statutory phase one consultation, lasting 6 weeks between 03 November 2021 and 15 December 2021; and • A statutory phase two consultation lasting for 6 weeks between 15 June 2022 and 27 July 2022.
<p>Phase two consultation</p> <p>This statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act, will allow us to update you on our proposals for the Cottam Solar Project. We will consult on more detailed proposals alongside presenting the findings of the environmental studies that have been carried out to date,</p>	<p>The Applicant commenced phase two community (statutory) consultation in parallel to Section 42 consultation and the publication of the PEIR on 15 June 2022. The consultation ran from 15 June until 27 July 2022 (exceeding the 28-day requirement for a statutory consultation).</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of Compliance
<p>which will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).</p>	
<p>The phase two consultation is the consultation that we must carry out by law. More details of what we will be consulting on are listed in section 5 of this SoCC and the methods for how we will consult are listed in section 7. As well as the community consultation in accordance with Section 47, this consultation also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with prescribed bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and National Highways (under Section 42 of the 2008 Act); • Consultation with host and neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (under Section 43 of the 2008 Act); • Consultation with any persons with an interest in the land affected by the Project (under Section 44 of the 2008 Act); and general public consultation on the Project (under Section 48 of the 2008 Act) 	<p>The applicant held the section 42, 43, 44 and 48 consultations within the second phase of consultation, as required by law. The responses have been logged and evaluated and responded to by the Applicant through this Consultation Report.</p> <p>Section 42 consultees were notified of the phase two by a covering letter, accompanied by a copy of the Section 48 notice and site location plan, on or before the start of the 42-day consultation period.</p>
<p>We will be seeking feedback on the findings of the PEIR through our phase two consultation, and the full PEIR together with a non-technical summary will be made available as part of the consultation. The PEIR will be made available electronically on our project website, and we publicise, as part of our statutory notices, a service for requesting hard copies of the full PEIR.</p>	<p>The Applicant commenced phase two Section 47 consultation in parallel to Section 42 consultation and the publication of PEIR on 15 June 2022. The consultation ran from 15 June until 27 July 2022 (exceeding the 28 days statutory consultation).</p> <p>The Applicant's Section 48 notice confirmed that the PEIR could be accessed free-of-charge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the Scheme website;

Commitment Made	Evidence of Compliance
<p>Hard copies of our community consultation documents will be made available via post on demand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the six in-person public events; • At the seven CAP sites; or • On a USB memory stick by request. <p>The Section 48 notice also explained that additional hard copies of the PEIR could be provided at a cost of £500 per copy.</p> <p>All other consultation documents could be made available in hard copy, large print, audio or braille format, free of charge upon request to the Applicant.</p> <p>The Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet and Feedback Form were distributed by post to 9,553 properties in the core consultation zone.</p>
<p>Our approach will be guided by the Government’s policy on COVID-19 restrictions at the time of each stage of consultation, and the need to keep people safe. We will continue to liaise with the relevant Local Planning Authorities and ensure that all consultation material is easily accessible, and that consultation events are proportionate to allow for open dialogue whilst protecting public health.</p>	<p>The phase two consultation events conducted by the Applicant took place between the 22 June and 02 July 2022, during which COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in the UK.</p> <p>Ventilation of venues was considered, and hand sanitizer was provided upon arrival to the events to further reduce risk transmission.</p>
<p>As part of the DCO application to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, planned for late 2022, we will publish a consultation report that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes our consultation process • Explains how we have satisfied and adhered to legal requirements. • Details how we have worked with Local Planning Authorities to ensure our consultation is suitable for the area 	<p>This Consultation Report sets out how the Applicant has complied with the relevant legislation and guidance.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of Compliance
<p>through the proposals set out in this SoCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details the feedback and consultation responses we have received • Responds to the feedback we have received, including explaining how we have listened to your feedback and how it has influenced our proposals 	
<p>Other Solar DCO consultations</p> <p>We are aware that there are a number of other solar projects in the planning process. We will continue to work collaboratively with other projects to reduce the risk of consultation confusion or consultation fatigue for the local community. We recognise the particular proximity of Low Carbon’s proposed Gate Burton Energy Park to the Cottam and West Burton Solar Projects. We are working with Low Carbon to ensure that our respective consultations, where they are running simultaneously, allow local communities to fully engage with both.</p>	<p>The Applicant collaborated with Low Carbon, the developer of the Gate Burton Energy Park, to ensure alignment of consultation commitments and activities.</p> <p>The launch of consultation for each project were staggered, and public events arranged on different days to avoid schedule conflicts.</p> <p>The phase two consultation materials indicated to local communities that the Low Carbon Gate Burton Energy Park consultation is also taking place through June and July 2022 and made clear how to find relevant information and respond to that consultation, independent of feedback channels for this project.</p> <p>Consultation materials included a schematic map to clearly present the relationship between the Scheme, West Burton Solar Project, and Gate Burton Energy Park.</p>
<p>Who will we consult?</p>	
<p>Core Consultation Zone centres on the site area and extends by a minimum distance of 2km from the proposed site boundaries of both the Cottam and West Burton Solar Projects and 1km from the phase one cable route search corridors.</p>	<p>The Applicant distributed community consultation leaflets and feedback forms to all 9,553 properties within the core consultation zone. Six information events were held at different locations within the zone, and consultation documents hosted at seven Community Access Points.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of Compliance
<p>The zone has been extended further where proportionate and reasonable based on existing boundaries in order to avoid inappropriate 'severance' of communities.</p> <p>All homes and businesses within the core consultation zone will directly receive communications such as consultation leaflets from us in the post. Information events will be held within the core consultation zone and relevant organisations such as parish councils and community groups will be notified of consultation opportunities.</p>	
<p>A Wider Consultation Area recognises that there may be some individuals or parties that are interested in the project that will fall out of the scope of the core consultation zone.</p> <p>We are committed to ensuring that these interested parties still have an opportunity to view our proposals and have their say. We will publicise consultation opportunities to the wider consultation zone by advertising in local media in accordance with Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008, and keeping a register of interested individuals.</p> <p>Informative consultation materials will be published online and available to view and collect via our contact details. Feedback will be accepted from any interested parties.</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomed feedback from any interested members of the community, regardless of if they lived or worked in the core consultation zone. The Applicant placed notices in, and issued a press release to, regional and national newspapers which are distributed beyond the core consultation zone to promote consultation opportunities to a wider audience.</p> <p>Information was available to the wider consultation area through the Scheme website and the Scheme communications channels.</p>
<p>Anybody is welcome to get in touch with us at any point before, during or between stages of consultation. Our</p>	<p>The free-to-use Scheme communication channels were launched and publicised in September 2021 and remained open throughout the pre-application period.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of Compliance
<p>contact details are listed in section 12 of this SoCC.</p>	
<p>Seldom heard groups</p> <p>We have developed our consultation to be accessible to all groups in the community. We recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified a number of organisations representing seldom heard groups in the consultation area. These organisations will be contacted ahead of phase two consultation to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of their members.</p> <p>We are hosting different formats of free-to use communications channels to ensure our consultation is as accessible as possible. These formats include email, phone and post. We will also be using a combination of in-person and digital formats such as in-person events and webinars. We will also continue to notify them of consultation opportunities. Identified seldom heard groups include:</p> <p>Age UK Lincolnshire and South Lincolnshire</p> <p>Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire</p> <p>Lincolnshire Deaf Association Nottingham Deaf Society Lincolnshire Autistic Society</p> <p>Autistic Nottingham</p> <p>The WI Nottinghamshire Federation</p>	<p>The applicant undertook dialogue and communication with the identified seldom heard groups and welcomed other groups to provide feedback through the free-to-use communication channels as publicised.</p> <p>The seldom heard groups listed in the SoCC were treated as Section 42 consultees, and therefore received a covering letter, accompanied by a copy of the Section 48 notice and site location plan, on or before the start of the 42-day consultation period.</p> <p>The free-to-use Scheme communications channels included email, Freephone, and Freepost.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of Compliance
<p>Lincolnshire Council For Voluntary Youth Services</p> <p>Disability Nottinghamshire</p> <p>Nottinghamshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs</p> <p>Lincoln and Lindsey Blind Society</p> <p>Lincolnshire Traveller Initiative</p>	
How we will consult.	
<p>Information events will be held at locations across the core consultation zone. They will be advertised in consultation leaflets, across local media, at local information points and Community Access Points.</p> <p>We will hold six in-person events during our phase two consultation, including events in Clayworth, Gringley on the Hill, Saxilby, Marton and Gate Burton, Willingham by Stow and Blyton. These events will be held on different days of the week with varied hours to accommodate different availability within the community.</p> <p>Members of the Cottam Solar Project team will be at these events to answer questions and discuss the proposals in more detail. Project materials setting out the developed proposals will be displayed and available to take away</p>	<p>Public information events took place at venues within the six locations detailed by the Applicant, all of which were held at differing times for greater accessibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clayworth Memorial Hall on Wednesday 22 June (2pm - 6pm); • Saxilby Village Hall on Thursday 23 June (3:30pm -7:30pm); • Blyton Memorial Hall on Friday 24 June (11am – 3pm); • Marton and Gate Burton Village Hall on Saturday 25 June (12:30am - 4:30pm); • Willingham Village Hall on Friday 01 July (10am – 2pm); and • Gringley on-the-Hill Community Centre on Saturday 02 July (11am – 3pm).
<p>Two webinars will be held for any member of the public to join via telephone or internet connection. Details of our events and webinars are presented on page 22 of this SoCC.</p>	<p>The applicant ensured the webinars took place and provided a time for these in advance to ensure greater public accessibility and awareness. The webinars were conducted on these dates and times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 27th June 2022 (5pm - 6:30pm)

Commitment Made	Evidence of Compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 12th July 2022 (6:30pm - 8pm)
<p>Briefing sessions may be offered to local, elected members including parish councils within the core consultation zone.</p>	<p>The Applicant contacted MPs, ward and district councillors, and parish councils on 15 June 2022 to notify them of the phase two consultation launch, and to offer to meet with them during the consultation period.</p> <p>The Applicant ensured that any further requests for briefings made by relevant stakeholders were answered via communications lines and subsequently answered or accommodated for.</p>
<p>Consultation leaflets will be posted to all properties in the core consultation zone at the start of the phase two consultation. These leaflets will also be available online, to collect from Community Access Points, and to take away from our information events. Information can also be posted to those outside of the core consultation zone on request.</p> <p>These leaflets will publicise the phase two consultation process and include relevant information. This will include details of the consultation period and the activities that will be undertaken, such as dates, times and locations of events. Leaflets will also have details of how to access the project website, communications channels, and any available technical information such as the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).</p>	<p>The Applicant distributed community consultation leaflets to all 9,553 properties in the core consultation zone at the start of the phase two consultation period.</p> <p>Seven Community Access Points and six public information events provided leaflets for residents to take with them free of charge.</p> <p>Email requests for consultation material or information outside of the core consultation zone were responded to and provided for by the Applicant.</p> <p>The Applicant ensured the contents of the leaflet included the relevant information as detailed in the SoCC.</p>
<p>Feedback forms will be made available for community members to respond to the consultation. These will be posted to all properties in the core consultation zone and with the consultation leaflet,</p>	<p>The Applicant distributed feedback forms to all 9,553 properties in the core consultation zone at the start of the phase two consultation period.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of Compliance
<p>available online and in hard copy at Community Access Points, information events, and by request. Feedback forms can be returned free of charge using the project Freepost address (FREEPOST CAWB Solar Projects).</p>	<p>Seven Community Access Points and six public information events provided feedback forms for residents to complete and/or take with them free of charge.</p> <p>Email requests for consultation material or information outside of the core consultation zone were responded to and provided for by the Applicant.</p> <p>The Scheme communications channels, including the Freepost address, remained open throughout the consultation period.</p>
<p>Section 48 Notices</p> <p>Notices for both projects will be published in local newspapers, the Retford Times and Lincolnshire Echo, for two consecutive weeks. The notices 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 in accordance Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008. Section 48 Notices will include contact information and consultation event dates, times and locations.</p>	<p>A notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act was published in the Lincolnshire Echo on the 09 and 16 June 2022, in the Retford Times on the 09 and 16 June 2022, the Guardian on the 07 June 2022, and the London Gazette on the 06 June 2022.</p> <p>This notice included the details of the Scheme communications channels and upcoming information events.</p>
<p>Open communication</p> <p>Our communications lines are open throughout the entire pre-application stage. Through these channels you will be able to speak to a member of our communications team to ask questions, request information (including in alternative formats) and provide feedback.</p>	<p>The Applicant ensured the Scheme communications channels were easy to locate by publishing them on the Scheme website and including them on all consultation materials, including notices, leaflets, feedback forms and event displays.</p> <p>The communication lines provided are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone- 0808 169 1848 (open 09:00-17:00 Monday – Friday). A voice message service was operated for out of office hours.

Commitment Made	Evidence of Compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email- info@cottamsolar.co.uk • FREEPOST- CAWB Solar Projects (free of charge)
<p>Consultation materials will be presented digitally, free of charge, providing information consistent with that available at events and through hard copy materials. There will also be an online version of the feedback form that can be completed and submitted via the project website.</p>	<p>The Applicant ensured that a document library section on the Scheme website hosted all consultation materials to view and download free-of-charge.</p> <p>A digital engagement platform was linked to the website, allowing respondents to complete an online version of the feedback form and submit location specific comments to an interactive map.</p>
<p>Hard copy and alternative format requests</p> <p>Hard copies of our phase two consultation and non-technical summary materials will be made available on request. During our phase two consultation we will provide access to hard copies of all materials, including technical documents, via Community Access Points and at information events.</p> <p>We publicise as part of our statutory notices a service for requesting individual hard copies of technical documents, such as the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), and the process and charge for supplying these.</p> <p>Documents can also be requested in large print, audio or braille formats. Requests for translated summary documents will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Statutory and prescribed consultees will be notified of the statutory phase two consultation in</p>	<p>The Applicant provided hard copies of consultation materials when requested as publicised.</p> <p>This service was publicised in the Section 48 notice and on the back page of the community consultation leaflet.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of Compliance
accordance with the requirements set out in the Planning Act 2008.	
Should any changes to our consultation activities be required due to unforeseen events outside of our control, new details will be publicised in line with the methods set out in this SoCC.	Despite not being necessary for this project, the Applicant was committed to this contingency if required.
Community Access Points	
Hard copies of this document and phase two consultation materials, including our leaflet, feedback form and PEIR, will be available for public inspection at the following locations.	<p>The Applicant detailed the location of CAP sites through the SoCC, statutory notices, the Scheme website, and all consultation documents.</p> <p>The seven locations that were provided are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retford Library 17 Churchgate, Retford, DN22 6PE Monday - Friday 9 - 6pm Saturday 9 - 3:30pm; • Saxilby Library St Andrews Centre, William Street, Saxilby, Lincoln, LN1 2LP Tuesday 10:30 - 3:30pm Wednesday 10:30 - 4pm Friday 10:30 - 1pm; • Scotter Library High St, Scotter, Gainsborough, DN21 3RY Thursday 2 - 5pm Friday 10 - 1pm, 2 - 5pm; • Gainsborough Library Cobden St, Gainsborough, DN21 2NG 9 - 5pm Monday to Friday 9 - 1pm Saturday; • West Lindsey District Council Office Guildhall Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA Monday - Friday 9 - 5pm; • Misterton Library 31 High St, Misterton, Doncaster, DN10 4BU Tuesday 2 - 5pm Thursday 2 - 5pm; and • St Mary's Church, Church Road, Stow, Lincoln, LN1 2DE Monday - Sunday 8:30 - 7pm.

Commitment Made	Evidence of Compliance
Environmental Information	
<p>The Cottam Solar Project will undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The methodology for the EIA will be agreed with the relevant regulatory and environmental bodies and your Local Planning Authorities.</p>	<p>An EIA has been undertaken for the Scheme. More information is presented in the Scheme Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2].</p>
Contact Details	
<p>You can get in touch with members of our communications team using any of the communications lines listed below.</p>	<p>The Applicant has managed phone, email and website communication lines throughout the pre-application process to ensure relevant stakeholders could accessibly submit comments and enquiries.</p> <p>The Scheme communications channels include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freephone: 0808 169 1848 (open 09:00-17:00 Monday – Friday). A voice message service operated for out of office hours; • Email: info@cottamsolar.co.uk; and • FREEPOST: CAWB Solar Projects (free of charge)
<p>Should you require any documents in large print, audio or braille then please contact us using the details provided.</p>	<p>No requests for alternative formats were received by the Applicant.</p>

8 Statutory consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act

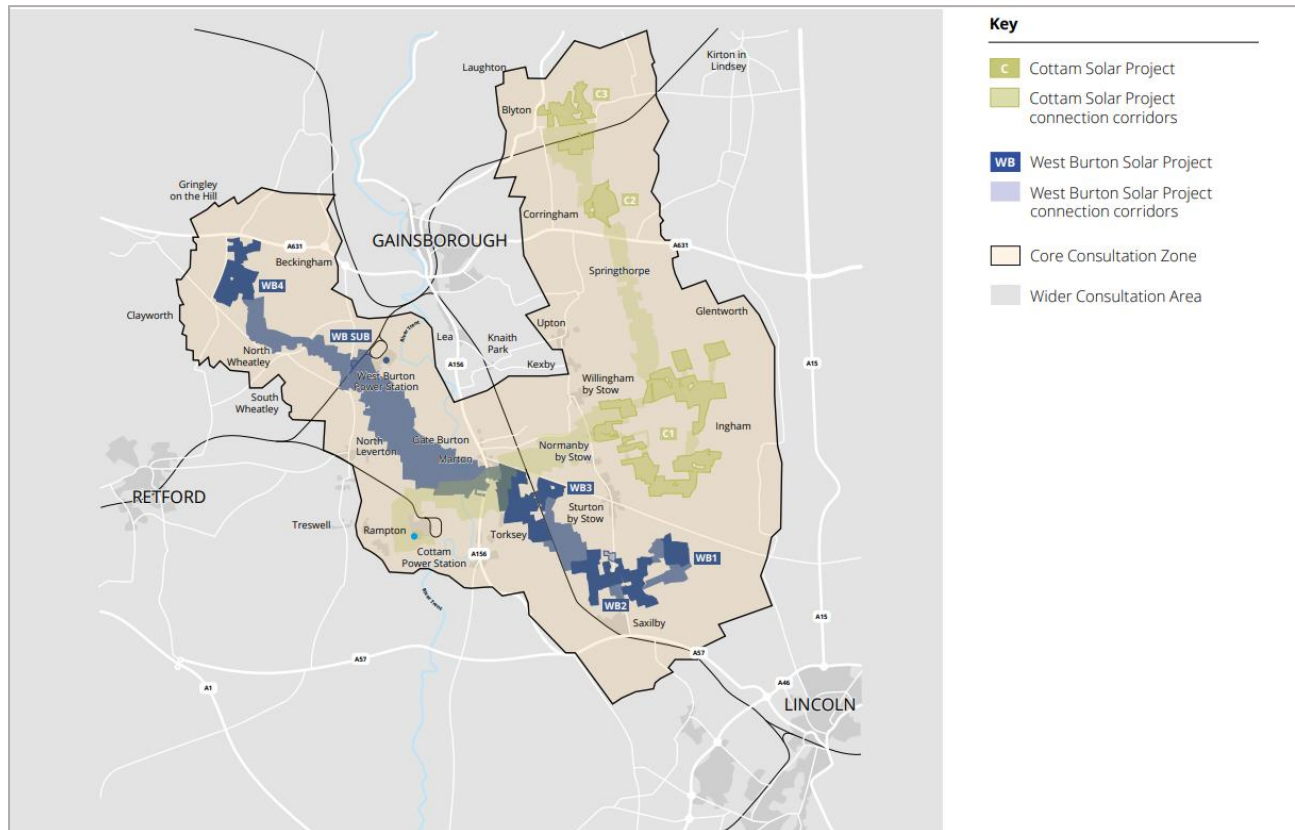
Introduction

- 8.1.1 In continuation from Chapter 7, this chapter of the Consultation Report sets out the consultation activities undertaken by the Applicant with the people living in the vicinity of the land ('the community') to which the Scheme relates under Section 47 of the 2008 Act.
- 8.1.2 As required under Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act, the Applicant carried out statutory consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the SoCC. A summary of how the Applicant complied with Section 47(7) of the 2008 Act through commitments placed in the SoCC is detailed in Table 7.3. This chapter sets out the Section 47 statutory consultation undertaken in line with the commitments set out in the SoCC.
- 8.1.3 Phase two (statutory Section 47) community consultation commenced on 15 June 2022 in parallel to the start of Section 42 consultation and Section 48 consultation. The Applicant held eight phase two public information events between 22 June and 12 July 2022.
- 8.1.4 The Applicant purposely ran the Section 42 consultation and phase two Section 47 in parallel to enable consultation on the PEIR with Section 42 consultees and the community. A consultation period of 43 days was provided for responses to the PEIR and phase two consultation information.
- 8.1.5 Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations states that under Section 47 of the 2008 Act, the SoCC needs to state whether the proposal is EIA development and how preliminary environmental information will be consulted on. The PEIR and a PEIR NTS were made available for community consultees to comment on as part of the phase two Section 47 consultation.

Section 47 community consultation area

- 8.1.6 Section 47(1) of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult on the proposed application with people living in 'vicinity' of the land to which the Scheme relates.
- 8.1.7 A core consultation zone was identified for the Scheme and described in the draft SoCC for the local authorities to comment on. The core consultation zone, as presented in the SoCC, is included as Figure 8.1.

Figure 8.1: Core consultation zone, as presented in SoCC.



8.1.8 The Applicant defined a single core consultation zone for both the Scheme and the West Burton Solar Project.

8.1.9 The core consultation zone for the Scheme was identified by:

- Extending the zone by a minimum distance of 2km from the proposed solar panel site areas within the Scheme and the West Burton Solar Project.
- Extending the zone by a minimum of 1km from the cable route search corridors, as presented at the time of consultation.
- Extending the zone further where proportionate and reasonable based on existing boundaries in order to avoid inappropriate 'severance' of communities.

8.1.10 All properties, including residential, agricultural and commercial, within the core consultation zone were directly issued with communications including community consultation leaflets, feedback forms, and consultation summary reports.

8.1.11 Throughout the core consultation area, which included over 9,500 local homes and businesses, the following consultation activities took place:

- Direct mailings of community consultation leaflets, feedback forms and consultation summary reports;

- Hosting a series of in-person community information events across a range of dates, times and venues;
- Displaying hard copy Scheme information, including the PEIR and PEIR NTS, across seven Community Access Points (CAPs);
- Issuing posters to 23 identified local information points to publicise consultation opportunities;
- Holding ongoing near neighbour and stakeholder meetings; and
- Placing site notices across the Scheme area to publicise the Scheme and consultation opportunities.

8.1.12 The Applicant recognises that individuals or parties outside of the core consultation zone may still have been interested in the Scheme. The Applicant therefore accepted feedback from any interested parties outside of the core consultation zone, which was described as a wider consultation area in the SoCC and as shown in Figure 8.1.

8.1.13 In addition to the targeted activities within the core consultation zone, to further publicise consultation opportunities the Applicant also:

- Displayed consultation notices in regional and national newspapers;
- Issued a press release publishing the consultation opportunities to regional and trade press;
- Hosted Scheme information and all consultation materials on the Scheme website; and
- Issued Scheme updates to a register of email addresses for individuals who had registered to be kept informed.

Undertaking consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act

8.1.14 Statutory consultation under Section 47 was undertaken as a specific phase of consultation between 15 June and 27 July 2022 inclusive (allowing 43 days). While this was the first phase of statutory consultation, it was the second phase of community consultation, following on from the phase one (non-statutory consultation) undertaken in November-December 2021.

8.1.15 The Applicant undertook the following consultation activities as set out in the SoCC:

- holding six in-person public information events during the phase two statutory consultation period;
- holding two online webinars for any member of the public to join via telephone or internet connection;
- offering briefing sessions to local authorities, MPs and parish councils;
- posting community consultation leaflets to all properties within the core consultation zone to publicise the phase two consultation and share relevant information. Community consultation leaflets were also available at CAPs, public events, the Scheme website, and by request through the Scheme communications channels;
- posting feedback forms to all properties within the core consultation zone. Feedback forms were also available at CAPs, public events, the Scheme

website, and by request. Completed feedback forms could be returned by Freepost, at in-person public events, online, and by email;

- placing Section 48 notices in local and national newspaper publications;
- hosting free-to-use communication channels (email, Freephone, digital engagement platform, and Freepost) to receive feedback and enquiries throughout the pre-application period;
- issuing posters publicising consultation opportunities to 23 identified local information points to be displayed across the core consultation zone;
- issuing digital advertisements to parish councils across the core consultation zone;
- hosting hard-copy Scheme information, including the PEIR and PEIR NTS, at Community Access Points (CAPs) across the core consultation zone. These were publicised through the SoCC, community consultation leaflet, Scheme website, and Section 48 notices; and
- publishing consultation materials and inviting feedback through the Scheme website; and
- consulting with identified Seldom Heard Groups, who were treated as Section 42 consultees (as described in Chapter 9) and contacted by email at the start of consultation to notify them of the proposals, consultation activities, and feedback opportunities.

Community Access Points (CAPs)

8.1.16 The Applicant identified and liaised with seven publicly accessible venues across the core consultation zone to act as CAPs. The details of these CAPs were presented in the draft SoCC for consultation with local planning authorities.

8.1.17 The seven CAPs are presented in Table 8.1.

Table 8.1: Community Access Points (CAPs)

Venue	Opening Hours
Retford Library 17 Churchgate, Retford, DN22 6PE	Monday-Friday 9am-6pm, Saturday 9-3:30pm
Scotter Library High St, Scotter, Gainsborough, DN21 3RY	Thursday 2-5pm, Friday 10am-1pm, 2-5pm
West Lindsey District Council Office Guildhall Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA	Monday - Friday 9 - 5pm
Saxilby Library St Andrews Centre, William Street, Saxilby, Lincoln, LN1 2LP	Tuesday 10:30 - 3:30pm Wednesday 10:30 - 4pm Friday 10:30 - 1pm
Gainsborough Library Cobden St, Gainsborough, DN21 2NG	9 - 5pm Monday to Friday 9 - 1pm Saturday

Misterton Library 31 High St, Misterton, Doncaster, DN10 4BU	Tuesday 2 - 5pm Thursday 2 - 5pm
St Mary's Church Church Road, Stow, Lincoln, LN1 2DE	Monday – Sunday 8:30 - 7pm

8.1.18 The following hard copy Scheme information was available to access at CAPs:

- Scheme PEIR;
- Scheme PEIR NTS;
- SoCC (included in Appendix 5.6: Statement of Community Consultation Materials [EN010133/APP/C5.6].);
- Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet (included in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [EN010133/APP/C5.7]); and
- Phase Two Community Consultation Feedback Form (included in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [EN010133/APP/C5.7].)

Elected Member Briefing Meetings and Engagement

8.1.19 In addition to formal Section 42 notifications, as described in Chapter 9, local authorities, councillors, MPs and parish councils were notified by email at the start of the statutory consultation period on 15 June 2022.

8.1.20 A briefing meeting was held with Lincolnshire County Council planning committee councillors on 06 June 2022 to brief them ahead of the upcoming statutory consultation.

Section 47 public information events

8.1.21 During the statutory consultation period, the Applicant held a series of in-person and online public information events. These events took place across a range of times, days and venues between the period of between 22 June and 12 July 2022. These events were scheduled to take place within the middle-section of the six-week consultation period, allowing interested members of the public sufficient notice to attend and review the consultation material, as well as time following the events to consider any information ahead of the response deadline of 27 July 2022.

8.1.22 The details of these events, included the attendee numbers recorded by the Applicant, are presented in Table 8.2.

Table 8.2: Public information events held during statutory Section 47 consultation

Date (time)	Venue	No. attendees
Wednesday 22 June 2022 (14:00 – 18:00)	Clayworth Memorial Hall, Town St, Clayworth, DN22 9AD	73

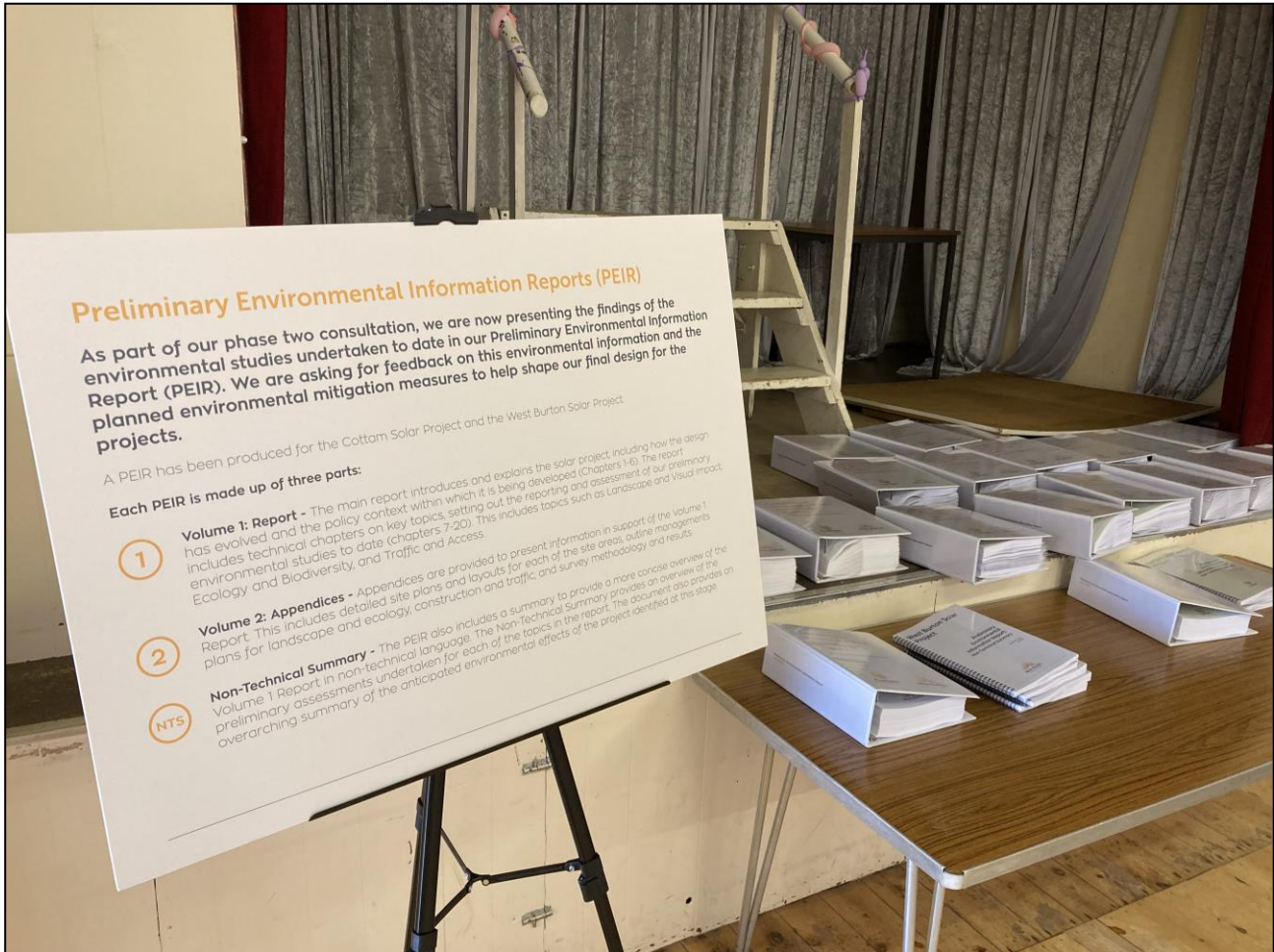
Thursday 23 June 2022 (15:30 – 19:30)	Saxilby Village Hall 34 High St, Saxilby, Lincoln LN1 2HA	40
Friday 24 June 2022 (11:00 -15:00)	Blyton Memorial Hall Church Ln, Blyton, Gainsborough DN21 3JZ	21
Saturday 25 June 2022 (12:30 – 16:30)	Marton and Gate Burton Village Hall, Trent Port Road, Marton, DN21 5AR	34
Monday 27 June 2022 (17:00 – 18:30)	Online meeting (hosted using Zoom for attendees to join by internet of telephone)	4
Friday 01 July 2022 (10:00 – 14:00)	Willingham Village Hall, High Street, Willingham by Stow, DN21 5JZ	33
Saturday 02 July 2022 (11:00 – 15:00)	Gringley on-the-Hill Community Centre, West Wells Lane, Gringley on the Hill, DN10 4QY	62
Tuesday 12 July 2022 (18:30 – 20:00)	Online meeting (hosted using Zoom for attendees to join by internet of telephone)	11
Total attendees		278

8.1.23 The following Scheme information was available at the public information events:

- Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet (included in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.7]**);
- Phase Two community Consultation Feedback Form (included in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.7]**);
- Large scale (A0) site layout plans (included in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.7]**);
- SoCC (copies to take away) (included in Appendix 5.6: Statement of Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.6]**);
- Phase Two information display boards (included in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.7]**);
- Scheme PEIR and all associated appendices; and
- Scheme PEIR NTS.

8.1.24 The Applicant team across the relevant disciplines were on hand to explain the Scheme and answer questions from members of the local community attending the events.

Figure 8.2: Photographs of materials available at public information events during the statutory Section 47 consultation period







Scheme website

- 8.1.25 The Applicant updated the Scheme website at the start of the statutory Section 47 consultation period to host relevant information and materials.
- 8.1.26 The following materials were free to view and download from the Scheme website:
- SoCC (in Appendix 5.6: Statement of Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.6]**);
 - Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet (included in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.7]**);
 - Phase Two Feedback Form (included in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.7]**);
 - Phase Two event display boards (included in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.7]**);
 - Section 47 notice (in Appendix 5.6: Statement of Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.6]**);
 - Section 48 notice (in Appendix 5.9: Section 48 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.9]**);
 - Image of proposed permissive path at Cottam 1 (included in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.7]**);

- Scheme PEIR Volume 1: Report;
- Scheme PEIR Volume 2: Appendices;
- Site layouts for the Scheme (included in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.7]**); and
- 360 degree Digital Viewpoint Photography.

8.1.27 The Scheme website also hosted a digital engagement platform enabling interested members of the public to provide feedback.

8.1.28 The digital engagement platform included questions consistent with the Phase Two Feedback Form, in addition to an interactive map allowing respondents to assign comments to specific locations. Images of the digital engagement platform are provided in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.7]**.

Consultation publicity

8.1.29 The consultation opportunities, including public information events, Scheme website, Scheme communications channels, CAPs, and response deadline were publicised in the following ways:

- A Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet, which was issued to all properties within the core consultation zone, available at CAP sites, and available on the Scheme website (a copy of the Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet is provided in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.7]**);
- Posters publicising the consultation opportunities were issued to 23 local information points to display across the consultation area (a copy of the poster is provided in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.7]**);
- Section 48 notices were placed in regional newspapers on successive weeks and in national newspapers, as listed in Table 10.1. A copy of the Section 48 notice is provided in Appendix 5.9: Section 48 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.9]**);
- Section 48 notices were also erected around the Scheme area (see Appendix 5.9: Section 48 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.9]** for display locations);
- The Scheme website, which was updated to publicise the consultation opportunities and make available consultation materials, including the Section 48 notice and Phase Two Community Consultation Leaflet; and
- A press release was issued to the regional and trade media. (A copy of the press release and publications issued to is included in Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.7]**).

Consultation response

8.1.30 The Applicant received 694 feedback responses to the Section 47 statutory consultation. Of these, 335 feedback submissions indicated the feedback was

relevant to the Scheme (rather than the West Burton Solar Project only). All comments were taken into consideration by the Applicant. The comments received are summarised in Chapter 11 and presented in detail in Appendix 5.10: Section 47 Applicant Response [EN010133/APP/C5.10], together with how the Applicant has had regard to the feedback when finalising the DCO application.

Interim reporting

- 8.1.31 A Phase Two Consultation Summary Report was published on 30 September 2022 to communicate a summary of the level of response to the phase two community consultation, the key themes raised through feedback, and how the Applicant was considering this feedback in the development of their proposals, including key design updates.
- 8.1.32 The Phase Two Consultation Summary Report was published on the dedicated Scheme website and issued to over 9,000 properties within the vicinity of the Scheme, to help consultees understand how their feedback was being considered. A copy of the Phase Two Consultation Summary Report is provided as Appendix 5.7: Phase Two Community Consultation Materials [EN010133/APP/C5.7] .
- 8.1.33 The Phase Two Consultation Summary Report was also shared with elected representatives and stakeholders.

Statement of compliance with consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act

- 8.1.34 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with Section 47 of the 2008 Act through the following activities:
- the Applicant consulted on the SoCC with all relevant local authorities as defined within Section 43(1) of the 2008 Act, giving them each at least 28 days to respond (see Chapter 7 of this report);
 - the Applicant advertised the SoCC in the publications listed in Table 7.2;
 - the Applicant commenced statutory consultation with the community through the publication of its SoCC on 09 June 2022 and in accordance with the SoCC (see Table 7.3);
 - the Applicant consulted with the community i.e. those persons defined under Section 47 of the 2008 Act as living in the vicinity of the land where the Scheme is, by reference to a core consultation zone and wider consultation area;
 - the Applicant notified and offered briefing meetings to elected representatives and key stakeholders;
 - the Applicant welcomed 278 members of the public across eight public information events, held in-person and online;
 - the Applicant purposely ran the phase two Section 47 consultation in parallel to Section 42 consultation to invite responses from the community to the PEIR and PEIR NTS; and

- A total response period of 43 days was provided for the statutory Section 47 consultation, in excess of the minimum period of 28 days.

9 Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Act (June 2022 – July 2022)

Introduction

9.1.1 This chapter of the Consultation Report details the statutory consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act ('Section 42 consultation') and provides an overview of the consultation activities that took place during the statutory consultation period commencing 15 June 2022 and closing on 27 July 2022.

Statutory Requirements and Guidance

9.1.2 Section 42 of the 2008 Act requires that the Applicant must consult the following groups of stakeholders about the proposed Application:

- a) Such persons as may be prescribed;
- b) Each local authority that is within Section 43;
- c) Each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.

9.1.3 In relation to section 42(1)(a) the Applicant consulted all persons listed as a prescribed consultee notified by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State under Regulation 11(1)(a) and (c) of the EIA Regulations referred to in this Consultation Report as the 'Section 42 consultees' and listed in Appendix 5.8 Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**.

9.1.4 In addition to the prescribed consultees identified by the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant included a further 13 non-prescribed organisations to be consulted as Section 42 consultees (see 5.8 Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**, which details those prescribed and non-prescribed consultees). All of these Section 42 consultees were issued the same Scheme information and were included in the same way in the Section 42 consultation as the Section 42 consultees identified by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State. Scheme information was issued to Section 42 consultees in writing by post and/or email, depending on contact details available to the Applicant.

9.1.5 In relation to Section 42(1)(b), the local authorities under the definitions set out in Section 43 of the 2008 Act were consulted. Table 9.1 includes a list of relevant local authorities and their classification, as defined by the 2008 act.

9.1.6 For the purposes of Section 42(1)(d), a person is within Section 44 of the 2008 Act if the Applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land; is interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land; or is entitled to make a relevant claim if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented.

9.1.7 The relevant persons defined under Section 44 of the 2008 Act were consulted as part of the Section 42 consultation between 15 June 2022 and 27 July 2022. The list of land interests consulted is provided in Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**.

9.1.8 Section 45(1) of the 2008 Act states that the Applicant, when consulting a stakeholder under Section 42, must provide notification of the deadline for responses to the consultation. Section 45(2) states that such a deadline must not be less than 28 days. The Applicant gave Section 42 consultees a period of 43 days (from 15 June to 27 July 2022) for consultation responses. This deadline for responses was communicated in a Section 42 covering letter, which is provided in 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010133/APP/C5.8]..

Preliminary environmental information

9.1.9 The PEIR and PEIR NTS were produced as part of the statutory consultation documents for the Section 42 consultation with the Section 42 consultees (and also made available for the parallel phase two Section 47 statutory consultation).

9.1.10 The PEIR comprised of the information specified in Regulation 12(2) of the EIA Regulations which has been compiled by the Applicant and is reasonably required for consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme.

9.1.11 A PEIR NTS was also produced, recognising that some Section 42 consultees may wish to view a more easily digestible document.

Identifying Section 42 consultees

9.1.12 The Applicant consulted all statutory bodies listed by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State under Regulation 11(1)(a) and (c) of the EIA Regulations in the Scoping Opinion dated 09 March 2022 to be prescribed Section 42 consultees.

9.1.13 In addition, the Applicant also treated 13 non-prescribed bodies as Section 42 consultees. These bodies were representatives of Seldom Heard Groups, a list of which were presented to local planning authorities through consultation on the draft SoCC.

9.1.14 Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials [EN010133/APP/C5.8] includes a list of the Section 42 consultees for the Scheme.

9.1.15 The Applicant notified Section 42 consultees of the statutory consultation by issuing the following package of correspondence by post on 13 June 2022:

- a Section 42 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request;
- A site plan showing the location of the Scheme; and
- A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).

9.1.16 The Applicant also contacted Section 42 stakeholders by email on 15 June 2022, where contact details were available.

Identifying Section 43 consultees

- 9.1.17 Section 42(1)(b) of the 2008 Act places a duty for the Applicant to consult each local authority that is within Section 43.
- 9.1.18 Section 43 defines what a local authority is for the purposes of section 42 i.e. any local authority in whose area proposed development would be sited and neighbouring authorities sharing a boundary.
- 9.1.19 Local Authorities are classified by the 2008 Act as “A”, “B”, “C”, or “D” depending on if the development is sited in their area (“B” and “C”) or not (“A” and “D”), and depending on the tier of the local authority.
- 9.1.20 The Applicant identified and consulted with local authorities identified in accordance with Section 43 of the 2008 Act. These local authorities are listed in Table 9.1, and referred to in this Consultation Report as ‘Section 43 consultees’.

Table 9.1: Relevant local authorities under Section 43 of the 2008 Act

Local authority	Classification under Section 43
West Lindsey District Council	B
Bassetlaw District Council	B
Lincolnshire County Council	C
Nottinghamshire County Council	C
North Kesteven District Council	A
Newark and Sherwood District Council	A
Mansfield District Council	A
Bolsover District Council	A
East Lindsey District Council	A
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	A
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	A
Rutland County Council	D
North Northamptonshire Council	D
Nottingham City Council	D
North East Lincolnshire Council	D
City of Lincoln Council	D
Peterborough City Council	D
Cambridgeshire County Council	D
Derbyshire County Council	D
Norfolk County Council	D
Leicestershire County Council	D
North Lincolnshire Council	D

9.1.21 The Applicant notified Section 43 consultees of the statutory consultation by issuing the following package of correspondence on 13 June 2022 in writing by post:

- a Section 42 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (provided in Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**);
- A site plan showing the location of the Scheme (provided in Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**); and
- A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge) (provided in Appendix 5.9: Section 48 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.9]**);

9.1.22 Following the phase two (statutory) consultation, the Applicant's records indicated that North Lincolnshire Council and the Marine Management Organisation may not have received a written notification ahead of the statutory consultation period. The Applicant therefore provided separate periods of consultation for these consultees at a later date. The Applicant notified North Lincolnshire Council on 25 November 2022 and the Marine Management Organisation on 15 December 2022 of these consultations by issuing the following package of correspondence by email (with North Lincolnshire Council also receiving these documents by post):

- a Section 42 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (example letter provided in Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**);
- A site plan showing the location of the Scheme (provided in Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**); and
- A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge) (provided in Appendix 5.9: Section 48 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.9]**);

9.1.23 The Applicant provided a response deadline of 03 January 2023 for North Lincolnshire Council and 12 January 2023 for the Marine Management Organisation, therefore exceeding the statutory minimum requirement of 28 days.

Identifying Section 44 consultees

9.1.24 Section 42(1)(d) of the 2008 Act places a duty for the Applicant consult each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.

9.1.25 The Applicant sought to identify the section 42(1)(d) consultees by undertaking diligent inquiry before the statutory consultation commenced. This included

reviewing publicly available data (for example at the Land Registry), sending out Land Interest Questionnaires, undertaking site visits and erecting site notices.

- 9.1.26 The Applicant notified 560 Section 44 consultees by letter on 14 June 2022, ahead of the statutory consultation period commencing on 15 June 2022. These consultees were informed of a response deadline of 27 July 2022, exceeding the statutory requirement of 28 days.
- 9.1.27 Where owners, lessees, tenants or occupiers were unknown, the Applicant placed notices detailing the consultation at the relevant locations around the Scheme site area.
- 9.1.28 An example of the notice and a map showing the locations where the notices were placed is included in Appendix 5.9: Section 48 Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.9]**. During the consultation period, the signs were checked on a weekly basis, with photographs taken on each visit. If a notice was damaged or missing it was replaced during these visits.
- 9.1.29 The Applicant notified a further 122 Section 44 consultees following the start of the phase two statutory consultation period (15 June 2022). Each consultee was notified by letter and provided with a response deadline of at least 28 days.
- 9.1.30 The list of all land interests consulted is presented in Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]** (hereafter referred to in this Consultation Report as ‘Section 44 consultees’). This appendix details the date on which they were notified of consultation and the deadline provided to them for responding.
- 9.1.31 All persons listed in the Book of Reference **[EN010133/APP/C4.3]**, which is up to date at the time of submitting the application for a DCO, were consulted under section 42(1)(d). It is noted that the list of persons with an interest in land is subject to change over time, as a result of changes in land ownership.
- 9.1.32 The Applicant informed the Section 44 consultees of the consultation by issuing the following package of correspondence by post:
- A Section 44 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials on the Scheme website and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (provided as Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**);
 - A site plan showing the location of the Scheme (provided as Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**); and
 - A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge) (provided as Appendix 5.9: Section 48 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**).

9.1.33 The Applicant received nine responses from Section 44 consultees to the Section 42 consultation. These are detailed in Appendix 5.11: Section 42 Applicant Response **[EN010133/APP/C5.11]** and summarised in Chapter 12.

9.1.34 The Applicant also notes that many Section 44 consultees would also have been notified of the Section 47 consultation, as described in Chapter 8, and may have therefore chosen to provide their responses to the Section 47 consultation without indicating they were also a Section 44 consultee. In these cases, their feedback will have been captured as Section 47 feedback and presented in Chapter 11 and Appendix 5.10: Section 47 Applicant Response **[EN010133/APP/C5.10]**.

Duty to notify the planning inspectorate of the proposed application under Section 46 of the 2008 act

9.1.35 Prior to commencing Section 42 consultation, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State of its intention to submit an application for development consent for the Scheme under Section 46 of the 2008 Act. The notification was sent to the Planning Inspectorate electronically on 10 June 2022, including the following attachments:

- a Section 46 covering letter, including a link to the consultation materials on the Scheme website and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (included in Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**);
- example copies of the Section 42 covering letters (one letter type being for Section 42 consultees and the other one for Section 44 consultees) (included in Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**);
- a site plan showing the location of the Scheme (included in Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**); and
- a copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge) (included in Appendix 5.9: Section 48 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.9]**).

9.1.36 The Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State acknowledged receipt of the notification on 21 June 2022. A copy of this acknowledgement is included in Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**.

Undertaking Section 42 Consultation

9.1.37 In summary, Section 42 consultees (including those defined under Section 43 and Section 44) were notified of the commencement of the Section 42 consultation in writing on or before 15 June 2022. The following documents were provided to Section 42 consultees:

- a relevant covering letter, explaining why the consultee had been contacted and including a link to the consultation materials on the Scheme website

and an offer to provide materials free-of-charge on USB by request (included in Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**);

- A site plan showing the location of the Scheme (included in Appendix 5.8: Section 42 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.8]**); and
- A copy of the notice publicising the application under Section 48 of the 2008 Act (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge) (included in Appendix 5.9: Section 48 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.9]**).

9.1.38 The PEIR formed part of the Section 42 consultation document under Section 45(3) of the 2008 Act. Section 42 consultees were also directed towards the Section 47 community consultation materials, as described in Chapter 8.

9.1.39 With the Section 42 consultation period commencing on 15 June 2022 and ending on 27 July 2022, this provided a response period of 43 days (therefore exceeding the minimum 28-day statutory period set out in Section 45(2) of the 2008 Act).

9.1.40 In total 43 responses were received from Section 42 consultees to the Section 42 consultation. An overview of the Section 42 feedback and Applicant's response is provided in Chapter 12, with a more detailed record of Section 42 feedback provided as Appendix 5.11: Section 42 Applicant Response **[EN010133/APP/C5.11]**.

Statement of Compliance with Formal Consultation under Section 42

9.1.41 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with Sections 42, 44, 45 and 46 of the 2008 Act by undertaking the following activity:

- The Applicant consulted with such persons as may be prescribed (Sections 42(1)(a) – (d)) and relevant to the Scheme, including landowners under Section 44;
- A number of additional non-prescribed consultees were scoped in as Section 42 consultees;
- Notification of the Scheme under Section 46 was provided to the Secretary of State on 10 June 2022, before the start of the consultation period; and
- A total response period of 43 days was provided for Section 42 consultation, exceeding the statutory period of 28 days.

10 Statutory consultation under Section 48 of the 2008 Act

Introduction

10.1.1 This chapter details how the Applicant has complied with Section 48 of the 2008 Act (duty to publicise).

Statutory requirements and guidance

10.1.2 Section 48 of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to publicise the proposed Application in the prescribed manner. A deadline for receipt of comments to the publicity must also be provided.

10.1.3 Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations sets out what the publicity under Section 48 of the 2008 Act should entail, which essentially is the publication of a notice in given publications, with requirements on the contents of such notice. Specifically, Regulation 4 requires an applicant to publish the notice for two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers, once in a national newspaper, and once in the London Gazette.

10.1.4 Paragraph 41 of the DCLG Guidance notes that publicity under Section 48 is an integral part of the community consultation process and where possible the advertisements in local newspapers should coincide with the beginning of consultation with communities under Section 47. The Applicant complied with this guidance.

10.1.5 For the Scheme, Section 48 publicity took place in parallel with the phase two (statutory under Section 47) community consultation, Section 42 consultation, and publication of the PEIR. The parallel consultation process provided the same response times for the Section 47, 42 and 48 consultations, i.e. 15 June to 27 July 2022.

10.1.6 Evidence of compliance with the relevant legislation is provided in Appendix 3.1.

Publication of notice

10.1.7 The Section 48 notice (included in Appendix 5.9: Section 48 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.9]**) publicising the Scheme and advertising the intention to apply for a DCO was placed in the publications listed in Table 10.1

10.1.8 All consultees identified under Section 42 of the 2008 Act were provide with a copy of the Section 48 notice as required by Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations and described in Chapter 9.

10.1.9 Copies of the notices as placed in the newspapers are provided in Appendix 5.9: Section 48 Consultation Materials **[EN010133/APP/C5.9]**.

Table 10.1: Publication schedule of Section 48 notice

Publication	First Insertion	Second Insertion
The Guardian	07 June 2022	
London Gazette	06 June 2022	
The Lincolnshire Echo	09 June 2022	16 June 2022
The Retford Times	09 June 2022	16 June 2022

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

10.1.11 The Applicant erected Section 48 notices around the Scheme site area. The notice and map of locations for the notices are shown in Appendix 5.9: Section 48 Consultation Materials [EN010133/APP/C5.9]. The Applicant checked the locations of the Section 48 notices weekly during the consultation period, replacing any that had been removed or damaged.

Statement of Compliance with formal consultation under Section 48

10.1.12 In summary, the Applicant fully complied with Section 48 of the 2008 Act by undertaking the following activities:

- The Applicant publicised the Scheme in appropriate newspapers in the prescribed manner, as listed in Table 10.1;
- The Applicant held the Section 48 consultation in parallel with the Section 42 consultation and Section 47 consultation, notifying consultees of the PEIR and where the consultation documents could be reviewed; and
- The Applicant placed Section 48 notices around the Scheme site area.

11 Section 47 statutory consultation: responses received, issues raised and changes made

Overview

- 11.1.1 The phase two community consultation was statutory under Section 47 of the 2008 Planning Act.
- 11.1.2 This consultation was held over a six-week period, between Wednesday 15 June 2022 and Wednesday 27 July 2022. This was a joint consultation on the Scheme and West Burton Solar Project, for the reasons described in Sections 2.2.2. and 7.2.2. of this Consultation Report.
- 11.1.3 The Applicant invited feedback to be submitted in writing or online via the free-to-use project communications channels. This included an online digital engagement platform, through which respondents could answer questions and submit location-specific feedback through an interactive map.
- 11.1.4 During the phase two consultation, the Applicant received 694 pieces of feedback. This included 195 hard copy feedback forms, 320 responses to the digital engagement platform, and 179 written responses received by email or Freepost. Of these responses, 335 feedback submissions indicated the feedback was relevant to the Scheme (rather than the West Burton Solar Project only).
- 11.1.5 The phase two feedback form (both the paper copy and digital engagement platform version) included a mix of closed and open-ended questions to encourage responses regarding the respondent's interest in the Scheme, the proposals, community benefits, and the consultation process.
- 11.1.6 Responses provided through the feedback form or digital engagement platform therefore included responses to closed (multiple choice) questions and open-ended responses. The quantitative data from the closed questions is presented in Section 11.2 of this report. The qualitative data from the open ended responses has been considered alongside written feedback received through email and Freepost, and is summarised in Table 11.2 and presented in full in Appendix 5.10: Section 47 Applicant Response [EN010133/APP/C5.10], along with the Applicant's response to this feedback.

Quantitative analysis of responses received

- 11.1.7 Table 11.1 presents a summary of the quantitative data gathered by the Applicant through their feedback form and digital engagement platform. The results are presented visually in Figures 11.1 to 11.10.

Table 11.1: Summary of quantitative data from phase two consultation

Question number	Feedback question	Analysis of response data
1.	How would you describe your interest?	224 respondents answered this question. Of those, 86 indicated that

		<p>their feedback was relevant to West Burton Solar Project only. Therefore, the Applicant considered 138 responses to this question relevant to Scheme.</p> <p>The vast majority (83%) described their interest as being a local resident.</p> <p>Other respondents identified as being landowners (5%), local business owners (4%), members of a local interest group (2%), local representatives (1%), or 'other' (4%).</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 11.1.</p>
2.	Are you providing your feedback on only one of the solar projects, or both?	<p>490 respondents answered this question.</p> <p>50% of respondents indicated their feedback was relevant to West Burton Project.</p> <p>Therefore, the Applicant considered 244 responses to be relevant to the Scheme. This comprised 11% of respondents indicating their feedback was only relevant to the Scheme, and 39% indicating their responses were relevant to both the Scheme and West Burton Solar Project.</p> <p>30 respondents did not answer this question. The Applicant has therefore considered their feedback as relevant to the Scheme.</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 11.2.</p>
Q3.a.	Based on the new information presented as	<p>479 respondents answered this question. Of those, 234 indicated that their feedback was relevant to West</p>

	<p>part of our phase two consultation, how supportive are you of our emerging solar project proposals, which would generate clean, affordable, and reliable renewable energy for the national grid, with energy storage for when it is needed most?</p>	<p>Burton Solar Project only. Therefore, the Applicant considered 245 responses to this question relevant to Scheme.</p> <p>64% of respondents indicated they strongly opposed the proposals.</p> <p>Of the respondents to this question, 234 respondents indicated that their feedback was specific to West Best Burton Solar Project only. 245 responses to this question were therefore considered to apply to the Scheme.</p> <p>64% indicated that they strongly opposed the proposals. 19% indicated varying degrees of support.</p> <p>These results are presented in Figure 11.3.</p>
<p>Q4.a.</p>	<p>What environmental issues relating to the proposals are most important to you? Please tick the relevant boxes.</p>	<p>192 respondents completed this question. Of those, 75 indicated that their feedback was relevant to West Burton Solar Project only. Therefore, the Applicant considered 117 responses to this question relevant to Scheme.</p> <p>The most frequently selected environmental issue was 'Land quality and use', with 71% of respondents selecting this topic.</p> <p>Other frequently selected environmental topics were 'Landscape and views' (66%), 'Local ecology and biodiversity' (60%), and 'Traffic, access and construction' (51%).</p> <p>The Applicant notes that respondents could select more than one Site, and</p>

		<p>therefore percentages will exceed 100%.</p> <p>The results of this question are presented in Figure 11.4.</p>
Q5.a.	<p>We have shared with you our detailed designs for the site layout at all of the 8 sites we have proposed, do you have specific comments on our design for any of the sites?</p>	<p>107 respondents indicated that they were commenting on a specific Site or Sites within the Scheme.</p> <p>Of these respondents, 94% indicated they were commenting on Cottam 1, 55% commenting on Cottam 2, and 53% on Cottam 3.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that respondents could select more than one Site, and therefore percentages will exceed 100%.</p> <p>413 respondents did not indicate that their comments were specific to a Site within the Scheme.</p> <p>The results of this question are presented in Figure 11.5.</p>
Q6.a.	<p>Since phase one we have worked to refine our cable route corridors (areas within which the exact routes of the cables could go). We have now presented you with our refined proposals for more specific cable routes for each project. Do you have any specific comments on our cable routes for either of the projects?</p>	<p>77 respondents indicated that they were commenting on a cable route relevant to a specific Site or Sites within the Scheme.</p> <p>Of these respondents, 94% indicated they were commenting on a cable route associated with Cottam 1, 60% commenting on Cottam 2, and 58% on Cottam 3.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that respondents could select more than one Site, and therefore percentages will exceed 100%.</p>

		<p>443 respondents did not indicate that their comments were specific to a cable route associated with a Site within the Scheme.</p> <p>The results of this question are presented in Figure 11.6.</p>
Q8.	<p>In the PEIR we have shown photographs looking towards the sites taken from publicly accessible viewpoints. Please share with us suggestions you have on your preferred landscaping measures, including for example the positioning of the infrastructure and location of tree planting. Please indicate which site your comments refer to.</p>	<p>69 respondents indicated that they were commenting on landscaping measures relevant to a specific Site or Sites within the Scheme.</p> <p>Of these respondents, 91% indicated they were commenting on a landscaping measures associated with Cottam 1, 52% commenting on Cottam 3, and 51% on Cottam 2.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that respondents could select more than one Site, and therefore percentages will exceed 100%.</p> <p>451 respondents did not indicate that their comments were specific to landscaping measures associated with a Site within the Scheme.</p> <p>The results of this question are presented in Figure 11.7.</p>
Q10.a.	<p>We present updated community benefit proposals for Permissive Paths around Cottam 1. Do you think these provide suitable benefits for the local community?</p>	<p>286 respondents answered this question.</p> <p>Of these respondents, 10% agreed that the proposed permissive path around Cottam provides suitable benefits to local community.</p> <p>67% of respondents did not agree, while 23% of respondents were unsure.</p>

		The results of this question are presented in Figure 11.8.
Q11.	Have you attended one of our information events?	<p>182 respondents completed this question. Of those, 74 indicated that their feedback was relevant to West Burton Solar Project only. Therefore, the Applicant considered 108 responses to this question relevant to Scheme.</p> <p>45% of these respondents had attended a public information event. 55% of respondents had not attended a public information event.</p> <p>The results of this question are presented in Figure 11.9.</p>
Q12.	How informative did you find our consultation materials?	<p>164 respondents completed this question. Of those, 66 indicated that their feedback was relevant to West Burton Solar Project only. Therefore, the Applicant considered 98 responses to this question relevant to Scheme.</p> <p>The most frequent response was 'Quite informative', with 40% of respondents selecting this option.</p> <p>15% of respondents found the materials to be 'Very informative', while 29% found them 'Not informative'.</p> <p>16% of respondents to this question had no opinion.</p> <p>The results of this question are presented in Figure 11.10.</p>

Figure 11.1: Response to Question 1.

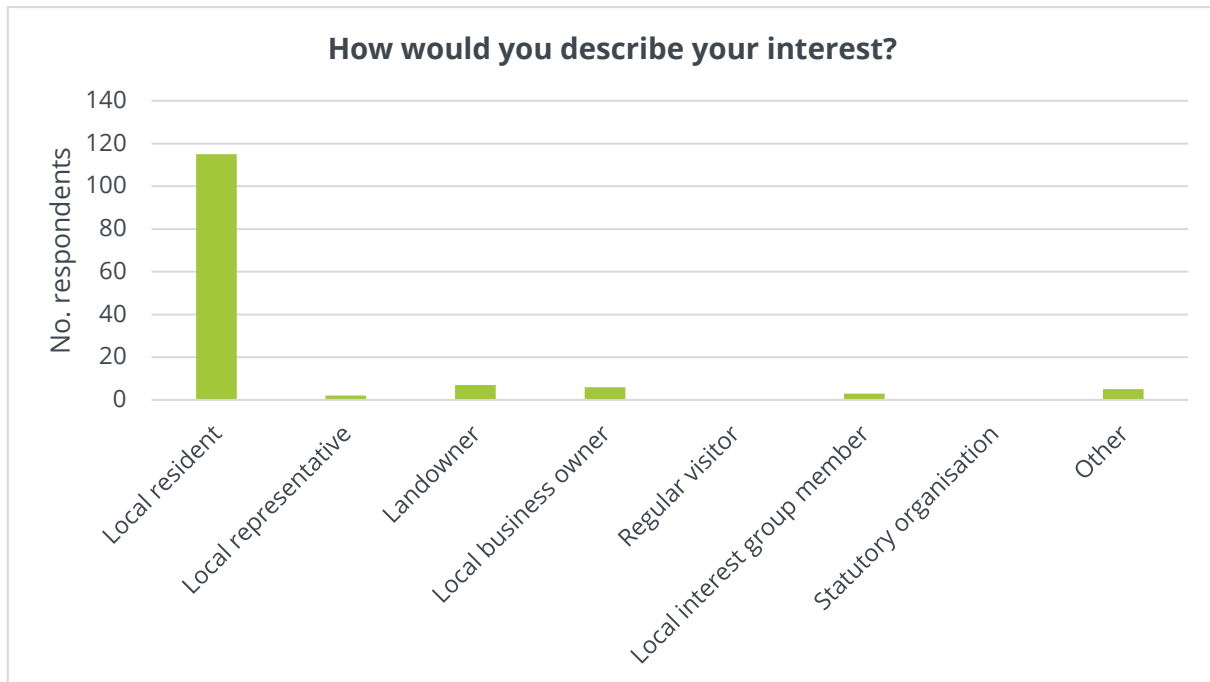


Figure 11.2: Response to Question 2.

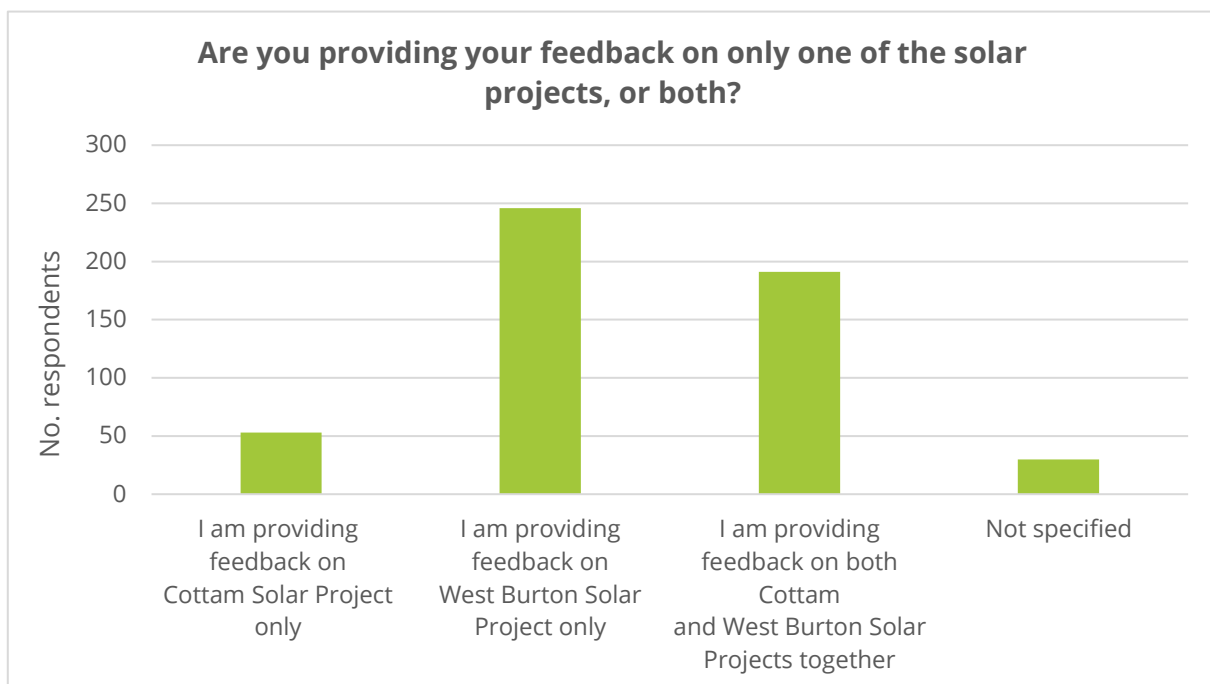


Figure 11.3: Response to Question 3.a.

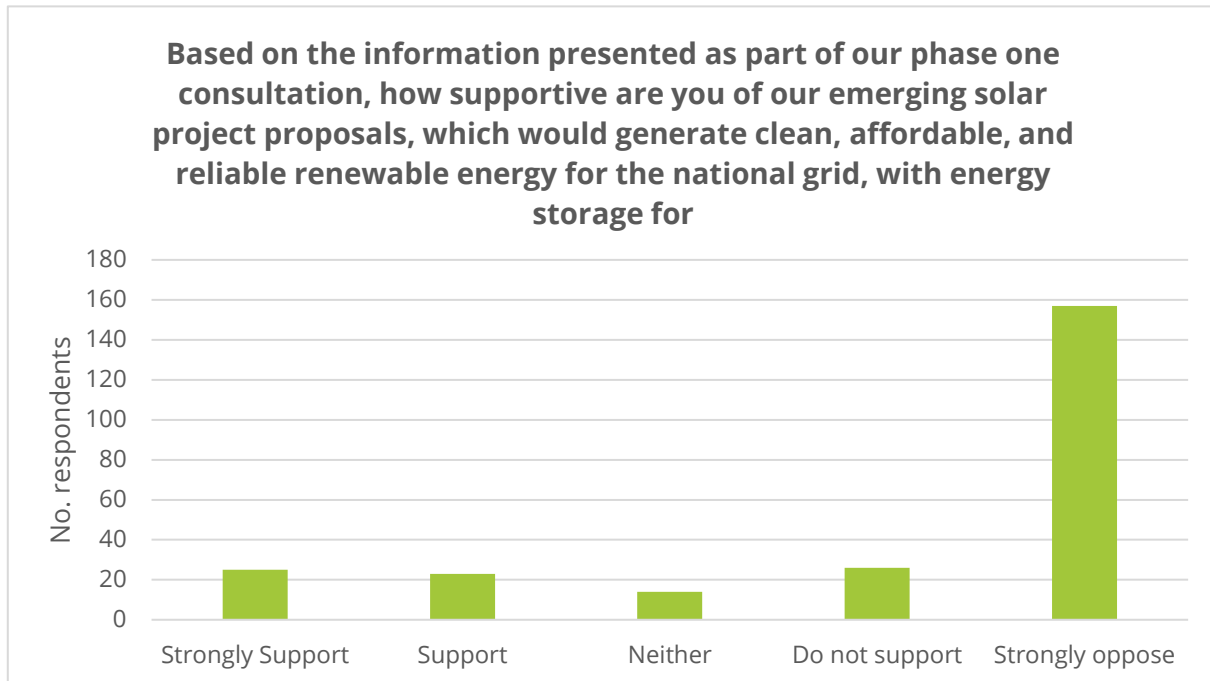


Figure 11.4 : Response to Question 4.a.

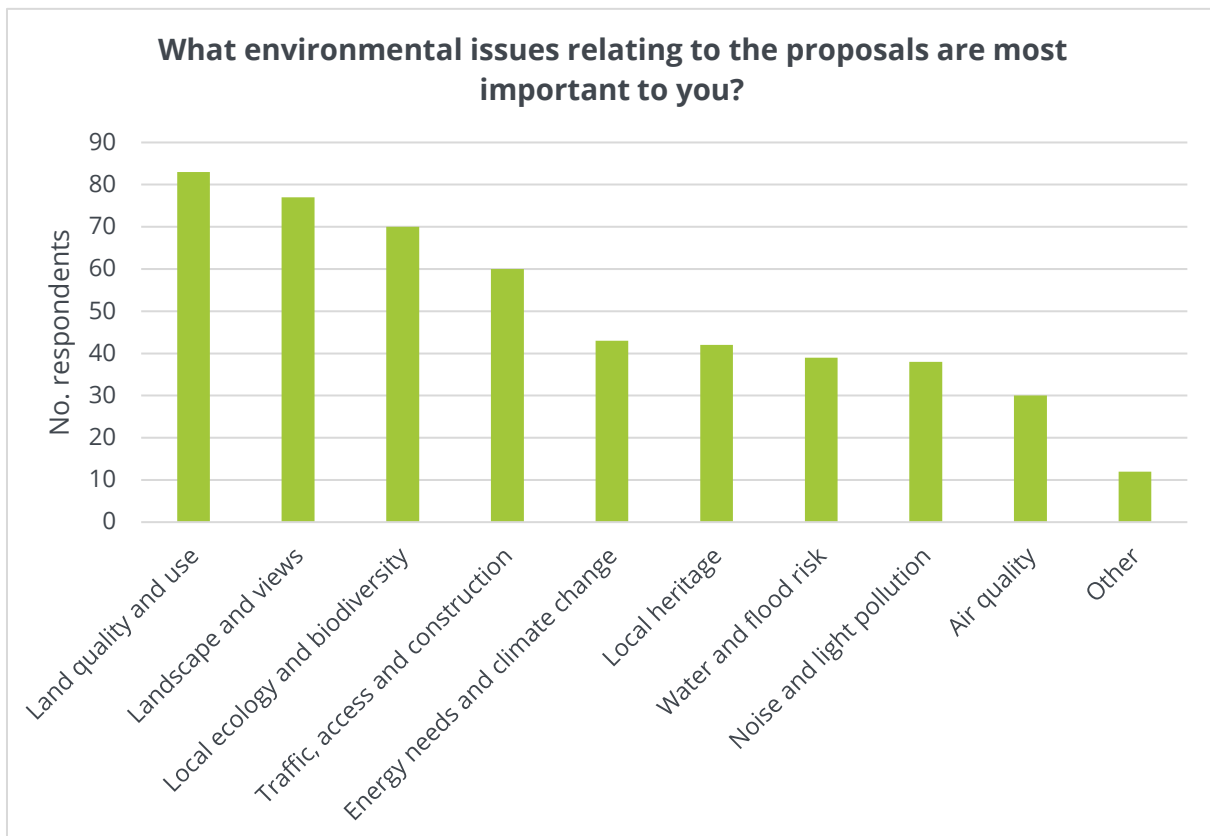


Figure 11.5 : Response to Question 5.a.

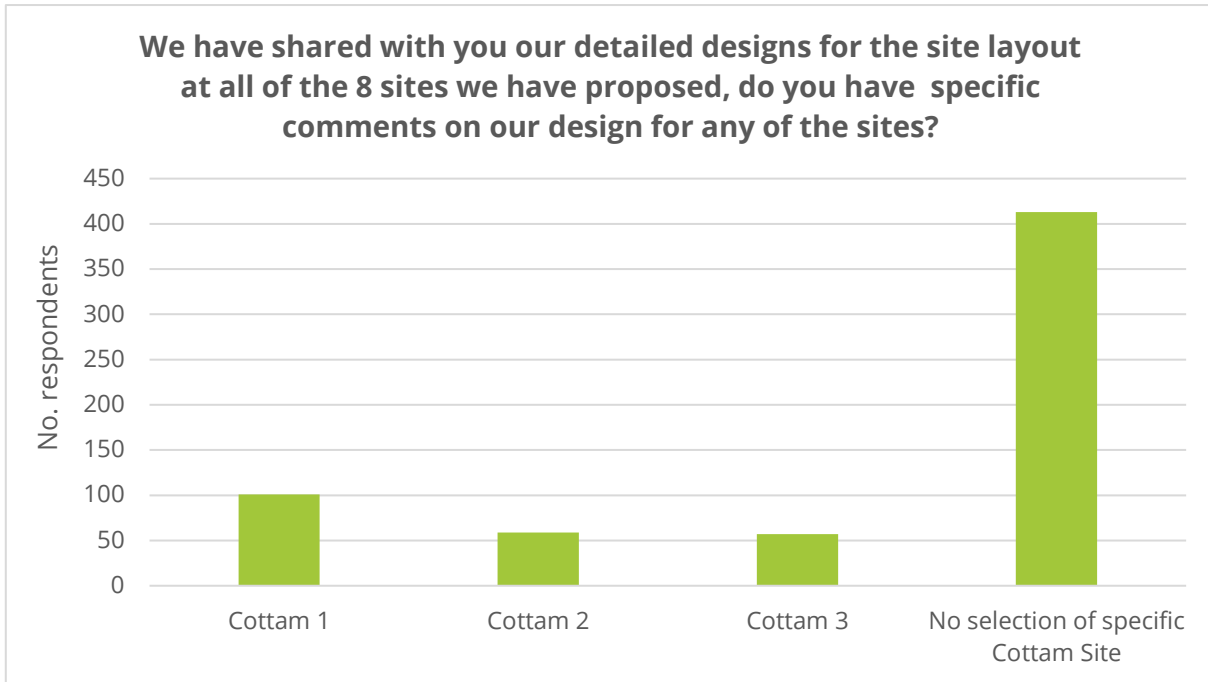


Figure 11.6 : Response to Question 6.a.

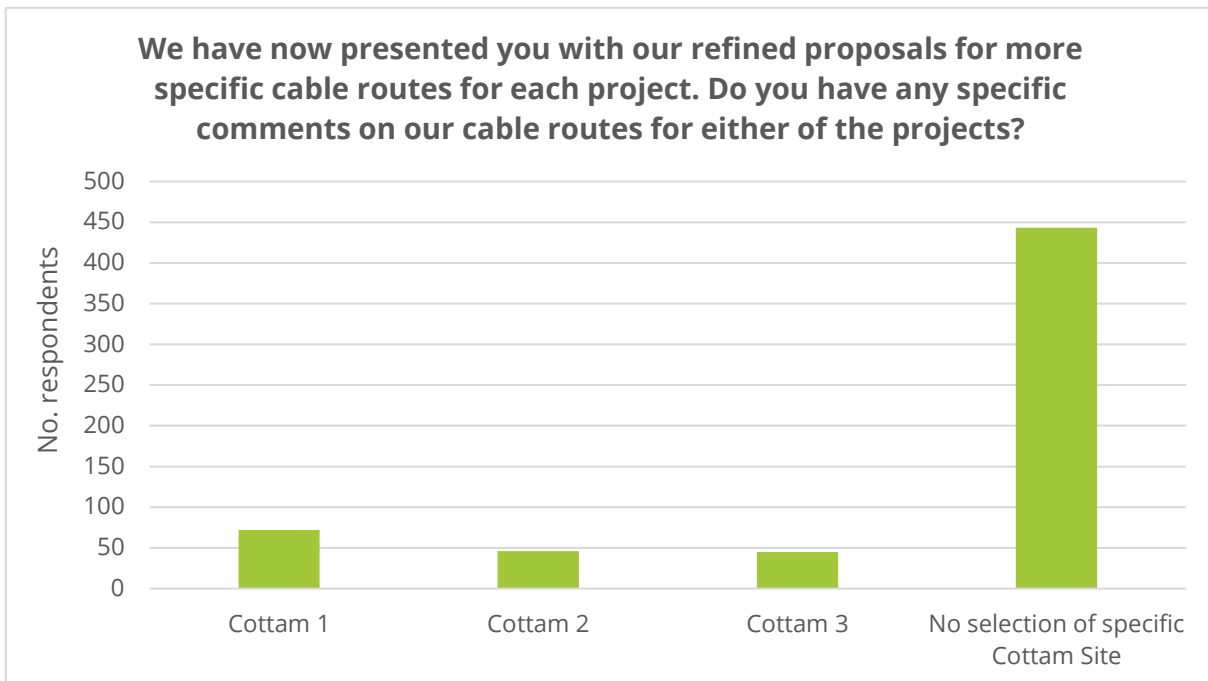


Figure 11.7 : Response to Question 8.

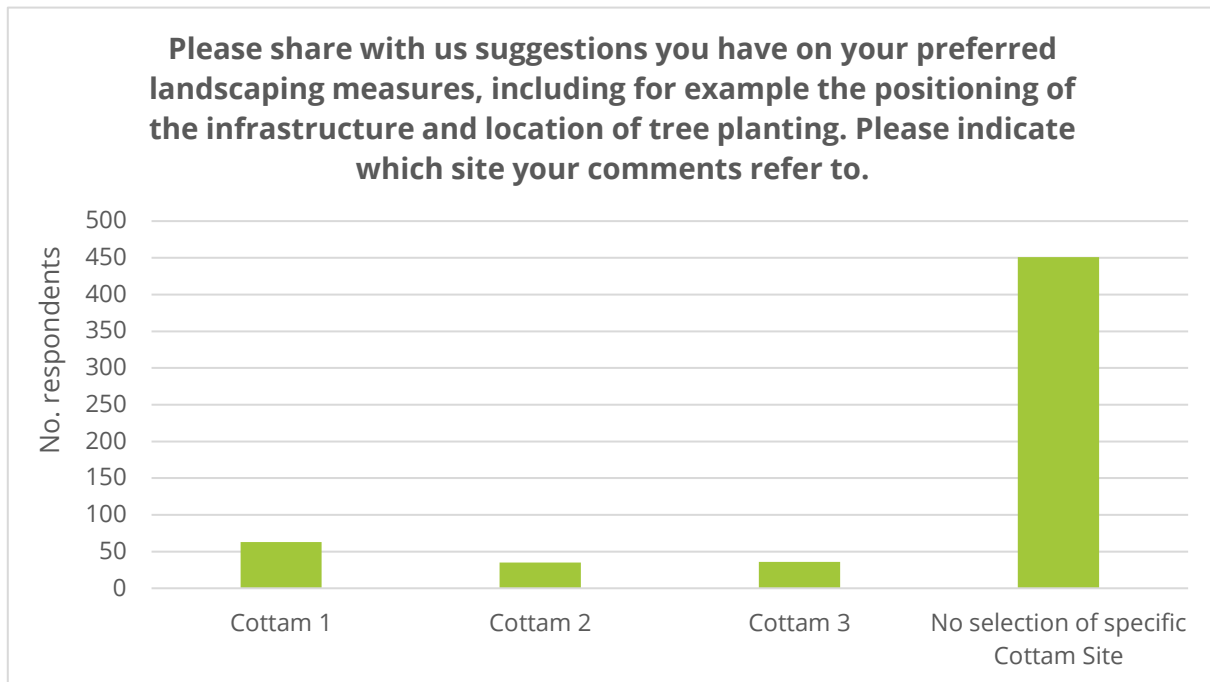


Figure 11.8 : Response to Question 10.a.

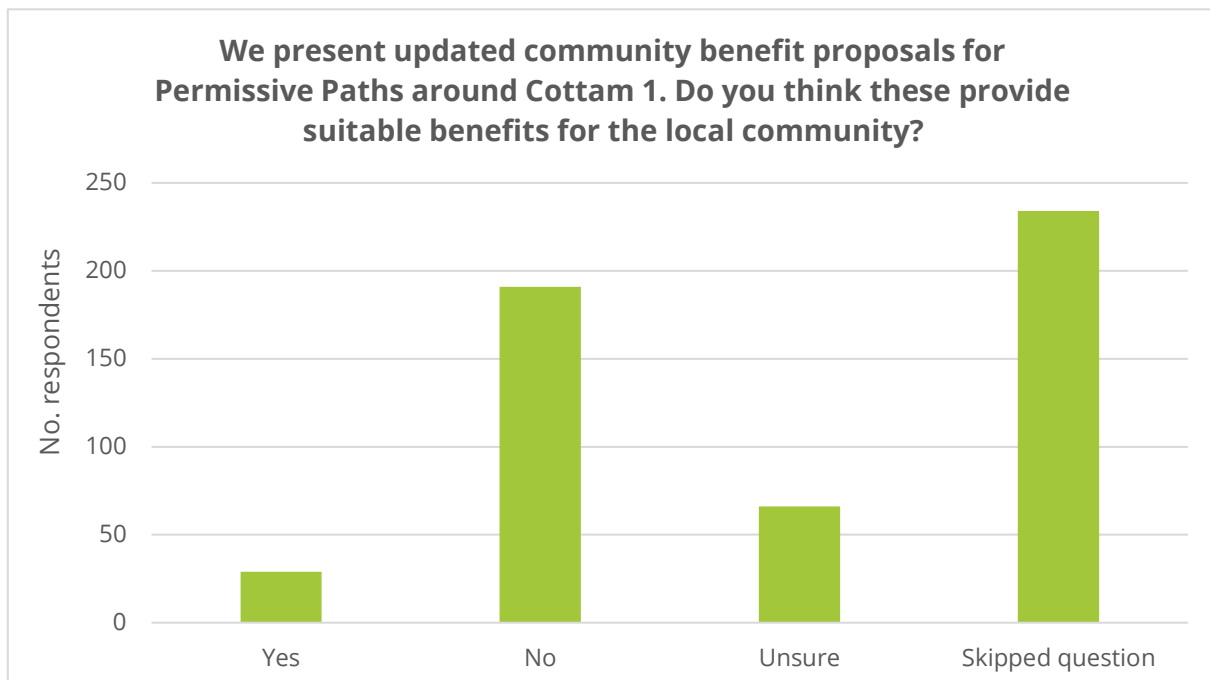


Figure 11.9 : Response to Question 11.

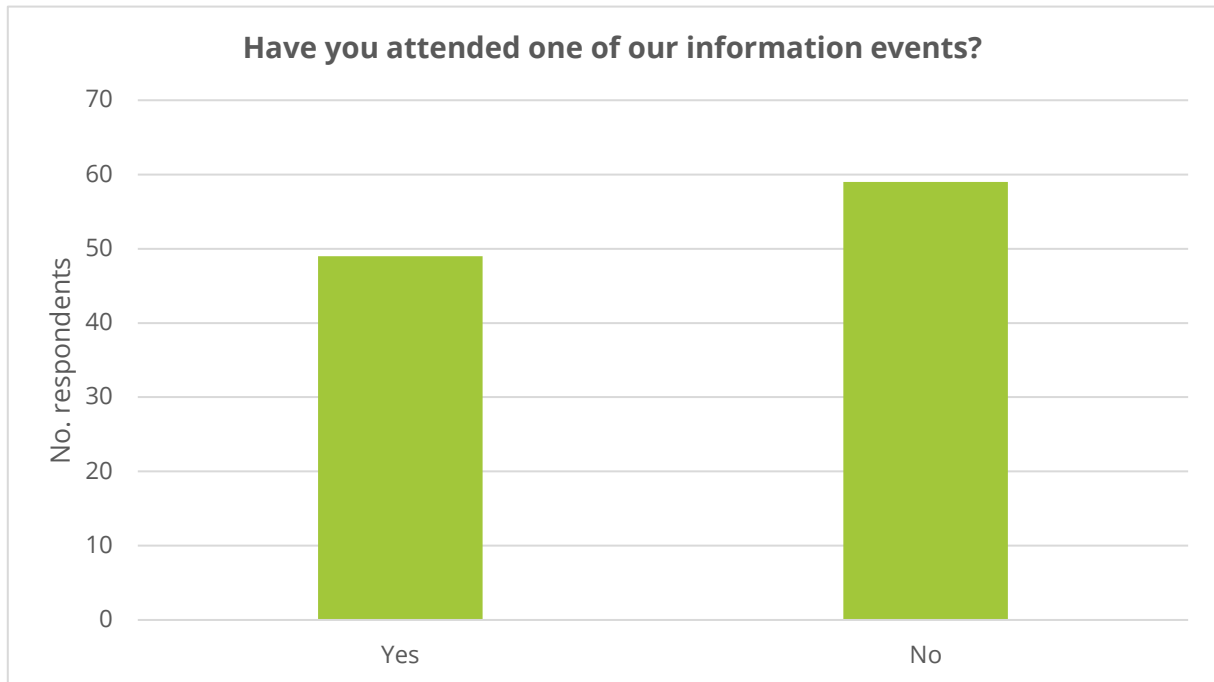
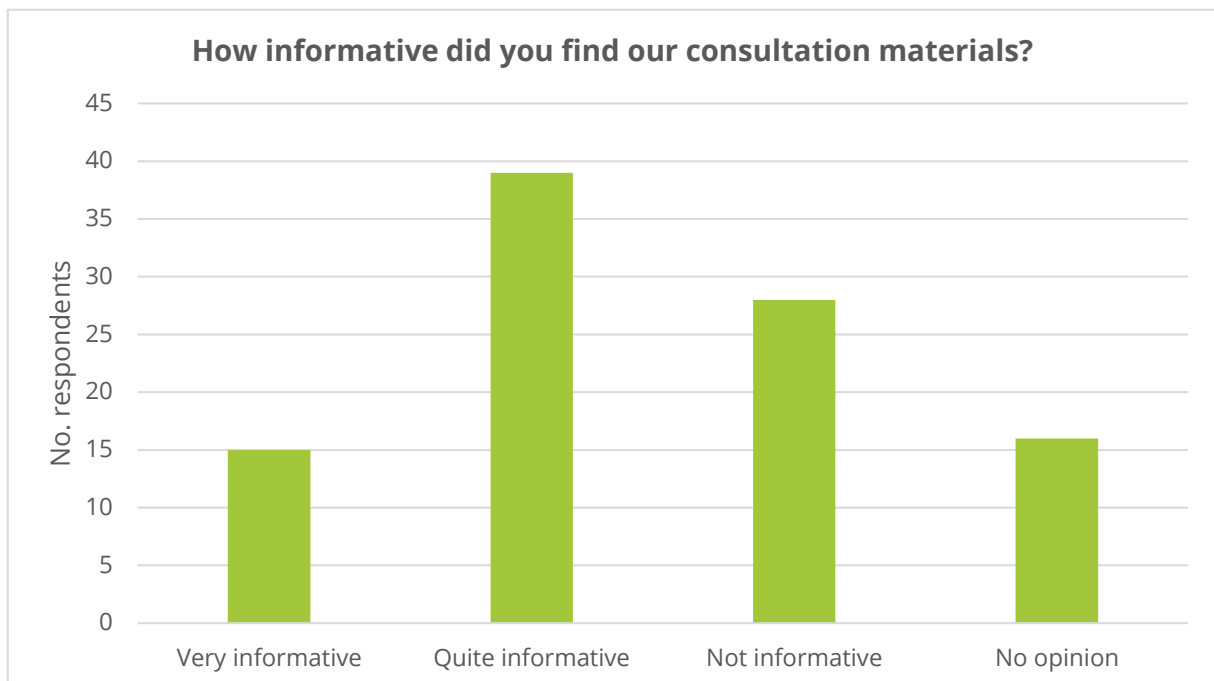


Figure 11.10 : Response to Question 12.



Qualitative analysis of responses received

- 11.1.8 Table 11.2 presents a summary of the qualitative data from the written responses received by the Applicant to their phase two consultation. This includes a summary of how the Applicant has considered this feedback in developing the Scheme, consistent with Section 49 of the 2008 Act.
- 11.1.9 A detailed record of all comments received and the Applicant's response to these comments is provided as Appendix 5.10: Section 47 Applicant Response [EN010133/APP/C5.10].

Table 11.2: Summary qualitative data from phase two consultation, including how the Applicant has considered this feedback.

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
Soils and agriculture		
<p>A prevalent feedback theme was comments on the current agricultural land use of the Sites.</p> <p>Respondents expressed a clear request for the Scheme to avoid Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this feedback and appreciates the importance of agricultural land.</p> <p>Impacts upon agricultural land have been assessed within Chapter 19 (Soils and Agriculture) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.19], which includes detailed agricultural land classification (ALC) assessment of the Sites.</p> <p>The ALC results have informed the removal of some fields containing best and most versatile land.</p> <p>Table 5.6-5.9 of Chapter 5 (Alternatives and Design Evolution) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.5] details the design evolution that has led to the majority of BMV land being removed from the Scheme.</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>The finalised Scheme contains only 4.07% Best and Most Versatile land and clear justification for why these small areas remain within the Scheme is set out at Tables 5.6 - 5.9 of ES Chapter 5.</p> <p>The Applicant also notes that the Scheme will be temporary with no permanent loss of agricultural land extent or quality, and that some agricultural land could be retained during the operational phase, for example pasture grazed by sheep.</p>
Site selection and alternatives		
<p>Respondents frequently requested for alternative Sites to be considered, with enquiries regarding the Applicant's site selection criteria.</p> <p>These comments included requests for solar panels to be sited on brownfield sites or rooftops (commercial and residential) instead of on agricultural land.</p> <p>A number of respondents indicated support for solar PV as a technology but did not support the Scheme</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>A Statement of Need [EN010133/APP/C7.11] has been submitted as part of the application. In reviewing the policies and information available regarding solar generation and the need to decarbonise, it is the Applicant's view that large-scale solar must be considered as additional to, as opposed to instead of, the need for continued development in distribution connected, smaller scale solar, and this includes the development of rooftop solar.</p> <p>The Applicant's site selection process, including a search for suitable brownfield land, has been undertaken and presented as part of Appendix 5.1 (Site Selection Assessment) of the Environmental</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>in this location or at this scale.</p>		<p>Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.3.5.1].</p> <p>Chapter 5 (Alternatives and Design Evolution) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.5] explains in further detail the alternatives that were considered and the design evolution process for the Scheme.</p> <p>An assessment of commercial rooftops in the host authorities of West Lindsey and Bassetlaw Districts identified no rooftops or combined premises of an adequate area to facilitate a large-scale solar project or provide a viable network of sites. Information on this is presented in Appendix 5.1: Site Selection Assessment of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.3.5.1].</p>
Ecology and biodiversity		
<p>Respondents expressed concern regarding a potential loss of wildlife, biodiversity and habitats for animals.</p> <p>Respondents reported that the area around the Scheme is presently abundant with wildlife.</p> <p>A number of respondents</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Chapter 9 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.9] sets out the baseline information available at the time of writing and considers the likely effects of the Scheme on ecological features during its construction, operation and decommissioning phases.</p> <p>The Applicant has set out a series of mitigation and landscape management improvements to</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>commented that while they do not oppose solar farms or renewables, they believe development must not be at the expense of the local environment and biodiversity.</p>		<p>improve biodiversity in its Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010133/APP/C7.3].</p> <p>Regarding potential impacts to habitats and local wildlife, these are assessed and presented in Chapter 9 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.9].</p> <p>Appendix 12 to Chapter 9 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.9.12] shows how the Scheme will likely result in a net percentage gain in Habitat Units of approximately 96%, with an approximate 70% gain of Hedgerow Units and approximately a 11% net gain in River Units. All three elements will lead to a substantial biodiversity net gain which will be significant for the local area given the large size of the Scheme.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Net Gain assessment report also sets out how these calculations are based on the measures set out in the Outline LEMP [EN010133/APP/C7.3] which will be legally secured under a requirement of the DCO for the life of the scheme (approximately 40 years) and so ensure that</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>objectives are met and increase the reliability of these projections.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the large-scale reversion from intensive arable to approximately 800ha of grassland is of significant benefit to local wildlife, particularly invertebrates such as bees and butterflies, but also small mammals, birds, bats, reptiles and amphibians.</p> <p>A mosaic of habitats will be created, formed by fields with different grassland types under panels in combination with wide buffer zones around field margins. An additional c.20km of hedgerow will also be planted, to improve green infrastructure and corridors of dispersal for species such as bats, small mammals and invertebrates.</p> <p>Relatively few species will be adversely affected, with impacts being restricted mainly to ground nesting birds such as skylark, yellow wagtail and lapwing. However, mitigation and compensation has been put forward to provide alternative nesting habitats for these species, while it is considered likely that a large proportion of ground nesting birds will benefit from the improved foraging opportunities within the grassland beneath the arrays.</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
Transport and access		
<p>Respondents expressed general concern regarding additional traffic disruption in the area throughout both construction and site operation.</p> <p>Respondents demanded that disruption to transport in the area is minimised.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Construction Traffic Management Plan, provided as Appendix 14.2 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.14.2], considers road users' safety and how to reduce traffic impacts from the Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant notes the local highway network that makes up the construction vehicle routes to the Site will be managed in accordance with the Construction Traffic Management Plan to ensure appropriate use by the vehicle numbers forecast over a temporary period. The aim of the Construction Traffic Management Plan is to minimise the effects of construction traffic on the local highway network.</p> <p>During the operational phase, there will be less than one trip to the Site per day on average.</p> <p>Chapter 14 (Transport and Access) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.14] details the Applicant's consideration of the effects of increased traffic levels during construction.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that mitigation measures are summarised in the Transport Assessment (Section 8) [EN010133/APP/C6.3.14.1], the Construction Traffic Management</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>Plan, presented as Appendix 14.2 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.14.2] to Chapter 14 (Transport and Access) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.14] and the Public Rights of Way Management Plan, presented as Appendix 14.3 to Chapter 14 (Transport and Access) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.3.14.3].</p>
<p>Respondents expressed concern that Green Lane (off Ingham Road / Cottam 1) was being considered as a construction traffic. Respondents noted that Green lane is a public right of way and well used and valued by the local community.</p> <p>Respondents commented that public access to footpaths should not be affected by construction traffic.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Following this feedback, the Applicant can confirm that construction access is no longer proposed on the Green Lane. Access will now take place from Ingham Road to the east of the Green Lane. Operational access by a light van or similar vehicle will still take place from the Green Lane. It is expected that there will only be one or two movements at the junction per month by a transit van (or similar).</p> <p>Careful design consideration has been given to minimise the number of new field access points for construction and operation meaning that the vast majority of access points will utilise existing farm gateways with only 12 permanent new locations required within the Scheme.</p>
<p>Respondents expressed concern regarding carbon and pollution</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Chapter 7 (Climate Change) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.7] presents</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>generated by vehicles during the construction phase.</p> <p>Some respondents suggested mitigation measures such as the use of electric vehicles for construction workers.</p>		<p>the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment concerning the potential impacts of the Scheme on the Climate during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning stages.</p> <p>Embedded mitigation will be implemented to reduce the greenhouse gas impact of the Scheme. Specific embedded mitigation measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging the use of lower carbon modes of transport by identifying and communicating local bus connections and pedestrian and cycle access routes to/ from the Scheme to all construction staff, and providing appropriate facilities for the safe storage of cycles; • Liaising with construction personnel for the potential to implement staff minibuses and car sharing options; • Implementing a Travel Plan to reduce the volume of construction staff and employee trips to the Scheme; and • Switching vehicles and plant off when not in use.

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
Cumulative effects		
<p>Respondents expressed concern regarding the number and density of proposed solar farms in this area.</p> <p>It was frequently noted that the Scheme, West Burton Solar Project, Gate Burton Energy Park and Tillbridge Solar are being proposed in similar geographies and with similar programmes.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Applicant is cognisant of other projects being proposed in the area and has undertaken assessments to consider the potential cumulative effect of this. Cumulative impacts of the Scheme have been addressed as a whole within the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.1 – C6.2.23].</p> <p>Each topic chapter considers the impacts of Scheme; and the impact of the Scheme in conjunction with other large scale solar proposals and other committed developments within the County.</p> <p>The Applicant has engaged with developers cooperatively to explore opportunities to reduce potential cumulative impacts. Consultation activities between the Scheme, West Burton Solar Project, and Gate Burton Energy Park were coordinated to reduce risks of consultation confusion and fatigue.</p>
Landscape and visual embedded mitigation		
<p>Respondents expressed concern that the Scheme will cause visual impact, describing the proposals as an</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual Impact) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8] set outs the ways in which the Applicant has considered the potential visual and landscape impacts to local residents and visitors, potential effects</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>eyesore and as ruining the landscape.</p> <p>A number of respondents commented that local residents had chosen to live in an area of countryside and open fields, and that this environment would be altered by the Scheme.</p>		<p>associated with the panels and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) considers both the landscape and visual effects of the Scheme independently to ensure both the impacts and effects on the fabric of the landscape are taken into account as well as the views and visibility.</p> <p>The assessment includes a suite of viewpoints that cover a wide range of visual receptors, including public locations such as transport routes, public rights of way, and residential properties. These viewpoints have been discussed and agreed with the competent authority.</p> <p>Mitigation associated with the Scheme is included in the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Measures forming part of the LVIA with details shown on Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10 and at Section 8.8 of Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual Impact) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8].</p> <p>This mitigation has been informed by feedback received and visits undertaken by the Applicant's landscape consultants throughout the surrounding landscape to</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>satisfy themselves that the extent of embedded and secondary mitigation is appropriate to mitigate the effects of the Scheme on the nearby properties.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, such as presented in Section 8.6 and Table 8.22 of Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual Impact) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8], takes embedded mitigation into account to include the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries. - Panels to be set minimum of 20m from major watercourses and minimum of 8m from minor watercourses. - Panels to be set 50m (min) from boundary curtilage to outer edge of solar panel. - Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth. - Let existing hedges grow out and managed at 5m. Encourage hedgerow trees to grow out within existing hedges to add further

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
		thickening and growth within the field boundaries.
Recreation, amenity and wellbeing		
<p>Respondents commented on a perceived loss of amenity as result of the Scheme.</p> <p>Respondents commented on the importance of the landscape and existing green space, including its appearance and opportunities for cycling and walking, for health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Respondents expressed concern for the physical and mental health and well-being of local residents and the many visitors by the proposals who will lose current amenities.</p> <p>Respondents commented that green spaces and footpaths should be retained for the purposes of community health and wellbeing and because these have historically been green spaces.</p>	Yes	<p>Chapter 18 (Socio-Economics and Tourism and Recreation) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.18] considers environmental effects arising as a result of the Scheme, in relation to topics including population health, tourism and accessibility and desirability of recreational facilities. This involves considering the amenity value of the existing footpath network.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, as described in Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual Impact) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8], looks to provide landscape mitigation that seeks to enhance the public footpath, permissive footpath and green lane network, which is aimed to benefit the community as a whole as well as tourists, visiting walkers, local residents, ornithologists and cyclists.</p> <p>The landscape mitigation measures will seek to provide new planting which will include new native hedgerows and tree cover,</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>Respondents requested that permissive footpaths within the site are upgraded to permissive bridleways which would allow for horse and bike access.</p>		<p>and this will also include their management and maintenance.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the LVIA has carried forward from the PEIR, to Section 8.8 of Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual Impact) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8], the intention to enhance the footpath network associated with the Sites, where appropriate, noted as secondary mitigation for Public Rights of Way. These measures potentially recommend increasing accessibility and connectivity of public rights of way, but also measures to increase understanding of the local landscapes and the solar project. The LVIA promotes, for example, information boards at vantage points, where appropriate. The LVIA also draws out ecological enhancement measures to provide a wider public understanding of the Scheme and encourage public access to nature.</p> <p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of paragraph 98 of the NPPF in that consideration is given to the enhancement of the network of open spaces, footpaths, and bridleways.</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>The Scheme avoids impacts on the rights of way network and where users of these routes are close to the Site, mitigation measures would look to provide effective screening and softening of views where effects are predicted.</p>
<p>Hydrology and flood risk</p>		
<p>Respondents expressed general concern regarding potential flood risk associated with the Scheme.</p> <p>Respondents highlighted the need for sufficient mitigation measures and commented on the impact this could have on house insurance for surrounding areas.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Chapter 10 (Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.10] sets out the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme on the local hydrology during its construction, operation and decommissioning phases.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that a Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [EN010133/APP/C6.3.10.1] has been produced for each of the solar Sites which demonstrate that flood risk will not be exacerbated as a result of their installation and is likely to provide betterment over the existing surface water regime due to the reintroduction of natural land cover beneath the panels. Where additional infrastructure is proposed (such as battery sites), additional Drainage Strategies have been produced which indicate how sustainable drainage systems will be provided</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
		on-Site to attenuate any increased runoff to greenfield rates.

12 Section 42 Statutory Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made

- 12.1.1 The Applicant received responses from 55 Section 42 and Section 44 consultees to the statutory consultation.
- 12.1.2 A detailed record of all comments received from S42 consultees to the statutory consultation, and the Applicant’s response to these comments, is provided as Appendix 5.11: Section 42 Applicant Response **[EN010133/APP/C5.11]**.
- 12.1.3 Table 12.1 presents a summary of this feedback.

Table 12.1: Summary qualitative data from phase two consultation, including how the Applicant has considered this feedback.

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant’s evidence?	Applicant response
Agriculture and soils		
The Applicant should seek to avoid the use of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land.	Yes	<p>The Applicant notes this comment and appreciates the importance of agricultural land.</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken detailed agricultural land classification (ALC) assessment of the Sites, as presented in Chapter 19 (Soils and Agriculture) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.19].</p> <p>The ALC results have informed the removal of some fields containing best and most versatile land.</p> <p>Table 5.6-5.9 of Chapter 5 (Alternatives and Design Evolution) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.5] details the design evolution that has led to the majority of BMV land being removed from the Scheme.</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>The finalised Scheme contains only 4.1% Best and Most Versatile land and clear justification for why these small areas remain within the Scheme is set out at Tables 5.6 - 5.9 of ES Chapter 5.</p> <p>The Scheme will be temporary with no permanent loss of agricultural land extent or quality.</p> <p>Some agricultural land will be retained during the operational phase, for example pasture grazed by sheep.</p> <p>Chapter 19 (Soils and Agriculture) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.19] concludes that the 40 year lifetime of the project will facilitate a recovery in topsoil organic matter. This will enhance the functional capacity of the soil resource for future arable production.</p> <p>Paragraphs 19.5.2- 19.5.3 state (in respect of food security):</p> <p><i>"It should be noted that the above Lincolnshire County Council consultation response is incorrect when it states that "... all arable land of whatever agricultural classification produces food, whether for animal feed or human consumption..." Arable land can</i></p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
		<p><i>be and is used for growing energy crops. Examples include fuel crops such as biodiesel and miscanthus grass, and energy substrate crops such as maize for anaerobic digestion, or grain for ethanol manufacture. There are no food security or planning policy constraints on growing these energy crops on arable land, just as there are no food security policy constraints on the use of agricultural land for solar PV. Studies have shown solar PV also produces more kWh per hectare than other renewable energy crops. This is also achieved with land remaining in agricultural production, fattening lambs, and without the environmental and land degradation hazards of the most popular energy crop, maize.</i></p> <p><i>Arable land is also used to produce non food crops for markets including industrial oils, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and Christmas trees. Food security is not a material planning consideration. The relevant assessment for policy purposes is the ALC grade of the agricultural land, not its current use or the intensity of that use."</i></p>
Cumulative impacts		
Cumulative impacts was raised as an important issue given the number	Yes	Cumulative impacts of the Scheme have been addressed as a whole within the Environmental

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>of other NSIP projects currently programmed across the region.</p>		<p>Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.1 – C6.2.21].</p> <p>Each topic chapter considers the impacts of Scheme; and the impact of the Scheme in conjunction with other large scale solar proposals and other committed developments within the County.</p> <p>Chapter 18 (Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.18] addresses socio economic impacts including the impact on jobs and employment.</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>Potential cumulative effects were raised specifically in regard to landscape and visual impact resulting from the Scheme, West Burton Solar Project, and Gate Burton Energy Park.</p> <p>It was considered that views from the east and elevated limestone escarpment should be considered when assessing the cumulative effects.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment considers the cumulative effects and the methodology is set out within Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual Impact) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8].</p> <p>The assessment of potential visual effects is set out in detail within Appendix 8.3 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.8.3] of the assessment where sequential effects are considered. This takes account of those travelling along the regularly used routes such as major roads or popular paths, in particular those which capture views from the east and the elevated limestone escarpment and when assessing the cumulative effects.</p>
Cultural heritage		
<p>Consultees noted the progress with gathering baseline data on Cultural Heritage reported in the PEIR and ongoing discussions with the Applicant regarding this.</p> <p>It was commented that more detailed archaeological evaluation and mitigation will need</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that a programme of geophysical survey, presented as Appendix 13.2 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.13.2] to Chapter 13 (Cultural Heritage) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.13], and evaluation trenching has been undertaken on the cable route in Bassetlaw and West Lindsey (Appendix 13.6) [EN010133/APP/C6.3.13.6], which was agreed with</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>to be undertaken and presented in the Environmental Statement.</p>		<p>Lincolnshire Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The geophysical survey covered a 100% sample of accessible land within the Scheme. The trial trench evaluation sampled 1 - 1.1% of accessible areas along the 'Shared Cable Corridor'.</p> <p>The results of these field evaluations, along with desk-based research (including LiDAR survey data, aerial photographs), has been used to inform a detailed mitigation strategy (WSI; Appendix 13.7 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.13.7]).</p>
<p>Historic England provided specific feedback on the mitigation approach to the Thorpe le Fallows Scheduled Monument (deserted medieval village earthworks) NHLE ref 1016978 Thorpe Medieval settlement, following a site visit with the Applicant's consultants in May 2022.</p> <p>The consultee reported no in principal objection to the proposals within Cottam 1, but noted they may need to see some</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Solar panels have been set back 50m from the northern edge of the Scheduled Monument at Thorpe le Fallows. The setting assessments of the impacts and effects of the Scheme on this and other Scheduled Monuments within the wider landscape surrounding the Scheme are provided in the Heritage Statement, presented as Appendix 13.5 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.13.5].to Chapter 13 of the Environmental Statement (Cultural Heritage) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.13].</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>offset of development from immediately adjacent to the northern edge of the scheduled monument to better address its significance and avoid what could otherwise be a likely significant environmental effect.</p>		
<p>Concerns were raised regarding the potential impact on St Mary's Church, Stow (Grade 1 of national and international significance NHLE 1146624) which is within 5 kilometres of both developments (c.1.49km to NE of West Burton 3, and c.1.15km to W of Cottam 1).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Assessment of the settings of designated heritage assets has been undertaken by the Applicant, in accordance with the methodology proposed in the PEIR, which follows the guidance provided in Historic England's <i>GPAN3: The Settings of Heritage Assets</i>.</p> <p>This includes, <i>inter alia</i>, an assessment of Grade I listed Church of St Mary, Stow and the scheduled Site of college and Benedictine abbey of St Mary, Stow, as presented in Appendix 13.5 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.13.5] to Chapter 13 (Cultural Heritage) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.13].</p> <p>The assessment concluded that views towards the Scheme from the immediate vicinity of the Grade I listed church and associated Scheduled Monument are screened by the surrounding built environment of the village of</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
		<p>Stow, and likewise assessment of views towards the church from Stow Park Road the west also indicate that the surrounding built environment and trees within the village of Stow would prevent any views of the Scheme being present within the same arc of view as the Listed Building.</p> <p>In addition, LVIA visualisations produced from locations in the wider landscape to the north, east and south-east of Stow (e.g., from Viewpoints 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19 and 20) illustrate that the church is not prominently visible from these locations due to the generally flat topography and intervening vegetation, and therefore views of the church are unlikely to be affected.</p>
Hydrology and flood risk		
<p>It was noted that Chapter 10 (Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage) includes a Flood Risk Screening Assessment which provides surface water flood risk maps for the area and advises that Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) will be undertaken.</p> <p>It was commented that the FRA will need to address any large areas</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that a Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [EN010133/APP/C6.3.10.2 – C6.3.10.8] has been produced for each of the solar Sites which demonstrate that flood risk will not be exacerbated as a result of their installation and is likely to provide betterment over the existing surface water regime due to the reintroduction of natural land cover beneath the panels.</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>of impermeability that may be created such as plant compounds, access roads, and battery facilities, the increased run off will need to be determined and mitigated in accordance with SUDS principles.</p>		<p>Where additional infrastructure is proposed (e.g. battery sites), additional Drainage Strategies have been produced which indicate how SuDS will be provided on-Site to attenuate any increased runoff to greenfield rates.</p>
<p>While Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board has a standing objection in principle to development within flood plain, as shown on the Environment Agency flood maps, Solar Farms can be appropriate with mitigation. The expectation would be that all the electrical equipment is above design flood levels in the main river system and any construction is resilient to flooding. Any development requires the discharge to be limited to the green field rate, assuming the ground will have grass, there should a small impermeable area.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Applicant notes the development has been designed in consideration of the existing flood risks. Where development is proposed within the flood extent, it will be resilient (as detailed in sections 10.6 Embedded Mitigation and 10.8 Mitigation Measures of Chapter 10 (Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.10] and throughout the Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy (included as Appendix 10.1. to the Environmental Statement).</p> <p>The Scheme will not have a detrimental impact of surface water runoff. Where hardstanding is proposed this will be managed through local SuDS proposals considered in Section 5.0 (Drainage Strategy) of the Flood Risk Assessment and</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
		Drainage Strategy and throughout the supporting annexes.
We [Stow Parish Council] are also surprised that you propose to use some fields near the Till, which regularly flood to the extent that Ingham Rd has flooded as far as Fleets Lane.	Yes	Chapter 10 (Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.10] assesses the flood risk impacts of the Scheme. Areas of flood depth of more than 0.9m have been avoided entirely, with only non-vulnerable infrastructure to be located within areas of shallower than 0.9m flooding. Consultation with the Environment Agency has been undertaken to confirm this approach. No significant effects have been assessed in terms of the EIA regulations.
Landscape and visual impact		
It was requested that further landscape and visual consultation is carried out between the District Authority landscape specialists and the Applicant's team following the conclusion of this statutory consultation phase. This would likely cover the PEIR comments as well as development proposals and mitigation scheme, including the cable route corridor (particularly river crossing) and location of	Yes	This consultation has been undertaken as a number of meetings and workshops as set out in Section 8.2 and Appendix 8.4 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.8.4] of Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual Impact) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8] . The consultation has enabled a consensus on the approach to the assessment over aspects of the approach to the assessment and the methodologies to be adopted. At this stage no tree removal is proposed to be undertaken to facilitate the Scheme.

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
any larger structures or buildings such as the substations, extent of vegetation loss for highways works, and also subsequent knock-on effects such as any requirement for additional viewpoints or AVRs.		
<p>While the scoping report in para. 7.5.1 states that visual study beyond 5km has been scoped out, it was observed on site that there are potential long-distance views to Lincoln Cathedral and Lincoln Castle.</p> <p>Comments issued to Lincolnshire County Council by the Applicant's team confirm that: "LVIA Chapter (where inter visibility captures listed buildings and monuments), this would be considered as part of the visual baseline where appropriate. Additional views have been suggested by LCC and NCC that take account of locations where heritage assets may be affected".</p>	Yes	<p>Additional views suggested by Lincolnshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council that take account of locations where heritage assets may be affected are taken into account by the Applicant within the Section 8.2 of Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual Impact) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.8].</p> <p>Detailed overlap and consultation with the Heritage topic areas has also been undertaken when developing the landscape and visual baseline and in identifying landscape and visual effects for the LVIA Chapter. No additional viewpoints have been assessed as being necessary as long distance views are not affected by the Scheme either to or from Lincoln Castle and Cathedral.</p>
We [Stow Parish Council] opposed the original	Yes	The Design and Access Statement [EN010133/APP/C7.6] explains

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>plans because of the close proximity of the fields, which were to have solar panels, to the homes of residents both at Normanby by Stow and those on Ingham Road, Stow and the use of otherwise productive agricultural land. While we understand panels are not now to be sited next to East Farm at Normanby, the cluster of houses on Ingham Rd near Fleets Lane is still significantly affected. They are to have solar panels to the north and south of their dwellings.</p> <p>The fields concerned are relatively small some with odd shapes, which we would not have thought conducive to the siting of panels, but the main issue is their proximity to where a number of people live and the adverse impact the panels will have on their lives.</p>		<p>that on Cottam 1, field numbers A3, B1, and D19 (refer to field numbering plans at Appendix 1: Figures 6.1-6.3) were removed to address residential amenity concerns.</p> <p>Fields D1, D7 (west end), D8, and E3 were removed at the request of Stow Parish Council and F1, F2, and F7 were removed upon request by Stow Parish Council on behalf of the residents of the hamlet of Normanby by Stow.</p>
Site selection and alternatives		

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>It is encouraging that the Environmental Statement will contain a chapter that will consider alternative sites. Given that the site for the main development has already been selected, it would have been preferable if some consideration had already been given to this. This is especially important as by the time the proposal proceeds to submission, there is essentially no scope for alterations. That being said, it is promising that the broad methodology has been set out for establishing the selected site. The most preferable option would be for the chapter within the Environmental Statement to fully justify why other potential sites were less preferable on balance.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Noted. The Applicant has followed a step-by-step site selection process which confirms the location of the Scheme is suitable for a large scale solar farm. This has included the avoidance of sensitive landscape and environmental designations in confirming site suitability and consideration of alternative sites.</p> <p>Details of the process are set out in Appendix 5.1: Site Selection Assessment of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.3.5.1]. Chapter 5 (Alternatives and Design Evolution) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.3.5] explains in further detail the alternatives that were considered and the design evolution process for the Scheme.</p>
<p>Ecology and biodiversity</p>		
<p>The commitment to a 'significant Net Gain' is welcomed. The Environment Act 2021 promotes biodiversity</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Applicant notes that Appendix 9.12 to Chapter 9 (Ecology and Biodiversity) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.3.9.12]</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>net gain in new development, albeit from 2023. However, the NPPF recommends securing net gains now. Reflecting the principles of national planning policy and the emerging provisions of the Act we would strongly recommend that the proposal secures at least 10% net gain in biodiversity to ensure that the value of the development exceeds the pre-development on site habitat value by at least 10%.</p>		<p>provides the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment for the Scheme.</p> <p>The assessment shows how the Scheme will likely result in a net percentage gain in Habitat Units of approximately 96%, with an approximate 70% gain of Hedgerow Units and approximately a 11% net gain in River Units. All three elements will lead to a substantial biodiversity net gain which will be significant for the local area given the large size of the scheme.</p> <p>The BNG assessment report also sets out how these calculations are based on the measures set out in the Outline LEMP [EN010133/APP/C7.3] which will be legally secured under a requirement of the DCO and so ensure that objectives are met and increase the reliability of these projections.</p>
Public health		
<p>Human health is a material consideration and the District consider that this should be scoped into the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>It is agreed that this does not have to be a</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Noted. Impacts upon human health have been assessed within Chapter 21 (Other Environmental Matters) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.21].</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
standalone chapter; however it will need to be addressed in other relevant chapters.		
Glint and glare		
Key concerns will be how the scheme impacts on the railway operations in terms of glint and glare issues causing distraction for train drivers approaching and passing the site, how any issues of this nature that may arise are to be mitigated, the management of construction works around the operational railway and details such as boundary treatments, any lighting and drainage schemes that may impact on the operational railway.	Yes	<p>The Applicant has proposed instant screening on the northern side of Cottam 3b if fixed panels are used. This screening will effectively block views of the reflective area and train drivers will not experience any impact and no further mitigation is required. If tracker panels are used, the developer has proposed to use a different backtracking angle to fully remove solar reflections. Therefore, no impact is predicted, and no further mitigation is required.</p> <p>Further details are provided in Sections 7.3 and Appendix D of Appendix 16.1 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.16.1] to Chapter 16 (Glint and Glare) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.16].</p>
Transport and access		
Hourly trip generation figures should be presented with further detailed assessments of the network AM and PM peaks to be determined. If further impact assessments related to the SRN are required,	Yes	<p>The Applicant notes this is provided within Section 5 of the Transport Assessment, which is submitted as Appendix 14.1 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.14.1] to Chapter 14 (Transport and Access) of the Environmental</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
these should be carried out in accordance with DfT Circular 02/2013.		<p>Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.14].</p> <p>Vehicle trips will be distributed throughout the daily period and will be coordinated to avoid the network peak hours. Therefore, the effect on the SRN will be negligible.</p>
<p>Concern was expressed regarding the use of Green Lane as an access for construction traffic and also for maintenance. It is a historic track, most of it grassed and well used by people locally. Use of it during the construction of a solar farm would prevent locals from accessing it for their usual exercise and enjoyment.</p>	Yes	<p>Following this consultation, the Applicant can confirm that construction access is no longer proposed on the Green Lane.</p> <p>Access will now take place on Ingham Road to the east of the Green Lane. Operational access by a light van or similar vehicle will still take place from the Green Lane. It is expected that there will only be one or two movements at the junction per month by a transit van (or similar).</p> <p>The Applicant notes that construction vehicle movement on Stow Lane will be managed through a Construction Traffic Management Plan, presented as Appendix 14.2 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.14.2] to Chapter 14 (Transport and Access) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.14].</p>
Other		

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>Concerns were raised regarding the energy storage facilities and the risks of fire with battery storage.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Chapter 21 (Other Environmental Matters) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.21] assesses the impacts of the Scheme upon human health and also considers major accidents and disasters.</p> <p>The outline battery storage safety management plan [EN010133/APP/C7.9] sets out firefighting and safety measures in the event of a fire or explosion.</p>
<p>There have been several instances where offenders have been able to access sites quite easily with large vehicles enabling the large-scale removal of panels and equipment. Due to the poor planning and design (particularly across fields and tracks in dry weather) they spent some considerable time undetected.</p> <p>There have also seen several incidents where crimes have been committed on power transmission sites with some offenders risking their lives after targeting live cabling.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>During construction, site entrances will include a security gate and kiosk, as described in Chapter 4 (Scheme Description) of the Environmental Statement [EN010133/APP/C6.2.4]. When the Scheme is operational, vehicle access to the Sites will only be possible via gates which will be kept locked. Further locked gates and security fencing will surround the substations and energy storage compounds.</p> <p>CCTV has been designed into the Scheme and the final design for construction will ensure it covers the perimeter with no blind spots, so that any perimeter breach would be quickly discovered.</p>
<p>There is one permissive path proposed, but this is inadequate as there is</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The Applicant has explored alternative permissive path routes but these proved to be</p>

Feedback comments	Has this resulted in a change to the Scheme or the Applicant's evidence?	Applicant response
<p>no access to the banks of the Till which is what we asked for.</p>		<p>incompatible with existing farming activities, or required land beyond the Applicant's control. As explored within Table 5.9 contained within ES Chapter 5 (Alternatives and Design Evolution) [EN010133/APP/C6.2.5], the permissive path from Stow village will contribute to the wider network of footpaths in the area and facilitate greater public access to the countryside.</p>

13 Conclusion

Concluding remarks

- 13.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken a comprehensive pre-application consultation on the Scheme.
- 13.1.2 This consultation has been informed by and complied with the requirements of the 2008 Act, and associated guidance and legislation.
- 13.1.3 The Applicant's strategy of coordinating consultation activities across the Scheme and West Burton Solar Project has resulted in a high level of engagement and consultation responses, with the intention of increasing efficiency and accessibility for respondents, while reducing the risk of potential confusion.
- 13.1.4 The Applicant's strategy of undertaking an iterative consultation process across two stages of consultation has allowed for feedback to inform the development of the Scheme in a timely manner and for the Applicant to report back to consultees and commutates at interim stages.
- 13.1.5 The Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation, and has made changes where possible as documented in this Consultation Report.
- 13.1.6 Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the iterative development of the Scheme, with stakeholders playing a key role in the design of the proposals.
- 13.1.7 The Applicant's strategy of coordinating the phase two consultation to be statutory under Section 42, Section 47, and Section 48 in parallel allowed for meaningful engagement and consideration of feedback on the PEIR.
- 13.1.8 The Applicant has sought to address comments, concerns and issues raised in the final Scheme design where possible and has responded to comments raised in the Consultation Report.
- 13.1.9 As well as preparing the Consultation Report, the Applicant has set out how it has complied with guidance and advice on consultation in the Section 55 checklist **[EN010133/APP/C1.5]** that is also part of the DCO application documents.
- 13.1.10 The Applicant is grateful to all parties who have engaged in the pre-application consultation.