

# Stonestreet Green Solar

## Consultation Report

### Appendix H: Compliance with Legislation, Guidance and Statement of Community Consultation

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June 2024

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)  
Planning Act 2008

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



## Appendix H: Compliance with Legislation, Guidance and Statement of Community Consultation

Table 1: Statutory requirements for pre-application consultation

Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
<b>Consultation with statutory consultees</b>		
<p>Section 42(1)(a) 2008 Act; and Regulation 3 and column 1 of Schedule 1 of APFP Regulations</p>	<p>"The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application—[...] such persons as may be prescribed"</p> <p>"The persons prescribed for the purposes of section 42(a) (duty to consult) are those listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 1 to [the APFP Regulations], who must be consulted in the circumstances specified in relation to each such person in column 2 of that table"</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted with the prescribed bodies pursuant to section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>2022 Statutory Consultation: See <b>Section 5.3</b> of the Report for details of the process used for identifying prescribed consultees and <b>Appendix C-1: List of Section 42(1)(a) and (b) Consultees for 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix C-2: List of Section 42(1)(d) Consultees for Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> for the distribution lists.</p> <p>2023 Statutory Consultation: See <b>Section 6.3</b> for details of the process used for identifying prescribed consultees and <b>Appendix C-5: List of Section 42(1)(a) and (b) Consultees for 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix C-2: List of Section 42(1)(d) Consultees for Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> for the distribution lists.</p> <p>2023 Targeted Consultation and 2024 Targeted Consultation: See <b>Section 8</b> of the Report for details of the process used for identifying prescribed consultees for the targeted consultation and <b>Appendix J-1: List of Consultees (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix L-1: List of Consultees (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> for the distribution lists. A targeted approach was considered to be</p>

<sup>1</sup> The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 amended the APFP Regulations 2009 by substituting a new table of persons prescribed for the purpose of section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008. Regulation 4 (the transitional provisions) of the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 states that "*the amendments in regulation 2 do not apply to any proposed application for an order granting development consent where the applicant has started to consult under section 42 of the Act before 30th April 2024.*" As the statutory consultation for the Project was carried out and completed prior to 30 April 2024, the Applicant consulted the prescribed consultees as listed within the APFP Regulations prior to these amendments.

Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
		appropriate given the minor, localised nature of the proposed changes.
Section 42(1)(aa) 2008 Act	"The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application—[...] the Marine Management Organisation, in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2) <sup>2</sup> "	The Project would not affect or be likely to affect the areas listed in section 42(2) of the PA 2008 and so the Applicant did not consult the Marine Management Organisation.
Sections 42(1)(b) and 43(1)-(2A) 2008 Act	<p>"The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application—[...] each local authority that is within section 43"</p> <p>"(1) A local authority is within this section if the land is in the authority's area.</p> <p>(2) A local authority ("A") is within this section if—</p> <p>(a) the land is in the area of another local authority ("B"),</p> <p>(aa) B is a unitary council or a lower-tier district council, and</p> <p>(b) any part of the boundary of A's area is also a part of the boundary of B's area.</p> <p>(2A) If the land is in the area of an upper-tier county council ("C"), a local authority ("D") is within this section if—</p> <p>(a) D is not a lower-tier district council, and</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted with the relevant local authorities pursuant to section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008.</p> <p><b>Section 5.3</b> of the Report identifies the local authorities within section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008 that were consulted on the Project for the 2022 Statutory Consultation and 2023 Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>Following a reduction in the Site boundary that took place after the 2023 Statutory Consultation had ended, and which was the subject of the 2023 Targeted Consultation, the land within the Site that fell within FHDC's administrative boundary was removed from the Site. This meant that the category within which FHDC falls changed from local authority (B) to local authority (A), and consequently Dover District Council was no longer a local authority consultee, under section 43 of PA 2008.</p> <p>ABC and KCC, as host authorities, were consulted on both the 2023 Targeted Consultation and the 2024 Targeted Consultation.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Section 42(2) of the 2008 Act states: "The areas are—(a) waters in or adjacent to England up to the seaward limits of the territorial sea; (b) an exclusive economic zone, except any part of an exclusive economic zone in relation to which the Scottish Ministers have functions; (c) a Renewable Energy Zone, except any part of a Renewable Energy Zone in relation to which the Scottish Ministers have functions; (d) an area designated under section 1(7) of the Continental Shelf Act 1964, except any part of that area which is within a part of an exclusive economic zone or Renewable Energy Zone in relation to which the Scottish Ministers have functions."



Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
	(b) any part of the boundary of D's area is also part of the boundary of C's area."	
Section 42(1)(c) 2008 Act	"The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application—[...] the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London"	The land is not in Greater London so the Applicant did not consult the Greater London Authority.
Sections 42(1)(d) and 44 2008 Act	<p>"The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application—[...] each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44"</p> <p>"(1) A person is within Category 1 if the applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant (whatever the tenancy period) or occupier of the land.</p> <p>(2) A person is within Category 2 if the applicant, after making diligent inquiry, knows that the person—</p> <p>(a) is interested in the land, or</p> <p>(b) has power—</p> <p>(i) to sell and convey the land, or</p> <p>(ii) to release the land.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>(4) A person is within Category 3 if the applicant thinks that, if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented, the person would or might be entitled—</p> <p>(a) as a result of the implementing of the order,</p> <p>(b) as a result of the order having been implemented, or</p> <p>(c) as a result of use of the land once the order has been implemented,</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted with each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44 of the PA 2008.</p> <p>2022 Statutory Consultation: See <b>Section 5.3</b> of the Report for details of the process used for identifying section 44 consultees and <b>Appendix C-1: List of Section 42(1)(a) and (b) Consultees for 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix C-2: List of Section 42(1)(d) Consultees for Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> for the distribution lists.</p> <p>2023 Statutory Consultation: See <b>Section 6.3</b> for details of the process used for identifying section 44 consultees and <b>Appendix C-5: List of Section 42(1)(a) and (b) Consultees for 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix C-2: List of Section 42(1)(d) Consultees for Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> for the distribution lists.</p> <p>2023 Targeted Consultation and 2024 Targeted Consultation: See <b>Section 8</b> for details of the process used for identifying section 44 consultees for the targeted consultation and <b>Appendix J-1: List of Consultees (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix L-1: List of Consultees (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> for the distribution lists. A targeted approach was considered to be appropriate given the minor, localised nature of the proposed changes.</p>

Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>to make a relevant claim<sup>3</sup>. This is subject to subsection (5).</p> <p>(5) A person is within Category 3 only if the person is known to the applicant after making diligent inquiry.</p>	
<p>Section 45 2008 Act</p>	<p>"(1) The applicant must, when consulting a person under section 42, notify the person of the deadline for the receipt by the applicant of the person's response to the consultation.</p> <p>(2) A deadline notified under subsection (1) must not be earlier than the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents.<sup>4</sup>"</p>	<p>The letters sent to the section 42 consultees all identified a deadline for responses that was more than 28 days beginning with the day after the day on which the consultees received the consultation documents.</p> <p>2022 Statutory Consultation: The letters were sent on 19 and 21 October 2022, with a response deadline of 29 November 2022.</p> <p>2023 Statutory Consultation: The majority of the letters were sent on 8 June 2023, with a response deadline of 17 July 2023. A small number of letters were sent on 22 June 2023, with a deadline of 31 July 2023. 2023 Targeted Consultation: The letters were sent on 10 November 2023, with a response deadline of 13 December 2023.</p> <p>2024 Targeted Consultation: The letters were sent on 9 February 2024, with a response deadline of 12 March 2024.</p> <p>Where any new land interests or prescribed consultees were consulted under section 42 outside of the above stages, the relevant consultee was given a deadline of not less than 28 days beginning with the day after the day on which the consultees received the consultation documents (see <b>Section 6</b> for details).</p>

### Notification to Secretary of State

<sup>3</sup> Section 44(6) of the 2008 Act defines "relevant claim" as: (a) a claim under section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965; (b) a claim under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973; and (c) a claim under section 152(3).

<sup>4</sup> Section 45(3) of the 2008 Act defines "the consultation documents" as "the documents supplied to the person by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the person".

Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
<p>Section 46 2008 Act</p>	<p>"(1) The applicant must supply the Secretary of State with such information in relation to the proposed application as the applicant would supply to the Secretary of State for the purpose of complying with section 42 if the applicant were required by that section to consult the Secretary of State about the proposed application.</p> <p>(2) The applicant must comply with subsection (1) on or before commencing consultation under section 42."</p>	<p>The Applicant sent a letter to the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) pursuant to section 46 of the PA 2008 on 24 October 2022 (see <b>Appendix C-4: Section 46 Notification and Acknowledgment for 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) in advance of commencing consultation on 25 October 2022. An Acknowledgment of S46 Notification was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 26 October 2022 (see <b>Appendix C-4: Section 46 Notification and Acknowledgment for 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>). The Applicant sent a further letter to the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) pursuant to section 46 of the PA 2008 on 8 June 2023 (see <b>Appendix C-7: Section 46 Notification and Acknowledgment for 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) in advance of commencing consultation on 12 June 2023. An Acknowledgment of S46 Notification was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 12 June 2023 (see <b>Appendix C-7: Section 46 Notification and Acknowledgment for 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>).</p>
<p>Regulation 8 EIA Regulations</p>	<p>"(1) A person who proposes to make an application for an order granting development consent must, before carrying out consultation under section 42 (duty to consult) either—</p> <p>(a) ask the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates; or</p> <p>(b) notify the Secretary of State in writing that the person proposes to provide an environmental statement in respect of that development.</p> <p>[...]</p>	<p>Paragraph 1.6.1 of the Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 19 April 2022 (see <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 1.1: EIA Scoping Report (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>) confirmed that the Application would be accompanied by an Environmental Statement. The section 46 letters dated 24 October 2022 and 8 June 2023 both referenced that statement in the Scoping Report.</p>

Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>(3) A person making a request under paragraph (1)(a) must provide the following information—</p> <p>(a) a plan sufficient to identify the land;</p> <p>(b) a description of the development, including in particular—</p> <p>(i) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and, where relevant, of demolition works;</p> <p>(ii) a description of the location of the development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected;</p> <p>(c) a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development; and</p> <p>(d) to the extent the information is available, a description of any likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from—</p> <p>(i) the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant; and</p> <p>(ii) the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.</p> <p>(3A) A person notifying the Secretary of State under paragraph (1)(b) must provide, at the same time as giving notification, the information listed in paragraph (3)(a) and (b)."</p>	

### Consultation with local community

Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
Section 47(1) 2008 Act	"The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land."	The Applicant prepared SoCC 1 in March 2022, SoCC 2 in September 2022 and SoCC 3 in May 2023. Copies can be found in <b>Appendix B-3: Published Statement of Community Consultation 1 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> , <b>Appendix B-8: Published Statement of Community Consultation 2 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix B-12: Published Statement of Community Consultation 3 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> . For further details, see <b>Section 4.3</b> of the Report.
Sections 47(2) and 43(1) 2008 Act	<p>"Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement."</p> <p>"A local authority is within this section if the land is in the authority's area."</p>	Before preparing each of SoCC 1, SoCC 2 and SoCC 3, the Applicant consulted each local authority within section 43(1), namely: KCC, ABC and (at that time) FHDC on the draft SoCC. Copies of the covering letters can be found in <b>Appendix B-1: Letters Consulting Host Authorities on Statement of Community Consultation 1</b> , <b>Appendix B-6: Emails Consulting Host Authorities on the Statement of Community Consultation 2</b> and <b>Appendix B-10: Emails and Letters Consulting Host Authorities on the Statement of Community Consultation 3 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> . For further details, see <b>Section 4.3</b> of the Report. It is noted that the land proposed to be included within the Site that fell within the administrative boundary of FHDC was subsequently removed from the Site and does not form part of the Project, meaning that FHDC is no longer a host authority.
Section 47(3) 2008 Act	"The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents <sup>5</sup> ."	SoCC 1: The relevant local authorities were emailed a copy of the draft SoCC 1 and a covering letter on 10 January 2022, notifying them of the commencement of the consultation on the draft SoCC 1 and requesting feedback by the deadline for responses of 7 February 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Section 47(4) of the 2008 Act defines "the consultation documents" as "the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2)".



Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
		<p>SoCC 2: The relevant local authorities were emailed a copy of the draft SoCC 2 on 8 August 2022, notifying them of the commencement of the consultation on the draft SoCC 2 and requesting feedback by the deadline for responses of 5 September 2022.</p> <p>SoCC 3: The relevant local authorities were emailed a copy of the draft SoCC 3 on 20 January 2023, notifying them of the commencement of the consultation on the draft SoCC 3 and requesting feedback by the deadline for responses of 17 February 2023. On 24 January 2023, a server email was received stating that FHDC did not receive the original email. Therefore, on 24 January 2023, a further email was sent to FHDC providing a copy of the draft SoCC 3 and extending the deadline for a response from FHDC until 21 February 2023.</p>
<p>Section 47(5) 2008 Act</p>	<p>"In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3)."</p>	<p>Responses were received from KCC, ABC and FHDC. A detailed overview of how the Applicant had regard to the comments provided when finalising each of SoCC 1, SoCC 2 and SoCC 3 is in <b>Appendix B-2: Regard had to Host Authorities' Responses to Statement of Community Consultation 1 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>, <b>Appendix B-7: Regard had to Host Authorities' Responses to Statement of Community Consultation 2 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix B-11: Regard had to Host Authorities' Responses to Statement of Community Consultation 3 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> of the Report.</p>
<p>Section 47(6)(za) 2008 Act</p>	<p>"Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must—(za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land"</p>	<p>SoCC 1: The Applicant made SoCC 1 available for inspection by the public on the Project website and in hard copy at the deposit locations listed in <b>Section 4.3</b> of the Report from 22 March 2022. Links to SoCC 1 were also emailed to a range of stakeholders and community groups (see <b>Appendix B-5: Samples Email Consulting Community Groups on the</b></p>

Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
		<p><b>Statement of Community Consultation 1 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> on 23 March 2022.</p> <p>SoCC 2: The Applicant made SoCC 2 available for inspection by the public on the Project website and in hard copy at the Deposit Locations listed in <b>Section 4.3</b> of the Report from 28 September 2022. Links to SoCC 2 were also emailed to a range of stakeholders and community groups (see <b>Appendix D-1: Community Organisations Consulted During 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix D-2: Emails to Community Organisations 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) on 17 and 18 October 2022.</p> <p>SoCC 3: The Applicant made SoCC 3 available for inspection by the public on the Project website and in hard copy at the Deposit Locations listed in <b>Section 4.3</b> of the Report from 24 May 2023. Links to SoCC 3 were also emailed to a range of stakeholders and community groups (see <b>Appendix D-5: Emails to Community Organisations Consulted During 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) on 2 June 2023.</p>
<p>Section 47(6)(a) 2008 Act</p>	<p>"Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must—(a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected"</p>	<p>SoCC 1: A notice publicising SoCC 1, including details of where and when it could be inspected, was published on 23 March 2022 in the Folkestone &amp; Hythe Express and on 24 March 2022 in the Kentish Express (Ashford and District). Copies of the SoCC 1 notice as published in the local newspapers are provided in <b>Appendix B-4: Section 47 Notices for Statement of Community Consultation 1 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>.</p> <p>SoCC 2: A notice publicising SoCC 2, including details of where and when it could be inspected, was published on 28 September 2022 in the Folkestone &amp; Hythe Express and on 29 September 2022 in the Kentish Express (Ashford and District). Copies of the SoCC 2 notice as</p>

Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
		<p>published in the local newspapers are provided in <b>Appendix B-9: Section 47 Notices for Statement of Community Consultation 2 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>.</p> <p>SoCC 3: A notice publicising SoCC 3, including details of where and when it could be inspected, was published on 24 May 2023 in the Folkestone &amp; Hythe Express and on 25 May 2023 in the Kentish Express (Ashford and District). Copies of the SoCC 3 notice as published in the local newspapers are provided in <b>Appendix B-13: Section 47 Notices for Statement of Community Consultation 3 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>.</p>
<p>Section 47(6)(b) 2008 Act</p>	<p>"Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must— publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed."</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>Section 47(7) 2008 Act</p>	<p>"The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement."</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook the 2022 Statutory Consultation with the local community pursuant to section 47 of the PA 2008 in accordance with the details set out in SoCC 2. See <b>Section 5</b> of the Report for a summary of the actions undertaken by the Applicant to meet the obligations outlined in SoCC 2. See also <b>Table 3</b> below.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook the 2023 Statutory Consultation with the local community pursuant to section 47 of the PA 2008 in accordance with the details set out in SoCC 3. See <b>Section 6</b> of the Report for a summary of the actions undertaken by the Applicant to meet the obligations outlined in SoCC 3. See also <b>Table 4</b> below.</p> <p>Due to the targeted nature of the 2023 Targeted Consultation and 2024 Targeted Consultation, further consultation with the local community under section 47 of the PA 2008 was not considered to be required.</p>

Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
Regulation 12(1) EIA Regulations	<p>"The consultation statement prepared under section 47 (duty to consult local community) must set out—</p> <p>(a) whether the development for which the applicant proposes to make an application for an order granting development consent is EIA development; and</p> <p>(b) if that development is EIA development, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information<sup>6</sup>."</p>	<p>The Applicant stated in each of SoCC 1, SoCC 2 and SoCC 3 that the proposed development is EIA development and that the Applicant intended to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information.</p> <p>SoCC 1 and SoCC 2 stated that the Applicant would produce a PEIR which would be publicised and consulted on as part of the 2022 Statutory Consultation. SoCC 3 noted that the PEIR had been produced for the 2022 Statutory Consultation and stated that a PEIR Addendum would be produced and consulted on for the 2023 Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>A copy of SoCC 1, SoCC 2 and SoCC 3 can be found in <b>Appendix B-3: Published Statement of Community Consultation 1 (Doc Ref. 6.2), Appendix B-8: Published Statement of Community Consultation 2 (Doc Ref. 6.2) and Appendix B-12: Published Statement of Community Consultation 3 (Doc Ref. 6.2).</b></p>
<b>Publicity</b>		
Section 48(1) 2008 Act	<p>"The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner."</p>	<p>The Applicant publicised the proposed application in accordance with the prescribed manner, see below.</p>
Regulation 4(2) APFP Regulations	<p>"The applicant must publish a notice, which must include the matters prescribed by paragraph (3) of this regulation, of the proposed application—</p> <p>(a) for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the</p>	<p>The Applicant published a section 48 notice for the 2022 Statutory Consultation (see <b>Appendix E-1: Section 48 Newspaper Notices for 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) in the following newspapers on the following dates:</p>

<sup>6</sup> Regulation 12(2) of the EIA Regulations defines "preliminary environmental information" to mean "information referred to in regulation 14(2) which— (a) has been compiled by the applicant; and (b) is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)."



Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>vicinity in which the proposed development would be situated;</p> <p>(b) once in a national newspaper;</p> <p>(c) once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and</p> <p>(d) where the proposed application relates to offshore development—</p> <p>(i) once in Lloyd's List; and</p> <p>(ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Kentish Express (Ashford and District): 20 and 27 October 2022</li> <li>▪ The Folkestone &amp; Hythe Express: 19 and 26 October 2022</li> <li>▪ The Guardian: 20 October 2022</li> <li>▪ The London Gazette: 20 October 2022</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant published a further section 48 notice for the 2023 Statutory Consultation (see <b>Appendix E-2: Section 48 Newspaper Notices for 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) in the following newspapers on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Kentish Express (Ashford and District): 8 June 2023 and 15 June 2023</li> <li>▪ The Folkestone and Hythe Express: 7 June 2023 and 14 June 2023</li> <li>▪ The Guardian: 7 June 2023</li> <li>▪ The London Gazette: 8 June 2023</li> </ul> <p>Due to the targeted nature of the 2023 Targeted Consultation and 2024 Targeted Consultation, further publicity under section 48 of the PA 2008 was not considered to be required.</p>
<p>Regulation 4(3) APFP Regulations</p>	<p>"The matters which the notice must include are—</p> <p>(a) the name and address of the applicant;</p> <p>(b) a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State;</p> <p>(c) a statement as to whether the application is EIA development;</p> <p>(d) a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development;</p>	<p>Both of the section 48 notices included all of the prescribed details, see <b>Appendix E-1: Section 48 Newspaper Notices for 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix E-2: Section 48 Newspaper Notices for 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>.</p>

Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>(e) a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development are available for inspection free of charge on a website maintained by or on behalf of the applicant;</p> <p>(ea) the address of the website where the documents, plans and maps may be inspected;</p> <p>(eb) the place on the website where the documents, plans and maps may be inspected;</p> <p>(ec) a telephone number which can be used to contact the applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps;</p> <p>(f) the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection on the website (being a date not earlier than the deadline in sub-paragraph (i));</p> <p>(g) whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge;</p> <p>(h) details of how to respond to the publicity; and</p> <p>(i) a deadline for receipt of those responses by the applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published."</p>	
<p>Regulation 13 EIA Regulations</p>	<p>"Where the proposed application for an order granting development consent is an application for EIA development, the applicant must, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under section 48(1), send a copy of that notice to the consultation</p>	<p>As the proposed development is EIA development, a copy of the section 48 notice was sent to all section 42 consultees, including the consultation bodies, as an enclosure to the section 42 letters for both the 2022 Statutory Consultation and the 2023 Statutory Consultation (see <b>Appendix C-3: Sample Letters sent to Section 42 Consultees</b></p>

Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
	bodies <sup>7</sup> and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with regulation 11(1)(c)."	<b>for 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2) and Appendix C-6: Sample Letters Sent to Section 42 Consultees for 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)).</b> No additional persons were notified to the Applicant in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations.

### Duty to take account of responses

Section 49(2) 2008 Act	"The applicant must, when deciding whether the application that the applicant is actually to make should be in the same terms as the proposed application, have regard to any relevant responses <sup>8</sup> ."	The Applicant had regard to all relevant responses as explained in <b>Sections 5.8, 6.11, 6.12, and 8.3</b> of the Report.
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### Guidance about the pre-application process

Section 50(3) 2008 Act	<p>"The applicant must have regard to any guidance under this section."</p> <p>'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (April 2024) guidance published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities under section 50(3) of the 2008 Act.</p> <p>'Guidance on procedural requirements for major infrastructure projects' was</p>	The Applicant has had regard to all guidance published under section 50(3) of the PA 2008 as set out below.
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<sup>7</sup> Regulation 3(1) of the EIA Regulations defines "the consultation bodies" to mean: "(a) a body prescribed under section 42(1)(a) (duty to consult) and listed in column 1 of the table set out in Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 where the circumstances set out in column 2 of that table are satisfied in respect of that body; (b) each authority that is within section 43 (local authorities for purposes of section 42(1)(b)); and (c) if the land to which the application, or proposed application, relates or any part of that land is in Greater London, the Greater London Authority".

<sup>8</sup> Section 49(3) of the 2008 Act defines "relevant response" to means: "(a) a response from a person consulted under section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by section 45 in that person's case, (b) a response to consultation under section 47(7) that is received by the applicant before any applicable deadline imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under section 47, or (c) a response to publicity under section 48 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed in accordance with section 48(2) in relation to that publicity."

Statutory Source	Requirement	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>published by the former Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in July 2020. To the extent that this applies to the pre-application process stage, the guidance is statutory pursuant to section 50 of the 2008 Act.</p>	



Table 2: Guidance on the pre-application stage

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
<p><b>Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Guidance</b></p>		
<p>6</p>	<p>"During the pre-application stage an applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ notify the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State of the proposed application on or before commencing statutorily required consultation under section 46 of the Planning Act, principally with statutory bodies, local authorities and persons with interests in the land;</li> <li>▪ notify the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State that they intend to provide an Environmental Statement in respect of the proposed development, or that they will be asking the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion ahead of submitting the application (Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017); this should be</li> </ul>	<p>See <b>Table 1</b> above for details of how the statutory requirements have been complied with. This document is part of the Consultation Report that has been submitted in support of the DCO Application in compliance with section 37 of the PA 2008. This <b>Table 2</b> explains the regard given to the guidance.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>informed by early engagement with interested parties before formal consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ prepare a statement in consultation with the relevant local authority or authorities, commonly termed the Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”), which describes how the applicant proposes to consult the local community about their project and then carry out consultation in accordance with that statement, as required by section 47 of the Planning Act and Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017;</li> <li>▪ make the SoCC available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land where the development is proposed, publishing the statement and a newspaper notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, as required by section</li> </ul>	

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>47 of the Planning Act;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ identify and consult statutory consultees, local authorities and all persons with land interests as required by section 42 of the Planning Act and Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (“the APFP Regulations 2009”);</li> <li>▪ set a deadline for consultation responses required by section 42 of the Planning Act of not less than 28 days from the day after receipt of the consultation documents as required by section 45 of the Planning Act;</li> <li>▪ publicise the proposed application in accordance with section 48 of the Planning Act, Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017 and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009;</li> <li>▪ have regard to relevant responses to</li> </ul>	

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>publicity and consultation required by section 49 of the Planning Act;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ prepare a consultation report showing how the applicant has met the consultation requirements of sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act and how the proposed application has been amended to take account of the relevant responses;</li> <li>▪ meet the requirements of section 37 of the Planning Act by submitting this consultation report to the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State with the application for development consent for consideration in the decision whether the application is accepted for examination; and</li> <li>▪ have regard to this guidance as required by section 50 of the Planning Act.</li> </ul> <p>Further statutory requirements under other legislation may also exist, depending on the nature of the proposed NSIP."</p>	



Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
7	<p>"Applicants will normally carry out preparatory work of project development, including informal early engagement with local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees prior to the formal start of the pre-application stage of the NSIP consenting process.</p> <p>There is no prescribed period of time for the pre-application stage. The amount of work involved in preparation and consultation will vary, driven by the complexity of the proposed NSIP, the time necessary to address issues raised in the preparation of the application, and other factors including any surveys necessary for an environmental impact assessment.</p> <p>Nonetheless, evidence suggests that the average timeframe for the pre-application stage is 2 years, and this is therefore taken as the benchmark. This is measured from the date of the Inception Meeting between the applicant and the Planning Inspectorate and the receipt of the application for acceptance by the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>Where an applicant is plainly making little or no</p>	<p><b>Sections 2 and 7</b> of the Report provide details of the early engagement undertaken for the Project. A summary of the key pre-application consultation milestones is provided in <b>Table 1</b> of the Report.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>progress towards submission of an application, the Planning Inspectorate may advise removal of the proposed application from the 'Register of applications' on the National Infrastructure Planning website managed by the Planning Inspectorate."</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>"The purpose of the Inception Meeting is for the applicant to discuss with the Planning Inspectorate their Programme Document, which sets out the intended programme for the pre-application stage and what work and studies are required for the preparation of an application. This Inception Meeting should include discussion of any anticipated requests for screening or scoping to help inform decisions on the right level of pre-application service to be provided by the Planning Inspectorate."</p>	<p>The Inception Meeting for the Project was held on 16 November 2021. This was before this guidance (including the requirement for a Programme Document to be prepared) was published.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>"In most cases applicants will need to engage statutory consultees and others early in the preparation of applications. Separate guidance on cost recovery explains where and how the Planning Inspectorate and some statutory consultees may recover costs for the</p>	<p><b>Sections 2 and 7</b> of the Report provide details of the early engagement undertaken for the Project.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	services they provide in relation to NSIP applications / proposed applications."	
8	"Before commencing statutory consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act, section 46 of the Planning Act requires an applicant to notify the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State of their intention to make an application for development consent, and it must supply information in relation to the proposed application. This will be recorded and published by the Planning Inspectorate on the appropriate project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website. Where an applicant has not yet submitted a request or notification under Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017, they can ask the Planning Inspectorate to delay publication of early project discussions by up to 6 months (further advice is provided in the Planning Inspectorate's Pre-application Prospectus - to be published Spring 2024)."	Details of the section 46 notices are provided in <b>Table 1</b> above.

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
9	<p>"The pre-application process is applicant-led. To deliver a good pre-application process, including effective engagement and a well-prepared application, applicants should put together a Programme Document at the outset of the pre-application stage for submission to the Planning Inspectorate and agreement at the Inception Meeting. The Programme Document is an essential element of the quality standard for applications seeking a fast-track route to consent.</p> <p>The Programme Document will enable all those engaged in the pre-application process, particularly statutory consultees, to understand the timescales and ensure their contribution is programmed into the pre-application stage at the most effective point. It will also assist the applicant in managing the preparation and subsequent submission of the application documents for consideration by the Planning Inspectorate at the acceptance stage."</p>	<p>The consultation was carried out and completed before this guidance (including the requirement for a Programme Document to be prepared) was published. Throughout the pre-application process, there have been regular meetings with the Planning Inspectorate during which updates were provided on the consultation for the Project.</p>
9	<p>"Following the Inception Meeting, it is expected that the applicant will host and maintain the agreed</p>	



Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>Programme Document on its website, and update it as necessary during the pre-application period to publicise completion of significant stages and demonstrate progress in preparation of the application."</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>"The Programme Document is not a statutory requirement and is not for consultation apart from agreement with the Planning Inspectorate. It should set out the timetable and activities necessary for an effective pre-application process including the level of pre-application services from the Planning Inspectorate, and consultation with various parties required under the Planning Act."</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>"The Programme Document should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the date the applicant intends to submit their application;</li> <li>▪ a comprehensive timetable of the applicant's pre-application process, the main events with dates and milestones demonstrating how the pre-application process will be completed (using the maximum target of 2 years as a benchmark);</li> </ul>	

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the applicant’s view on the main issues for resolution and activities they will undertake to address those;</li> <li>▪ the applicant’s proposals for engaging with statutory consultees and local authorities during the pre-application period and any intended financial support agreements, such as Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs);</li> <li>▪ the applicant’s identification of risks to achievement of the pre-application stage and the process by which these risks are tracked and managed; and</li> <li>▪ cross references to the SoCC required by section 47 of the Planning Act."</li> </ul>	
11	<p>"Major infrastructure projects will normally be of a size, scale and nature that they will constitute Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development described within the terms of the EIA Regulations 2017. An applicant cannot begin to carry out statutory consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act until they have taken</p>	<p>The Project is EIA development. See <b>Table 1</b> above for details of compliance with Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>the necessary steps under Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017 to establish whether an EIA is required."</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>"Where the proposed development is determined to be EIA development, an applicant will need to submit an Environmental Statement along with their application. Although it is not mandatory, an applicant can request the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State to provide an opinion on the scope of the Environmental Statement (the 'scoping opinion') i.e. what the assessment does, and does not, need to consider. Such a request must be accompanied by the information provided by the applicant required by Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations 2017 in order that the Planning Inspectorate can make a fully informed view and respond within 42 days."</p>	<p>An ES (<b>ES, Doc Ref. 5.1 to 5.4</b>) has been submitted in support of the DCO Application. A Scoping Report (<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 1.1: EIA Scoping Report (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>) was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate which provided the information required by Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations 2017.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>"The scoping opinion will take into account advice received from statutory consultees and other relevant organisations following the required consultation over a 28-day period within the 42 days. Any potential for transboundary effects must also be considered.</p>	<p>A Scoping Opinion (<b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 1.2: EIA Scoping Opinion (Doc Ref. 5.4)</b>) was received from the Planning Inspectorate.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>The scoping opinion will confirm the programme of data collection and studies to be undertaken by the applicant, and contain recommendations where there is no need to explore certain topics (based on the information submitted at that time)."</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>"There has been an increasing tendency for Environmental Statements to become excessively detailed and take an overly cautious approach by including material on a range of topics, whether strictly relevant or not. This makes for inaccessible and cumbersome Environmental Statements which are counterproductive in identifying clearly the actual likely environmental effects from the proposal, which become buried in a mass of documentation. Applicants should adopt a proportionate approach in the type and volume of information they request from statutory bodies during the preparation of their Environmental Statements to meet the requirements of Regulations 5, 14 and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017.</p> <p>At the same time, applicants also have to</p>	<p>The ES (<b>ES, Doc Ref. 5.1 to 5.4</b>) that has been submitted in support of the DCO Application has adopted a proportionate approach. Details of the flexibility sought and how that has been assessed are set out in the ES.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>consider the level of detailed information which is actually available to enable the environmental effects to be assessed and included in the Environmental Statement. Applicants often naturally seek flexibility and may choose to describe the proposal in terms of the maximum parameters of the proposal and the establishment of a worst-case scenario for environmental assessment. The 'Rochdale Envelope' is now a well-established part of the approach to striking this balance.</p> <p>Applicants should always provide sufficiently robust and detailed data of the effects of the proposed development on the environment, so that these can be considered throughout the NSIP consenting process. Taking the Rochdale Envelope approach increases the spatial extent of the project, and will therefore increase the amount of evidence required to be submitted in support of the application. It is not an excuse to submit applications with insufficient supporting survey material. This can lead to an inadequate Environmental Statement and risk non acceptance</p>	

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	of the application for examination."	
11	<p>"Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires that an Environmental Statement includes a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, including a comparison of the effects of the development on the environment (Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017). Inadequate consideration of alternatives has been used as a vehicle for legal challenge. Alternatives can range from matters such as micro-siting (where the development is located within the site) and alternative access points, to the size and scale of development, technological and design options. Applicants are advised to fully document all optioneering exercises and decision-making on alternatives from the inception of their projects in their application, and reference this appropriately in their Environmental Statement."</p>	<p>Details of the alternatives considered by the Applicant are provided in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>
11	<p>"Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires that the applicant's SoCC must</p>	<p>See <b>Table 1</b> above for details of how the Applicant has complied with these statutory requirements.</p>



Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>state whether the project constitutes EIA development and, if it does, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information (PEI); and</p> <p>Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires that publicity of project proposals under section 48 of the Planning Act must also encompass the requirements of the EIA process and at the time of publishing the proposed application, applicants must notify all the notified consultation bodies."</p>	
11	<p>"Applicants need to give consultation bodies sufficient information about the characteristics of the proposed NSIP in order to enable them to respond in an effective and timely way about the likely environmental effects and avoid unnecessary delay. Applicants should discuss providing digital material where possible with relevant statutory consultees."</p>	<p>The Applicant's team drew on its experience of delivering solar projects throughout the UK when preparing its consultation strategy. As mentioned above, the Applicant also worked closely with the relevant local authorities to ensure that the consultation was appropriate to the scale and nature of the Project with the agreed approach documented in SoCC 1, SoCC 2 and SoCC 3.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook a five-week 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation, a five-week 2022 Statutory Consultation, a five-week 2023 Statutory Consultation and two four-week targeted consultations. This well exceeded the 28-day statutory minimum.</p> <p>The consultation was designed to be flexible and a range of online and offline communication methods were used to engage a wide number of people in the consultation process.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
12	<p>"Where an NSIP is determined to be EIA development in line with Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017 the applicant is required by Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017 to publish sufficient Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed development. The information required will be different for different types and sizes of projects and it may also vary depending on the audience of a particular consultation."</p>	<p>Each of SoCC 1, SoCC 2 and SoCC 3 confirmed that the Applicant intended to consult on preliminary environmental information.</p> <p>The Applicant prepared a PEIR, together with a Non-Technical Summary, which was made available in October 2022 to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the Project as part of the 2022 Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant prepared a PEIR Addendum which updated and supplemented the PEIR, and included an updated Non-Technical Summary, which was made available in June 2023 to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the Project as part of the 2023 Statutory Consultation.</p>
12	<p>"Applicants are advised to consult any relevant existing environmental assessments or survey information, in the first instance to get an idea of what environmental effects could arise."</p>	<p>Details of the information reviewed by the Applicant, including any existing assessments and survey information, are included in the ES (<b>Doc Ref. 5.1 to 5.4</b>).</p>
12	<p>"The key issue is that the information presented must be clear to all consultees, even if it is of specialised technical nature."</p>	<p>The consultation documents were written in non-technical language, and a non-technical summary of the PEIR and PEIR Addendum was provided. Consultees were encouraged to provide feedback and a user friendly feedback form was used through which consultees could provide their comments on the Project.</p>
12	<p>"As required by Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations</p>	<p>Details of any relevant limitations and assumptions were set out in the PEIR</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>2017 any difficulties or areas of uncertainty such as in data collection, forecasting methods or scientific knowledge must be identified and acknowledged."</p>	<p>and PEIR Addendum and are explained in the ES (<b>Doc Ref. 5.1 to 5.4</b>).</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>"There is no prescribed format for PEI. However, depending on the availability of material, applicants are encouraged to prepare this as an early draft of the Environmental Statement and include it as such as part of the statutory consultation under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act. If applicants decide to take a different approach, they should be clear with consultees about the status of the PEI."</p>	<p>Each of SoCC 1, SoCC 2 and SoCC 3 confirmed that the Applicant intended to consult on preliminary environmental information.</p> <p>The Applicant prepared a PEIR, together with a Non-Technical Summary, which was made available in October 2022 to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the Project as part of the 2022 Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant prepared a PEIR Addendum which updated and supplemented the PEIR, and included an updated Non-Technical Summary, which was made available in June 2023 to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the Project as part of the 2023 Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>The preliminary nature of the PEIR and PEIR Addendum was made clear in those documents.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>"In any event, applicants will need to maintain close dialogue with statutory consultees throughout the pre-application period. The provision of PEI can help statutory consultees to understand the environmental effects of the development and may assist in the identification and addressing of potential issues at an</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken extensive non-statutory and statutory consultation, as well as ongoing engagement, to identify issues up front at the pre-application stage.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	early stage in the pre-application process."	
12	"The Planning Inspectorate will not review any of the draft PEI material unless specifically included as part of the agreed pre-application service, but applicants are encouraged to include their approach to preparing PEI in the Programme Document for discussion with the Planning Inspectorate. Further information can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's Pre-Application Prospectus (to be published Spring 2024)."	The PEIR and PEIR Addendum were published before this guidance (including the requirement for a Programme Document to be prepared) was published.
13	"The Habitats Regulations provide for the designation of sites for the protection of certain species and habitats. When considering whether a proposed NSIP has the potential to significantly affect the integrity of such sites, the applicant must provide a report as required by Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations 2009. This must include the site(s) that may be affected, together with sufficient information to enable the relevant Secretary of State, as decision maker, to conclude whether an appropriate assessment	<b>An Information for Habitats Regulation Assessment (Doc Ref. 7.19)</b> has been submitted with the DCO Application which provides the required information to enable the Secretary of State to undertake an appropriate assessment.

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>is required under the Habitats Regulations, and, if so, to undertake such an assessment."</p> <p>"As NPSs reiterate, it is the applicant's responsibility to provide all the material and evidence as part of the application to enable the Secretary of State to carry out their statutory obligations. Where the applicant is of the view that there are no likely significant effects, this is best presented in the form of a report which contains all the material necessary to justify the conclusions reached, and evidence of the extent of agreement with statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCBs). One way of doing this is for an applicant to agree an evidence plan with the SNCBs to support a HRA where there are extensive or complex issues."</p>	
13	<p>"The Planning Inspectorate can also comment on the applicant's draft HRA report if agreed as part of the pre-application service in advance of formal submission of the application. Applicants must therefore build in sufficient time during the pre-application stage to consult with the SNCBs and, if they consider it</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted with Natural England during the 2022 Statutory Consultation and the 2023 Statutory Consultation. The Applicant also undertook non-statutory engagement with Natural England to seek input into the Information for Habitats Regulation Assessment. The Applicant shared the draft Information for Habitats Regulation Assessment with Natural England for comment on 6 March 2024.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>appropriate, with any relevant non-statutory nature conservation bodies, in order to gather the necessary evidence and material."</p>	
<p>13</p>	<p>"Where any potential for likely significant effects cannot be ruled out and the applicant needs to move to the subsequent stages of the HRA process, it is for the applicant to include as part of the HRA documentation included with the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a shadow appropriate assessment;</li> <li>▪ where necessary a draft of the applicant's case for derogations involving imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) and appropriate compensatory measures, together with evidence of landowner agreements where necessary.</li> </ul> <p>Full HRA material must be provided as part of the application. This guidance requires the Planning Inspectorate not to accept applications for examination which are incomplete or not comprehensive in this regard. It is also expected that additional material should not be submitted</p>	<p><b>An Information for Habitats Regulation Assessment (Doc Ref. 7.19)</b> has been submitted with the DCO Application which provides the required information to enable the Secretary of State to undertake an appropriate assessment.</p>



Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>by the applicant for validation during the examination stage. If such additional material is needed it will be requested by the Examining Authority or raised by SNCBs in their representations.</p> <p>By placing the responsibility of compiling all the necessary HRA material on the applicant, coupled with agreed SoCG with SNCBs submitted with the application wherever possible, the expectation is that the range of disputed factual material should be reduced. In turn, the need for the Planning Inspectorate to produce its own document, the Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES), for the Examining Authority to take into account during the examination and as part of the recommendation should also be decreased. This will contribute to improving the efficiency of the examination and reducing the burden placed on the Secretary of State as competent authority during the decision stage of the NSIP consenting process.</p> <p>Regulation 26 of the EIA Regulations 2017 requires that where an</p>	

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>EIA and HRA are required, the processes should be co-ordinated. The HRA process should form part of, and reference, the work carried out for the broader EIA process, particularly with respect to consideration of alternatives, cumulative effects and mitigation options. However, care should be taken to ensure that the information relevant to the HRA and its conclusions are clearly discernible."</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>"Applicants should involve a diverse range of people including where appropriate, planners, environmental specialists, landscape architects, architects, engineers and community groups in informing the project vision, narrative, design principles, and project design process to support delivery of the outcomes of the project.</p> <p>Applicants should explain how the design responds to the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) design principles for national infrastructure: climate, people, places and value."</p>	<p>The Project team includes a wide range of competent experts.</p> <p>The scheme design has been led and prepared by the Applicant's in-house engineering team, with landscape design services provided by SLR. Quod is the planning consultant and lead editor of the ES. Quod is a member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment ('IEMA') EIA Quality Mark Scheme, an accreditation scheme which sets high standards for EIA practice and demonstrates a commitment to excellence in EIA activities.</p> <p>Each member of the Project team is a suitably qualified professional and details of the professional competency of the technical specialists is provided in <b>ES Volume 4, Appendix 1.5: Statement on Expertise and Qualifications of Competent Experts (Doc Ref. 5.4).</b></p> <p>The Applicant has provided the following statement confirming that the experts are competent:</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
		<p><i>“In accordance with The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, EPL 001 Limited (the Applicant) can hereby confirm that the technical consultants appointed to contribute and author this Environmental Statement are competent experts and have demonstrated evidence of sufficient expertise to carry out robust assessment and reporting. This is evidenced in the technical chapters of the Environmental Statement.”</i></p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken a significant amount of pre-application consultation, that has given the local community and interested parties the opportunity to shape and influence the Project. This process is set out and explained in the Report.</p> <p>The Applicant has encapsulated the design vision in nine key Design Objectives which inform the design of the Project. These objectives have been informed by the consultation process. The vision and Design Objectives were presented during the 2023 Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>The Project has evolved through consultation building upon the Site analysis. A detailed description of the design stages and the changes made to the design of the evolving scheme at each stage is set out in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>. This includes details of the changes to the emerging Project both in terms of the extent of the Order limits and the layout of the land within the Order limits.</p> <p>The vision, Design Objectives and <b>Design Principles (Doc Ref. 7.5)</b> have been prepared with appropriate regard to the guidance set out in <i>Design principles for national infrastructure</i></p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
		(published in February 2020). An explanation of how the Project responds to this guidance is set out in the <b>Design Approach Document (Doc Ref. 7.4)</b> and the <b>Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6)</b> .
15	<p>"...applicants do now routinely set out in brief the main alternatives to their preferred scheme which were considered early during the pre-application stage and the consultees' responses to them. Applicants are encouraged to do so as this can demonstrate how project designs have been refined to take into account environmental, socio-economic and community effects. Any such consideration of alternatives should be submitted as part of the application, perhaps as part of the Planning Statement. All this will help to reinforce the applicant's case for promoting the NSIP in the particular form of the submitted application.</p> <p>Very exceptionally, there may be some real alternatives to elements of a proposed NSIP which the applicant chooses to put forward for examination on the basis that the Examining Authority could be able to recommend a preference to the Secretary of State. There may also be</p>	<p>The PEIR published for the 2022 Statutory Consultation included a chapter (Chapter 4 Alternatives) which provided details of the alternatives that had been considered.</p> <p>The PEIR Addendum published in 2023 also include a chapter (Chapter 4 Alternatives) which provided details of the alternatives that had been considered.</p> <p>Details of the alternatives considered by the Applicant are provided in <b>ES Volume 2, Chapter 5: Alternatives and Design Evolution (Doc Ref. 5.2)</b>.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>circumstances where an element of a proposed NSIP is so exceptional it is in the applicant's interest to provide a more particular consideration of alternatives to help demonstrate their eventual preference in the light of the policy requirements of the relevant NPS. In such cases, the applicant will need to ensure that sufficient technical material is included as part of the application to enable it to be properly investigated during the examination without leading to substantial delays."</p>	
<p>16</p>	<p>"Applicants will often need to compile detailed records of land interests as part of the preparation of an NSIP application. These will be principally for the assembly of the Book of Reference required by Regulations 5 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009 where applicable, including where compulsory acquisition of land is proposed, or where applicants require rights to use land (for example, to undertake surveys) or carry out protective works to buildings."</p>	<p>A <b>Book of Reference (Doc Ref. 4.1)</b> has been submitted with the DCO Application.</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>"The strong expectation is that applicants of proposed NSIPs will act</p>	<p>Details of the engagement that has been undertaken with landowners are provided in the <b>Statement of Reasons</b></p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>reasonably in engaging with landowners, and likewise landowners will cooperate with applicants to provide them with the information that they need and facilitate access to their land as required, even if they object to the principle of the development. Such cooperation does not preclude, remove or reduce any of the landowner's rights to participate in the consultation on an application or make representations about it during the examination."</p>	<p><b>(Doc Ref. 4.2) and Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought (Doc Ref. 4.4).</b></p>
<p>17</p>	<p>"The presumption should be therefore that where an applicant proposes a provision within their DCO to remove a requirement for a prescribed non-planning consent to be granted by the relevant body, the body that would normally be responsible for granting this consent is expected to make every effort to agree to the proposal. Such a body should only object to the inclusion of such provision with good reason, and after careful consideration of reasonable alternatives. It is therefore essential that such bodies are consulted at an early stage, and that applicants give thorough and early consideration to this</p>	<p>The <b>Draft Development Consent Order (Doc Ref. 3.1)</b> does not include a provision to remove a requirement for a prescribed non-planning consent to be granted by a relevant body.</p>



Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	aspect of pre-application preparation."	
17	<p>"Some permits regularly required to implement DCOs lie outside the provisions of section 150 of the Planning Act, for example an environmental permit to operate a particular development issued by the Environment Agency. In this case, an applicant should confirm if an environmental permit is required for the proposed project at an early stage in the preparation of an application."</p>	<p>A <b>Schedule of Other Consents and Licences (Doc Ref. 3.4)</b> has been submitted with the DCO Application. Details of consultation undertaken with the Environment Agency are set out throughout the Report.</p>
19	<p>"Applicants are responsible for consulting on proposed applications for DCOs. Applicants are specifically required to undertake statutory pre-application consultation activities as stipulated in the following legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ section 42 of the Planning Act, together with the provisions of sections 43 and 44 of the Planning Act, requires applicants to consult certain persons, including statutory consultees, local authorities, and others with a relevant interest in the land to which the proposed application relates, prior to the</li> </ul>	<p>See <b>Table 1</b> above for details of how these statutory requirements have been complied with.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>submission of an application. The prescribed list of statutory consultees for the purposes of section 42 of the Planning Act is set out in Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009, as amended by the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ section 47 of the Planning Act requires applicants to consult relevant local authorities on what is to be in their SoCC setting out how applicants intend to consult the local community on the proposed DCO application, and then carry out consultation in accordance with the SoCC;</li> <li>▪ section 48 of the Planning Act requires applicants to publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner as set out in Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009; and</li> <li>▪ the EIA Regulations 2017 set out requirements for preparing</li> </ul>	

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>Environmental Statements prior to the submission of a DCO application, including engaging with statutory consultees and local authorities prior to formal pre-application activities under section 42 of the Planning Act."</p>	
<p>19</p>	<p>"Effective pre-application consultation is key to developing well-prepared applications that are understood by the public. Consultation on development proposals allows consultees and local communities to influence how infrastructure that meets a national need can be accommodated in their area, and enables applicants to more effectively shape proposals."</p>	<p>As explained throughout the Report, the Applicant has undertaken comprehensive consultation. <b>Sections 5.8, 6.11, 6.12 and 8.3</b> of the Report explain how the Applicant has had regard to responses to consultation and how that has influenced the proposals.</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>"Early involvement of local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees during the pre-application stage, both through consultation and other forms of engagement, can bring about significant benefits for all parties"</p>	<p>The Applicant engaged with local authorities, the local community and key stakeholders early in the pre-application process as outlined in <b>Sections 2 and 7</b> of the Report.</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>"Without adequate pre-application consultation in line with the legislation, the subsequent application when it is</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken extensive non-statutory and statutory consultation, as well as ongoing engagement, to identify issues up front at the pre-application stage. The Applicant has</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	submitted to the Planning Inspectorate will not be accepted to proceed to examination. The Planning Inspectorate takes into account the responses received from local authorities during the acceptance period to determine on behalf of the Secretary of State whether the consultation is adequate."	had regard to all of the consultation feedback in finalising its proposals in advance of submitting the DCO Application.
20	"The pre-application consultation undertaken should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the project and its effects. A 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not appropriate. For a straightforward and uncontroversial application, an applicant may choose to discharge the obligations of sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act concurrently in a single round of consultation, or in separate stages. For more complex proposals, an applicant may choose to conduct a non-statutory round of consultation (for example considering options) before undertaking a statutory round of consultation, or they may choose to run a multi-stage statutory consultation process."	<p>The Applicant developed a consultation strategy through engagement with the relevant local authorities, including through the preparation of SoCC 1, SoCC 2 and SoCC 3, that was appropriate to the scale and nature of the Project. Regard was had to the comments received from the local authorities about the consultation strategy as detailed in <b>Appendix B-2: Regard had to Host Authorities' Responses to Statement of Community Consultation 1 (Doc Ref. 6.2), Appendix B-7: Regard had to Host Authorities' Responses to Statement of Community Consultation 2 (Doc Ref. 6.2) and Appendix B-11: Regard had to Host Authorities' Responses to Statement of Community Consultation 3 (Doc Ref. 6.2).</b></p> <p>The Applicant undertook the following rounds of consultation: a five-week 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation, a five-week 2022 Statutory Consultation, a five-week 2023 Statutory Consultation and two four-week targeted consultations.</p>
20	"What consultation is planned and when will form a key part of the	The consultation was carried out and completed before this guidance (including the requirement for a

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>applicant's overall programme for completing the pre-application stage. It will need to be included in the Programme Document supplied by the applicant to the Planning Inspectorate for the Inception Meeting. Some applicants may have their own distinct approaches to consultation, perhaps drawing on their own or relevant sector experience, for example if there are industry protocols that can be adapted. Larger, more complex applications are likely to warrant going beyond the statutory 28-day minimum timescales for consultation laid down in the Planning Act to ensure enough time for consultees to understand project proposals and formulate a response."</p>	<p>Programme Document to be prepared) was published.</p> <p>The Applicant's team drew on its group companies' experience of delivering solar projects throughout the UK when preparing its consultation strategy. As mentioned above, the Applicant also worked closely with the relevant local authorities to ensure that the consultation was appropriate to the scale and nature of the Project.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook a five-week 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation, a five-week 2022 Statutory Consultation, a five-week 2023 Statutory Consultation and two four-week targeted consultations. This well exceeded the 28-day statutory minimum.</p>
20	<p>"The timing and duration of consultation will be likely to vary from project to project, depending on size and complexity, and the range and scale of the effects. Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the proposed project. Equally, it is also important that consultees do not withhold information that might affect a project, and that they respond in good time</p>	<p>The consultation deadlines that were set for the consultation on the Project were realistic and proportionate to the Project. The Applicant undertook a five-week 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation, a five-week 2022 Statutory Consultation, a five-week 2023 Statutory Consultation and two four-week targeted consultations. This well exceeded the 28-day statutory minimum.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	to applicants. Where responses are not received by the deadline, the applicant is not obliged to take those responses into account."	
20	"Once applicants have completed the consultation process set out in their SoCC, where a proposed application is amended in the light of responses to consultation then, unless those amendments materially and substantially change the proposed application or materially changes its effects as a whole, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. The amendments can be reported as part of the consultation report submitted with the application."	<p>After completing the 2022 Statutory Consultation, the Applicant decided to carry out a further round of full statutory consultation on the Project. SoCC 3 was prepared and made available to explain how the Applicant intended to consult the local community as part of the 2023 Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>After completing the 2023 Statutory Consultation, the Applicant decided to carry out targeted consultation between 13 November and 13 December 2023 and between 12 February and 12 March 2024 with persons with an interest in the land that was directly affected by the proposed changes to the Order limits under section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 and with section 42(1)(a) and (b) consultees who the Applicant considered would be interested in the proposed changes. A targeted approach was considered to be appropriate given the minor, localised nature of the proposed changes.</p>
20	<p>"Only where the project taken as a whole changes very significantly, and to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was previously consulted on, should re-consultation on the proposed application as a whole be considered.</p> <p>In understanding whether there has been a material and substantial change, applicants should take</p>	



Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>into account the following guiding factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the degree of change as compared to the proposals previously consulted upon as a whole;</li> <li>▪ the number of materially worse environmental effects as compared to what has been the subject of previous consultations; and</li> <li>▪ the level of public interest, and the likelihood that such interest would merit further consideration in the context of that change."</li> </ul>	
20	<p>"For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally changed, for example in the case of linear aspects where new information leads to a new alignment for a particular section of the proposal, a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately."</p>	
20	<p>"Targeted consultation can be statutory or non-statutory or a combination of the two depending on whether new persons needing to be consulted</p>	

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>under section 42 of the Planning Act have been identified, but such targeted consultation will not require the production of PEI provided proportionate and appropriate information on environmental implications of any changes, where necessary, is provided."</p>	
<p>21</p>	<p>"Sections 42 to 44 of the Planning Act, Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009 set out details of who must be consulted, including statutory bodies, the Marine Management Organisation where appropriate, local authorities, and persons having an interest in the land to be developed. Section 47 of the Planning Act sets out the applicant's statutory duty to consult local communities. In addition, applicants will want to consider the issues that may need to be addressed ahead of submission and may also wish to seek the views of other people who are not statutory consultees, but who may be significantly affected by the project."</p>	<p>2022 Statutory Consultation: <b>Appendix C-1: List of Section 42(1)(a) and (b) Consultees for 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix C-2: List of Section 42(1)(d) Consultees for Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> lists the section 42 consultees consulted as part of the 2022 Statutory Consultation. <b>Section 5.3</b> of the Report details the methodology used to identify those consultees. The Applicant also contacted directly a range of parish councils, local community groups and other interested people (see <b>Appendix D-1: Community Organisations Consulted During 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix D-2: Emails to Community Organisations 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>). In particular, emails were sent to these people on 17 and 18 October 2022 to publicise the launch of the 2022 Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>2023 Statutory Consultation: <b>Appendix C-5: List of Section 42(1)(a) and (b) Consultees for 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix C-2: List of Section 42(1)(d) Consultees for Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> lists the section 42 consultees consulted as part</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
		<p>of the 2023 Statutory Consultation. <b>Section 6.3</b> of the Report details the methodology used to identify those consultees. The Applicant also contacted directly a range of parish councils, local community groups and other interested people (see <b>Appendix D-4: Community Organisations Consulted During 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix D-5: Emails to Community Organisations Consulted During 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>). In particular, an email was sent to these people on 2 June 2023 to publicise the launch of the 2023 Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>2023 Targeted Consultation and 2024 Targeted Consultation: See <b>Section 8</b> of the Report for details of the process used for identifying consultees for the targeted consultation and <b>Appendix J-1: List of Consultees (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix L-1: List of Consultees (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> for the distribution lists. A targeted approach was considered to be appropriate given the minor, localised nature of the proposed changes.</p>
21	<p>"The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 amended the APFP Regulations 2009 by substituting a new table of persons prescribed for the purpose of section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act (duty to consult) and also section 56(2) of the Planning Act (notifying persons of an accepted applications) which is covered in</p>	<p>Regulation 4 (the transitional provisions) of the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 states that "<i>the amendments in regulation 2 do not apply to any proposed application for an order granting development consent where the applicant has started to consult under section 42 of the Act before 30th April 2024.</i>" As the statutory consultation for the Project was carried out and completed prior to 30 April 2024, the Applicant consulted the prescribed consultees as listed within</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>the acceptance guidance. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all relevant prescribed consultees are consulted about a proposed application."</p>	<p>the APFP Regulations 2009 prior to these amendments.</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>"While the list of prescribed bodies who must be consulted was updated in April 2024, from time to time a body may cease to exist but may still be listed as a statutory consultee in the Regulations pending their updating. In such situations applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have with the original body. Where there is no obvious successor, applicants should seek the advice of the Planning Inspectorate, who may be able to identify an appropriate alternative consultee. Whether or not an alternative is identified, the consultation report should briefly note any cases where compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why."</p>	<p>Regulation 4 (the transitional provisions) of the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 states that "<i>the amendments in regulation 2 do not apply to any proposed application for an order granting development consent where the applicant has started to consult under section 42 of the Act before 30th April 2024.</i>" As the statutory consultation for the Project was carried out and completed prior to 30 April 2024, the Applicant consulted the prescribed consultees as listed within the APFP Regulations 2009 prior to these amendments.</p> <p>The Applicant reviewed the listed statutory bodies in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations and all relevant statutory bodies or their successors were consulted by the Applicant where their statutory remit was relevant to the Project.</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>"It is good practice for applicants to work with local stakeholders in the formative stages of the project, through early</p>	<p>The consultation was carried out and completed before this guidance (including the requirement for a</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>engagement. This can help inform the Programme Document that they later take to the Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate. Early engagement with local authorities, parish and town councils can help applicants to ensure they find the best approach to engage the relevant communities in the most effective and proportionate way."</p>	<p>Programme Document to be prepared) was published.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook non-statutory consultation in March to April 2022. This was to engage with the local community and key stakeholders early in the development of the Project. The Applicant chose to undertake a multi-stage and iterative consultation process to ensure feedback from the consultation could be used to influence the design of the Project. The feedback to the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation, and the regard had to that feedback by the Applicant, is summarised in <b>Section 2.2</b> of the Report.</p>
22	<p>"Under section 47 of the Planning Act, applicants are required to produce a SoCC, setting out how they intend to consult the local community on the proposed application. Applicants should consider how they can engage communities in a way that supports them to understand the necessary issues at an appropriate stage to support preparation of their application, and how they will show how they have responded to their issues of concern."</p>	<p>A range of consultation methods were used throughout the consultation, as explained in <b>Sections 5.2, 5.5, 6.2 and 6.4</b> of the Report. These methods were agreed with the local authorities through the consultations on SoCC 1, SoCC 2 and SoCC 3.</p>
22	<p>"Local communities may need support to help them to input to the NSIP consenting process. Independent community liaison chairs or forums can be used to provide support to local communities and non-</p>	<p>The consultation was carried out and completed before this guidance (including the requirement for a Programme Document to be prepared) was published.</p> <p>The Applicant set up a Community Liaison Panel, further details of which are set out in <b>Section 7</b> of the Report.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>statutory consultees to enable them to provide an effective input to the pre-application process. Applicants will want to consider whether these should be used, not least to assist an applicant's own assessment of potential examination issues in preparing their Programme Document and SoCC."</p>	
23	<p>" Applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ consult the prescribed bodies as appropriate under Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009, as well as the Marine Management Organisation in certain circumstances, under section 42 of the Planning Act, giving the consultees at least 28 days to respond;</li> <li>▪ publicise their proposed application under section 48 of the Planning Act, and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009 sets out the detail of what this publicity must entail; and</li> <li>▪ by section 49 of the Planning Act have regard to any relevant consultation responses from</li> </ul>	<p>See <b>Table 1</b> for details of how these statutory requirements have been complied with.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>either statutory consultees under section 42 of the Planning Act, local communities under section 47 of the Planning Act, or wider publicity under section 48 of the Planning Act."</p>	
<p>23</p>	<p>"Applicants will often need detailed technical input from statutory consultees as expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the impacts of projects, and other important matters. In many cases applicants will need to engage statutory consultees and others before the Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate."</p>	<p>The <b>ES (Doc Ref. 5.1-5.4)</b> provides information about the consultation and engagement that has been undertaken with technical bodies in order to inform the EIA undertaken for the Project. A PEIR and PEIR Addendum were published for consultation during the pre-application stage.</p> <p><b>Section 7</b> of the Report provides details of the engagement that has been undertaken with statutory consultees prior to the Inception Meeting.</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>"Some statutory consultees have cost recovery arrangements in place for the advice they provide. The ability for statutory consultees to respond effectively to pre-application requests for advice means they have the information they need from applicants to do so. It is essential therefore that applicants arrange early engagement with statutory consultees to avoid unnecessary delays and the costs of having to make changes at later</p>	<p>The Applicant engaged with local authorities, the local community and key stakeholders early in the pre-application process as outlined in <b>Sections 2 and 7</b> of the Report.</p>



Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	stages of the consenting process."	
24	"Where an applicant proposes to compulsorily acquire an interest or take temporary possession of land it does not own in order to implement a proposed NSIP, under section 42 of the Planning Act they must identify and consult people, including those who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question."	See <b>Table 1</b> above for information on the consultation that has been undertaken under section 42 of the PA 2008.
24	"It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the application to the Planning Inspectorate that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests. Applicants must ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categorises those land interests) is sufficiently up to date at the time of submission (acknowledging the timescales for preparing and updating it) and fully meets the requirements of Regulations 5 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009."	<p>Details of how the Applicant has exercised due diligence in identifying all persons under section 42(1)(d) are provided in <b>Sections 5.8, 6.11, 6.12</b> and <b>8.3</b> of the Report.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the <b>Book of Reference (Doc Ref. 4.1)</b> is sufficiently up to date and fully meets the requirements of Regulations 5 and 7 of the APFP Regulations.</p>
24	"Where appropriate, the Book of Reference should be supplemented by a Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker, submitted by the	The Applicant has submitted a <b>Schedule of Negotiations (Doc. Ref 4.4)</b> as part of the DCO Application which will be updated during the examination stage as required.

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>applicant and updated during the examination, setting out the status of negotiations with landowners, Crown bodies and statutory undertakers affected by proposals for compulsory acquisition of land or rights and temporary possession."</p>	
24	<p>"It should be noted that for an accepted application, the situation concerning compilation of land interests can continue to evolve during the examination as new information becomes available, and it is not uncommon for the Book of Reference to be revised and resubmitted more than once. This is usually a substantial undertaking and applicants should dedicate sufficient time and resource, particularly as in many cases there may be parcels of land where there is little information available. With this in mind, applicants are advised to make maximum use of electronic data bases when compiling the Book of Reference to enable such changes to be made easily."</p>	<p>The Applicant will ensure that sufficient time and resource is dedicated to this process throughout the examination stage.</p>
24	<p>"In addition, land interests can change over time and new or additional interests may emerge</p>	<p>New persons (see <b>Appendix K-1: List of Consultees (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> for a list of the consultees) with an interest in land within the Site boundary were</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>after an applicant has concluded statutory consultation but just before an application is submitted. In such a situation, the applicant should provide a proportionate opportunity to any new person identified with a land interest to make their views known on the application. Where new interests in land are identified very shortly before the intended submission of an application, despite diligent efforts earlier in the process, it may be difficult at that stage for applicants to consult and take account of any responses from those new interests before submitting their application as intended. If this situation arises applicants should be proactive and helpful in ensuring that the person understands how they can, if they so wish, engage with the process if the application is accepted for examination."</p>	<p>identified by the Applicant after the 2023 Statutory Consultation ended.</p> <p>In accordance with the guidance, the Applicant sent those persons letters inviting them to comment on the Project (see <b>Appendix K-2: Sample Letter and Enclosures to New Land Interests and Prescribed Consultees (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> for a sample letter). The letters provided details about the Project, explained where copies of the previous consultation materials could be located and gave those persons the opportunity to submit comments to the Applicant by a deadline that was at least 28 days beginning with the day after the day on which the consultees received the consultation documents. <b>Section 6</b> of the Report provides further information.</p>
24	<p>"Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take</p>	

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	account of any responses."	
25	<p>"The Programme Document will enable the Planning Inspectorate to determine at the Inception Meeting that the proposed consultation arrangements are adequate for the level of complexity of the proposed project. The Programme Document should also identify an appropriate milestone during the pre-application stage to enable the Planning Inspectorate to test the progress of the consultation.</p> <p>This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application."</p>	<p>The consultation was carried out and completed before this guidance (including the requirement for a Programme Document to be prepared) was published.</p>
25	<p>"The adequacy of consultation milestone should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short</p>	<p>As the consultation was carried out before this guidance was published, the adequacy of consultation milestone was not set for this Project. However, as set out in the Report, the Applicant</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.</p> <p>The adequacy of consultation milestone is an informal but nonetheless important opportunity to check that the pre-application programme is on track, and if it is seriously adrift the Planning Inspectorate will advise the applicant about the steps necessary to enable the application to be submitted having fulfilled the statutory requirements. Inevitably this could mean a renegotiation of the expected date of submission, with the objective of avoiding the prospect of an application not being accepted for examination."</p>	<p>considers the consultation that has been carried out to be adequate.</p>
26	<p>"Applicants are required under section 37 of the Planning Act to produce a consultation report alongside their application, which details how they have complied with the consultation requirements set out in</p>	<p>The Report provides these details.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>the Planning Act and how the proposed application has been shaped as a result. The Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State will consider this report when deciding whether or not the applicant has complied with the pre-application consultation requirements, and ultimately, whether or not an application can be accepted to proceed to examination.</p> <p>This report should not include an excessively detailed description of every element of the consultation programme. The main objective should be to provide clarity not just on what consultation has been done but, crucially, how the applicant has taken it into account. It should therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken including the timeline;</li> <li>▪ set out specifically what the applicant has done to comply with the statutory requirements of the Planning Act, including advice issued under section 51 of the Planning Act, relevant</li> </ul>	

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>secondary legislation and this guidance;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ set out how the applicant has complied with the requirements to consult local communities described in the SoCC;</li> <li>▪ set out any relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses);</li> <li>▪ provide a description of how the proposed application for submission has been informed and influenced by taking account of those responses, showing any significant changes made as a result;</li> <li>▪ provide an explanation as to why any responses advising on changes to a proposed project, including advice from statutory consultees and local authorities on effects, were not followed; and</li> <li>▪ be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Planning Inspectorate to understand fully how consultation has been undertaken, and how the issues</li> </ul>	



Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>raised through consultation have been addressed or responded to."</p>	
<p>26</p>	<p>"It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results. The consultation report may not be the most appropriate format in which to respond to the points raised by various consultee groups and bodies. Applicants should therefore consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full consultation report for those interested."</p>	<p>The Consultation Booklet (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) published as part of the 2022 Statutory Consultation provided information on the feedback received from the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant prepared a Consultation Booklet (see <b>Appendix G-1 2023 Statutory Consultation Information Pack, Part 1 (Doc Ref 6.2)</b>) for the 2023 Statutory Consultation providing information about the updated proposals and the 2023 Statutory Consultation. The 'You said, we did' document (see <b>Appendix G-1: 2023 Statutory Consultation Information Pack, Part 1 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) published as part of the 2023 Statutory Consultation outlined responses to feedback received and the regard had to them. The Applicant sent a consultation newsletter to all residents and businesses within the Core Consultation Zone on 20 November 2023, which contained an overview of the feedback received from the 2023 Statutory Consultation and information on the next steps leading up to submission of the DCO Application.</p> <p>These documents were written in clear, accessible and non-technical language.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook a number of meetings with stakeholders to discuss consultation feedback as outlined in <b>Section 7</b> of the Report.</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>"A response to points raised by consultees with technical information is likely to need to focus on the specific impacts for which the body has expertise. The applicant should make a judgement as to whether the consultation report provides sufficient detail on the relevant effects, or whether a targeted response would be more appropriate."</p>	
<p>27</p>	<p>"Applicants should discuss with the Planning Inspectorate which</p>	<p>This guidance was published shortly before the DCO Application was published and therefore such</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>support package is most suitable for their project, in advance of the Inception Meeting if necessary. The Planning Inspectorate will assess as early as possible what is likely to be expected of them and will offer the applicant the most appropriate level of service, which will be expected to run for a fixed period of time in order to help the applicant and the Planning Inspectorate manage their resources efficiently. Applicants who wish to switch between the levels of service should discuss this with the Planning Inspectorate, which will advise on the consequences of any change."</p>	<p>discussions were not undertaken. The Applicant did however have meetings with the Planning Inspectorate throughout the pre-application stage.</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>"The programme-led approach, driven by the applicant through their Programme Document, is intended to support preparation of the application and address the issues it gives rise to in such a way as those which remain outstanding at examination are minimised. Applicants, working with those engaged in the pre-application process, have an important role to play to ensure that an examination focuses on</p>	<p>This guidance (including the requirement for a Programme Document) was published shortly before the DCO Application was published and therefore was not prepared for the Project. Equally SoCG and PADSs have not been submitted with the DCO Application but can be provided during the pre-examination or examination stages.</p> <p>The <b>Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6)</b> provides in Appendix 3 a summary of the principal areas of disagreement with ABC and KCC.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>the main differences between the parties.</p> <p>Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) can support this by providing a written statement (prepared by the applicant and another party or parties), setting out matters on which they agree or disagree. Applicants are encouraged to submit SoCGs as part of the application documents, even if they are of a provisional or draft nature to be developed during the examination. It is therefore important that these are prepared during the pre-application period wherever possible, particularly with statutory consultees and affected local authorities.</p> <p>Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statements (PADSS) record the key areas of disagreement together with a statement as to what precise change to the draft DCO is sought by the relevant interested party to resolve the issues. Submission of PADSS are suitable for all types of application but are an essential element of a potential fast-track application."</p>	
31	"An application for an Order granting development consent	The DCO Application has been made in the form and include such matters prescribed by section 37 of the PA 2008

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>must be made in the form and include such matters prescribed by section 37 of the Planning Act and Regulations 5, 6 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009."</p>	<p>and Regulations 5, 6 and 7 of the APFP Regulations.</p>
<p>31</p>	<p>"The expectation now in this guidance is that there are standard documents which the Examining Authority will normally require as part of an application to support an informed decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a Planning Statement which provides a description of the proposed development and a summary of the main impacts, the policy context for the proposed development and how the project relates to the requirements of a designated NPS;</li> <li>▪ where the application involves a request for compulsory acquisition powers a Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker which identifies each plot of land and enables the progress of negotiations relating to each one during the examination to be easily monitored; and</li> <li>▪ for proposed fast-track applications</li> </ul>	<p><b>A Planning Statement (Doc Ref. 7.6)</b> and a <b>Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought (Doc Ref. 4.4)</b> have been submitted with the DCO Application which contain the required information.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	(and good practice for all applications) a document which sets out the applicant's view of the principal issues identified through pre-application process and the applicant's view on the extent to which they can be settled during the examination (this is explained more fully in guidance covering fast-track)."	
31	"Unless specifically requested by the Planning Inspectorate, there is no requirement to submit the application documents in hard copy form, and the expectation is that all material will be submitted electronically and published in due course on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website. Documents should also be made available on the applicant's website."	The Planning Inspectorate have not requested that the DCO Application documents be submitted in hard copy. Once the DCO Application has been accepted for examination, the Applicant will make the documents available on its website.
32	"Applicants are required to consult the local authority in whose area a proposed NSIP project lies (the 'host' local authority). They are also required to identify and consult the neighbouring local authorities under the requirements of section 43(2) and (2A) of the Planning Act. This	The Applicant consulted with both the host and neighbouring local authorities, as explained in <b>Section 5</b> of the Report.

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>explains how lower tier or unitary authorities adjacent to the host authority, and upper tier authorities adjacent to the upper tier authority within which the proposal is located, should be consulted. Determining which neighbouring authorities should be involved can only be done on a case-by-case basis. If the boundaries of the proposed applications change, applicants will need to consider whether there are any changes to the local authorities they need to consult."</p>	
<p>32</p>	<p>"Applicants need to appreciate the range of local government structures in England particularly, and the meaning of 'local authority' in section 43(3) of the Planning Act for the purposes of consultation under the section 42 of the Planning Act. Where a combined authority or combined county authority is in place, applicants are recommended to review whether the relevant legislation which established those authorities brings them within scope of the consultation requirements under the Planning Act. Unless functions of county, district or unitary authorities have been</p>	

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>specifically transferred by legislation, then these type of government bodies would not be a 'local authority' under these sections of the Planning Act. However, it is good practice for applicants to work with the constituent local authorities to consider how a combined authority could best support development of the application."</p>	
32	<p>"Depending on the nature and scale of the NSIP, and the extent to which a particular authority is affected, Planning Performance Agreements or mechanisms that provide cost recovery may be appropriate. This should be set out in the applicant's Programme Document for discussion and agreement with the Planning Inspectorate at the Inception Meeting."</p>	<p>The consultation was carried out and completed before this guidance (including the requirement for a Programme Document to be prepared) was published.</p>
34	<p>"In preparing a SoCC under section 47 of the Planning Act, applicants may need to consult with a number of different local authorities."</p>	<p>As set out in <b>Table 1</b> above, the Applicant consulted with the host local authorities about SoCC 1, SoCC 2 and SoCC 3.</p>
36	<p>"Where a local authority raises an issue or concern about the draft SoCC which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to work with the authority to</p>	<p><b>Appendix B-2: Regard had to Host Authorities' Responses to Statement of Community Consultation 1 (Doc Ref. 6.2), Appendix B-7: Regard had to Host Authorities' Responses to Statement of Community Consultation 2 (Doc Ref. 6.2) and</b></p>



Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>find an appropriate way forward. Where this is not possible, they should explain the reasons for this and rationale for their course of action in the consultation report submitted as part of their application."</p>	<p><b>Appendix B-11: Regard had to Host Authorities' Responses to Statement of Community Consultation 3 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> detail how the Applicant had regard to all of the comments received from the local authorities on SoCC 1, SoCC 2 and SoCC 3.</p>
<p>36</p>	<p>"Applicants have a statutory duty to consult any local authority in whose land a project is sited. So, where an offshore project also features land-based development such as an onshore cable route and substation, the applicant should treat the local authority where the land-based development is located as the main consultee for the SoCC. The applicant is also advised to consider seeking views on the SoCC from local authorities whose communities may be affected by the project, for example visually or through construction traffic, even if the project is in fact some distance from the area in question. In addition, applicants may find it beneficial to discuss their SoCC with any local authorities in the vicinity where there could be an effect on harbour facilities."</p>	<p>The Project is not an offshore project. As set out in <b>Table 1</b> above, the Applicant consulted with the host local authorities about SoCC 1, SoCC 2 and SoCC 3.</p>
<p>37</p>	<p>"Applicants are expected to work with local</p>	<p>The consultation was carried out and completed before this guidance</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>authorities in preparing their Programme Document, including about how they support authorities to be effectively resourced to engage in a way that supports this Programme Document."</p>	<p>(including the requirement for a Programme Document to be prepared) was published.</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>"Different impacts and issues will need to be considered by applicants for offshore projects in comparison to those which are land-based."</p>	<p>The Project is not an offshore project.</p>

**Guidance on procedural requirements for major infrastructure projects**

<p>Making documentation available for inspection</p>	<p>"The 2020 Regulations remove the obligations on applicants (or the Secretary of State, as the case may be) to include in relevant notices the addresses (including at least one address in the vicinity of the relevant project) where certain documentation is available for inspection. Instead, notices published by applicants must specify that the documents are available free of charge on a website, the address of the website and details of how the documents may be obtained from that website. Applicants are also required to provide a telephone number for general enquiries on where to find relevant information and on the documentation itself."</p>	<p>The section 48 notices (see <b>Appendix E-1: Section 48 Newspaper Notices for 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix E-2: Section 48 Newspaper Notices for 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) explained that the consultation documents were available free of charge on the Project website at <a href="http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk">www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk</a> and details of the relevant tab on the website where the documents could be found. The notices also provided a Freephone telephone number for general enquiries on where to find relevant information and on the documentation itself.</p>
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Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
<p>Making documentation available for inspection</p>	<p>"Applicants should ensure the relevant website is well signposted when publishing their notices and that the documents are readily accessible, i.e. documents should be clearly named and logically structured. Where needing to refer to a website maintained by or on behalf of the Secretary of State, we expect applicants to refer to the relevant project webpage on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website."</p>	<p>The Project website was well signposted, with all consultation documents available to download within the tab specified in the section 48 notices. The documents were clearly named on the website and structured in a logical and user friendly manner. Screenshots of the Project website during the 2022 Statutory Consultation period and the 2023 Statutory Consultation period are provided in <b>Appendix F-4: Exhibition Boards and Screenshots of Website (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix G-3: 2023 Statutory Consultation Exhibition Boards and Screenshots of Project Website (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>. It was not necessary in the notices to refer to a website maintained by or on behalf of the Secretary of State.</p>
<p>Making documentation available for inspection</p>	<p>"As is currently the case, and subject to any charge that may be made, hard copies of any of the relevant documents must be provided by the applicant or the Secretary of State (as the case may be) on request."</p>	<p>The Applicant made hard copies of the consultation documents available upon request. The Applicant issued one hard copy of a consultation document in large font following a request from a local resident with poor eyesight for the 2022 Statutory Consultation.</p>
<p>Making documentation available for inspection</p>	<p>"Applicants should engage proactively with local authorities and local communities to find alternative means to provide access to the documentation where required, to ensure on-going fair participation in the planning process, for example by providing copies of documents on a USB flash drive where parties have access to a computer but have limited</p>	<p>The consultation documents were available to download on the Project website and to view free of charge at the Deposit Locations as agreed with the relevant local authorities through the SoCC process. The Applicant also made hard and soft copies of the consultation documents available upon request.</p>

Paragraph No. / Section	Extract from Guidance	Compliance / Further Information
	<p>or no internet access or, where reasonably practicable, by making copies of documents available for inspection free of charge where a person is unable to access the documentation electronically or finds it difficult to do so."</p>	
<p>Statement of Community Consultation</p>	<p>"Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008 requires that at the pre-application stage the Statement of Community Consultation must be made available for inspection. This requirement can be met by making documents available for inspection online. Applicants should take reasonable steps to ensure that anyone wishing to view the documentation can find these documents on their website. Hard copies should be made available by the applicant on request."</p>	<p>SoCC 1, SoCC 2 and SoCC 3 were made available on the Project website and in hard copy at the locations listed in <b>Section 4.3</b> of the Report.</p>
<p>Newspaper notices</p>	<p>"Requirements exist under the Planning Act 2008 to place notices in local newspapers. In circumstances where local newspapers are currently not available in a print format, this requirement can be met by placing adverts in appropriate online local newspaper publications."</p>	<p>It was not necessary to rely on online newspaper publications, and the notices were placed in the print versions of the required local and national newspapers, as explained in <b>Sections 4.3, 5.6, and 6.6</b> of the Report.</p>

Table 3: SoCC 2

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 2	Compliance
6	<p>"In accordance with this SoCC, we will consult with the local communities in the vicinity of the land to which the proposed DCO application relates. We also welcome feedback from anyone who may be interested in or in any way feel impacted by our proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar."</p>	<p>As explained in the Report, the Applicant carried out the 2022 Statutory Consultation with the local communities in accordance with SoCC 2. The Applicant also publicised the 2022 Statutory Consultation in local and national press to encourage feedback from anyone interested in or impacted by the Project, see <b>Section 5</b> of the Report.</p> <p>For details of the 2023 Statutory Consultation, see <b>Table 4</b> below.</p>
6	<p>"People can register their interest at our project website (<a href="http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk">www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk</a> – use the 'Contact Us' tab) to receive regular updates on the project."</p>	<p>The Project website included a Register for Updates section on the Contact Us page: <a href="https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Contact+Us">https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Contact+Us</a></p>
6	<p>"We will also consult relevant parish and town councils, area committees, community groups, organisations representing local businesses, communities and tourist boards. In addition, we will also be consulting on our proposed project with a range of other statutory and non-statutory consultees.</p>	<p>The Applicant contacted directly host and neighbouring parish councils, local community groups, organisations representing local businesses, communities and tourist boards, people who had registered for updates and other interested people (see <b>Appendix D-2: Emails to Community Organisations 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>). In particular, an email was sent to these people on 17 October 2022 to publicise the launch of the 2022 Statutory Consultation. There are no relevant Town Councils or Area Committees in the consultation zone and so the Applicant did not consult these groups.</p>
6	<p>"Residents and businesses within the core consultation zone will receive our leaflets and newsletters directly."</p>	<p>A Community Information Leaflet (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was sent to over 2,200 homes and businesses within the Core Consultation Zone on 14 October 2022. This provided details of the statutory consultation, including where and when the consultation documents could be accessed and how and by what deadline any responses could be submitted.</p>

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 2	Compliance
6	<p>"...we will use tools such as media relations and advertising to notify residents and businesses within a wider consultation zone about the consultation, covering a 10km radius from the site."</p>	<p>A consultation advert publicising the 2022 Statutory Consultation was published in the Kentish Express on 20 October 2022. A poster containing similar details was emailed to the parish clerks of: Aldington &amp; Bonington Parish Council, Bilsington Parish Council, Brabourne Parish Council, Burmarsh Parish Council, Kingsnorth Parish Council, Mersham Parish Council, Smeeth Parish Council, Lympne Parish Council, Sellindge Parish Council, and Stanford Parish Council on 17 October 2022 with a request for the poster to be displayed on parish information/notice boards. Tweets publicising the statutory consultation were published on the Project Twitter account throughout the consultation period. A series of Facebook adverts also ran during the consultation period.</p>
6	<p>"Evolution Power will be visiting areas within the consultation area throughout the development of the proposals to meet with communities, provide information and listen to feedback on the proposals."</p>	<p>The Applicant held four local information events (open to all members of the public) and a public presentation during the 2022 Statutory Consultation period, which provided attendees with the opportunity to view the consultation documents and speak with members of the Applicant's Project team. See <b>Section 5.6</b> of the Report for details.</p>
7	<p>"We will be seeking feedback on all aspects of our plans for Stonestreet Green Solar. We will encourage the local communities to give their views about how our proposals may affect them or their area."</p>	<p>Consultees were encouraged to complete a feedback form covering all aspects of the proposals, which was made available online on the Project website and as hard copies at the local information events held in November 2022 or on request from the Applicant. A copy of the feedback form is available at <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>.</p>
7	<p>"More information will be available regarding technical aspects of the project as our proposals develop, which will be provided as part of our consultation material."</p>	<p>A PEIR was published in support of the 2022 Statutory Consultation in October 2022, containing information on the proposals and a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> for the non-technical summary of the PEIR).</p>



Section No.	Extract from SoCC 2	Compliance
8	"We will be seeking feedback from the local communities and other stakeholders on the PEIR."	The PEIR was part of the package of consultation documents on which feedback was sought from consultees. The feedback form included several questions about the assessments presented in the PEIR (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> for the non-technical summary of the PEIR).
9	"The consultation process for Stonestreet Green Solar will be an iterative one as the design of the project develops in response to the consultation."	Non-statutory consultation was undertaken in March to April 2022 on the initial proposals then statutory consultation was undertaken in October to November 2022 which provided more detailed information about the proposals and how they had evolved following the non-statutory consultation.
9	"We introduced community members to our proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar in spring 2022 through initial meetings with members of the community and stakeholders."	<b>Section 7</b> of the Report provides details of the engagement undertaken to introduce the community and stakeholders to the Project.
9	"Local information events took place in spring 2022. These provided interested members of the local community with the opportunity to view the initial proposals and submit feedback. A consultation leaflet was also delivered to all residents and businesses within the core consultation zone."	<p>As part of the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation, local information events were held at the following times, dates and venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sellindge Village Hall - Friday 8 April 2022, 3pm - 7pm</li> <li>▪ Aldington Village Hall - Saturday 9 April 2022, 11am - 3pm</li> <li>▪ Bilsington Village Hall - Tuesday 12 April 2022, 1pm - 5pm</li> <li>▪ Mersham Sports Club - Wednesday 13 April 2022, 2pm – 6pm</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant sent a Community Information Leaflet (see <b>Appendix A-2: 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation Materials (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) on 22 March 2022 to over 2,200 homes and businesses within the Core Consultation Zone. The leaflet introduced the Project and explained how people could find out more about the Project, meet members of the Applicant's Project team and respond to the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation.</p>



Section No.	Extract from SoCC 2	Compliance
9	<p>"Local information events, a public presentation and further consultation are indicatively expected to take place in autumn 2022 and will run for at least 28 days. This statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, will allow us to update you on the project development, allow you to provide formal comments and also feedback on the PEIR, as described in Section 8 of this SoCC.</p>	<p>As part of the 2022 Statutory Consultation, local information events were held at the following times, dates and venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mersham Village Hall – Friday 4 November 2022, 3pm to 7pm</li> <li>▪ Aldington Village Hall – Saturday 5 November 2022, 11am to 3pm</li> <li>▪ Sellindge Village Hall – Tuesday 8 November 2022, 2pm to 6pm</li> <li>▪ Bilsington Village Hall – Wednesday 9 November 2022, 1pm to 5pm</li> </ul> <p>A public presentation was also held on Tuesday 8 November 2022, 8pm to 9.30pm, at Aldington Village Hall.</p> <p>The consultation material included a Consultation Booklet (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) and PEIR (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) for the non-technical summary of the PEIR) which contained details of the proposals and the preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects. A feedback form (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) provided a mechanism by which consultees were able to provide feedback on the consultation documents.</p>
9	<p>"More specific details of the consultation will be publicised through adverts in the local press and on social media, via newsletters to residents and businesses in the core consultation zone, via email to local parish councils, via the project Twitter feed and via the project website, in advance of the consultation starting."</p>	<p>A consultation advert publicising the 2022 Statutory Consultation was published in the Kentish Express on 20 October 2022.</p> <p>A series of tweets publicising the 2022 Statutory Consultation were published on the Project Twitter account in advance of and during the consultation period. In addition, a series of Facebook adverts ran throughout the consultation period.</p> <p>A Community Information Leaflet (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was delivered on 14 October 2022 to over 2,200 homes and businesses within the Core Consultation Zone</p>

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 2	Compliance
		<p>publicising the statutory consultation and the local information events.</p> <p>An email (see <b>Appendix D-2: Emails to Community Organisations 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was sent to relevant local authorities, parish councils, MPs, the Project CLP, community groups, and other interested parties on 17 and 18 October 2022 publicising the 2022 Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>A poster (see <b>Appendix D-2: Emails to Community Organisations 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) containing similar details was emailed to relevant local authorities, parish councils, MPs, the Project CLP, community groups and other interested parties on 17 and 18 October 2022 with a request for the poster to be displayed on notice boards.</p> <p>Information about the consultation was uploaded to the Project website in advance of the launch of the consultation, with the 2022 Statutory Consultation documents being made available at the start of the consultation period.</p>
9	<p>"Notices about the statutory consultation will be placed in local and national newspapers and at the site."</p>	<p>A notice about the 2022 Statutory Consultation (see <b>Appendix E-1: Section 48 Newspaper Notices for 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was placed in the following newspapers on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Kentish Express (Ashford and District): 20 and 27 October 2022</li> <li>▪ The Folkestone &amp; Hythe Express: 19 and 26 October 2022</li> <li>▪ The Guardian: 20 October 2022</li> <li>▪ The London Gazette: 20 October 2022</li> </ul> <p>A copy of this notice was also displayed at the site (see <b>Appendix E-3: Site Notices for 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>).</p>
9	<p>"Anyone interested in our proposals is welcome to get in touch with us at any time during the pre-application</p>	<p>The Applicant monitored the Project communications lines throughout the pre-</p>

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 2	Compliance
	<p>process. Our contact details are listed at the end of this SoCC. We will consider the feedback and comments we receive on an ongoing basis."</p>	<p>application period and considered the feedback and comments received.</p>
9	<p>"In addition to the above, we may also decide to hold further rounds of statutory or non-statutory consultation, including targeted consultation with specific groups, where appropriate."</p>	<p>See <b>Table 4</b> regarding the 2023 Targeted Consultation and 2024 Targeted Consultation.</p>
11	<p>"Our pre-application consultation will include two rounds of local information events which are open to all interested members of the public (the first of which took place in spring 2022). Attendees will have the opportunity to view informative materials about the project, discuss the proposals with members of the team and provide their feedback on the proposals."</p>	<p>As explained above, local information events took place in April 2022 as part of the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation and in November 2022 as part of the 2022 Statutory Consultation.</p>
11	<p>"A copy of the SoCC will be made available at these [local information] events."</p>	<p>A copy of SoCC 2 was made available at the local information events that took place in November 2022 as part of the 2022 Statutory Consultation.</p>
11	<p>"All the materials available at the local information events will also be made available to view on the project website in case people are unable to attend in person."</p>	<p>Copies of the consultation documents and the exhibition boards used at the local information events that took place during the 2022 Statutory Consultation were made available on the 'Consultation' page of the Project website  <a href="https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Consultation">https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Consultation</a> during the 2022 Statutory Consultation period.</p>
11	<p>"Our first round of local information events as part of our non-statutory consultation were held at the following venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sellindge Village Hall - Friday 8 April, 3pm - 7pm</li> </ul>	<p>The local information events were held at these venues on these dates and times as part of the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation.</p>

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 2	Compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aldington Village Hall - Saturday 9 April, 11am - 3pm</li> <li>▪ Bilsington Village Hall - Tuesday 12 April, 1pm - 5pm</li> <li>▪ Mersham Sports Club - Wednesday 13 April, 2pm - 6pm"</li> </ul>	
11	<p>"The statutory consultation is indicatively expected to take place during autumn 2022. As part of the statutory consultation, local information events will be held, subject to any Covid-19 restrictions that may be in place at the time, in the following venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sellindge Village Hall</li> <li>▪ Aldington Village Hall</li> <li>▪ Bilsington Village Hall</li> <li>▪ Mersham Village Hall or Sports Club</li> </ul> <p>The local information events will be held during afternoons and early evenings in the week and on one day at the weekend."</p>	<p>The 2022 Statutory Consultation took place from 25 October 2022 to 29 November 2022.</p> <p>Local information events were held at the following times, dates and venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mersham Village Hall – Friday 4 November 2022, 3pm to 7pm</li> <li>▪ Aldington Village Hall – Saturday 5 November 2022, 11am to 3pm</li> <li>▪ Sellindge Village Hall – Tuesday 8 November 2022, 2pm to 6pm</li> <li>▪ Bilsington Village Hall – Wednesday 9 November 2022, 1pm to 5pm</li> </ul>
11	<p>"The dates and times of the statutory consultation events will be publicised through adverts in the local press, via newsletters to residents and businesses in the core consultation zone, via email to local parish councils, via the project Twitter feed and via the project website, before the commencement of consultation."</p>	<p>The dates and times of the 2022 Statutory Consultation local information events were publicised through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a consultation advert published in the Kentish Express on 20 October 2022 (see <b>Appendix F-3: Consultation Advert and Poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>);</li> <li>▪ a Community Information Leaflet delivered on 14 October 2022 to over 2,200 homes and businesses within the Core Consultation Zone (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>);</li> <li>▪ an email sent to relevant local authorities, parish councils, MPs, the Project CLP, community groups, and other interested parties on 17 and 18 October 2022 publicising the 2022 Statutory Consultation (see <b>Appendix D-2: Emails</b></li> </ul>

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 2	Compliance
		<p><b>to Community Organisations 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2));</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a series of tweets published on the Project Twitter account before and during the consultation period; and</li> <li>▪ the Project website.</li> </ul>
11	"A public presentation will be held locally to enable interested parties to ask questions about the project."	A public presentation was held on Tuesday 8 November 2022, 8pm to 9.30pm, at Aldington Village Hall where attendees could ask the Project team questions about the Project.
11	"Regard will be had to all feedback captured from these events."	A feedback form (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2))</b> was made available at the local information events and the public presentation and completed forms were collated and reviewed as explained in <b>Section 5.8</b> of the Report.
11	"Stakeholder briefing packs were provided to elected members in spring 2022 to introduce the scheme and inform them of how their constituents will be engaged with during the process."	<b>Section 7</b> of the Report provides details of the engagement undertaken with elected members to introduce them to the Project.
11	"Leaflets and newsletters will be distributed to all residents and businesses within the core consultation zone (as shown in Figure 2 of this SoCC) at key pre-application consultation stages which will provide information on the proposals and details of how the local community can have their say."	A Community Information Leaflet (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2))</b> was sent to over 2,200 homes and businesses within the Core Consultation Zone on 14 October 2022. This provided details of the 2022 Statutory Consultation, including where and when the consultation documents could be accessed and how and by what deadline any responses could be submitted. Details of other newsletters sent throughout the pre-application process are provided in <b>Section 7.2</b> of the Report.
11	"During the statutory consultation, we expect to be able to make copies of this SoCC, leaflets and newsletters, the consultation documents and the PEIR available	Copies of SoCC 2, leaflets and newsletters, the consultation documents and the consultation documents for the 2022 Statutory Consultation were available to view

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 2	Compliance
	<p>to view free of charge at the following public buildings and libraries (Deposit Locations) (subject to any measures put in place by the government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ashford Library, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 9am to 5pm; Thursday: 9am to 6pm; Saturday: 9am to 3pm; Sunday: closed)</li> <li>▪ Folkestone Library, 2 Grace Hill, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1HD (Monday: 9:30am to 5pm; Tuesday: 9:30am to 5pm; Wednesday: closed; Thursday: 9:30am to 5pm; Friday: 9:30am to 5pm; Saturday: 9:30am to 4:30pm; Sunday: 10am to 4pm)</li> <li>▪ Ashford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL (Monday to Friday: 9am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed)</li> <li>▪ Folkestone &amp; Hythe Council Offices, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY (Monday to Friday: 10am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed)</li> <li>▪ Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ (Monday to Friday: 8am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed)</li> <li>▪ New Romney Library, 82 High Street, New Romney,</li> </ul>	<p>free of charge at the Deposit Locations during the 2022 Statutory Consultation period.</p> <p>Shortly after SoCC 2 was made available for inspection in September 2022, the Applicant became aware that the opening hours for Ashford Library had changed slightly so added a note to the Project website and in the consultation material to identify this and to state that information on the latest opening hours for Ashford Library and the other Deposit Location libraries could be viewed on KCC's website at:</p> <p><a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library">https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library</a></p>



Section No.	Extract from SoCC 2	Compliance
	<p>TN28 8AU (Monday, Friday: 9am to 2pm; Tuesday: 1pm to 5pm, Wednesday, Saturday: 9am to 1pm, Thursday 10am to 4pm; Sunday: closed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lyminge Library, Station Road, Lyminge, CT18 8HS (Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am to 2pm; Tuesday: Midday to 5pm; Thursday: 10am to 5pm; Saturday: 9am to 1pm; Sunday: closed)</li> <li>▪ Hythe Library, 1 Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BQ (Monday, Sunday: closed; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.30am to 5pm; Saturday: 9.30am to 4.30pm)"</li> </ul>	
11	<p>"Copies of the consultation material will be available to access on the project website at <a href="http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk">www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk</a>"</p>	<p>Copies of the consultation documents for the 2022 Statutory Consultation were available to download free of charge from the Project website during the 2022 Statutory Consultation period.</p>
11	<p>"Anyone interested in the project can contact us using any of the communication lines detailed in Section 13 of this SoCC. All project information will be available to download from our website at <a href="http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk">www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk</a>"</p>	<p>The Applicant monitored the Project communications lines throughout the pre-application period. Information about the Project and the consultation was made available on the Project website.</p>
11	<p>"Across the consultation area we will be raising awareness of the project to inform those living or working in this area about the consultation. Hard copies of this SoCC, along with the leaflets and newsletters referred to above, will be available to view at the Deposit Locations listed above (subject to any applicable Covid-19 restrictions)."</p>	<p>Efforts were made across the consultation area to publicise the Project and the 2022 Statutory Consultation as explained below.</p> <p>Hard copies of SoCC 2, leaflets and newsletters were delivered to the Deposit Locations prior to the start of the 2022 Statutory Consultation in October 2022.</p>



Section No.	Extract from SoCC 2	Compliance
11	"This SoCC will also be sent to local community groups as appropriate."	An email was sent on 17 and 18 October 2022 to a number of local stakeholders and community groups which provided a link to the Project website where SoCC2 was available (see <b>Appendix D-2: Emails to Community Organisations 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> ).
11	"In addition, we will use posters, social media, our website and local media to reach out to those within the consultation area."	A poster was emailed to parish councils on 17 October 2022 with a request for the poster to be displayed on notice boards (see <b>Appendix D-2: Emails to Community Organisations 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> ). Information about the 2022 Statutory Consultation was publicised through the Project Twitter feed and Facebook page, and the Project website contained information about the consultation and copies of the consultation documents to download free of charge.
11	"Our consultation will...include measures to ensure we communicate effectively with [hard to reach] groups and provide an opportunity for them to have their say. This includes making information available across a number of online or offline outlets and in different formats. We will be directly engaging with representative groups in the community. We will ensure our written consultation material is in easy to understand, plain English style. A Freephone number, staffed by our community relations team, will be available to assist people who find it difficult to submit written comments and we will offer a telephone surgery to discuss the proposals if required. Large print and braille versions of consultation documents will also be available on request. A Freepost service will be available for people who prefer to	A range of online and offline communication methods was used to engage a wide number of people in the consultation process. This included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ stakeholder meetings, briefings and presentations were undertaken;</li> <li>▪ information about the consultation and the consultation documents were made available to download free of charge on the Project website during the statutory consultation period;</li> <li>▪ hard copies of the consultation documents were made available at the Deposit Locations, which were agreed with the relevant local authorities;</li> <li>▪ information about the 2022 Statutory Consultation was publicised through the Project Twitter feed;</li> <li>▪ a consultation advert was published in the Kentish Express on 20 October 2022 (see <b>Appendix F-3: Consultation Advert and Poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>);</li> </ul>

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 2	Compliance
	<p>send feedback by post rather than respond online or by email."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a Community Information Leaflet was mailed to over 2,200 homes and businesses (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>);</li> <li>▪ a notice publicising the consultation was displayed at the Site (see <b>Appendix E-1: Section 48 Newspaper Notices for 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>);</li> <li>▪ a poster was emailed to parish councils on 17 October 2022 with a request for the poster to be displayed on notice boards (see <b>Appendix D-2: Emails to Community Organisations 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>);</li> <li>▪ an email was sent to community groups on 17 and 18 October 2022 informing them about the 2022 Statutory Consultation. The email included an invitation to a public presentation about the Project to answer any questions;</li> <li>▪ local information events took place throughout the Core Consultation Zone; and</li> <li>▪ a public presentation took place at Aldington Village Hall.</li> </ul> <p>The Consultation Booklet (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was written in an easy to understand, plain English style. A Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was provided written in non-technical language to summarise the findings of the PEIR. The feedback form (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was designed in an easy to use format that provided structure for consultees whilst ensuring that they had the opportunity to provide any other comments they might have about the Project.</p> <p>A Freephone number, staffed by the Applicant's community relations team, was</p>

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 2	Compliance
		<p>available throughout the 2022 Statutory Consultation period. The Applicant received one request for a telephone surgery which took place on 15 November 2022. A Freepost service was also available for people to send feedback by post if desired.</p> <p>Large print, audio or braille versions of the consultation documents were available upon request. One request for a large print copy of a technical report was received and provided by the Applicant.</p> <p>Emails were sent to a number of hard to reach groups (agreed with ABC) informing them of the consultation on 17 October 2022, with an invitation to the public presentation and an offer to answer any questions they may have. The groups sent this email included the following: Action with Communities in Rural Kent (subsequently closed), The Sedgwick Godfrey Trust, Kent Community Energy and Kent Community Foundation.</p>
11	"We have established a Community Liaison Panel (CLP)."	<p>The Applicant used the local information events held in April 2022 as part of the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation to advertise for volunteers to join the CLP and sent invitations directly to representatives from the local authorities. A Terms of Reference document of the CLP was agreed and shared on the Project website at the start of the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation in March 2022: <a href="https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Consultation">https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Consultation</a></p>
12	"To capture participant feedback, we will produce a consultation questionnaire inviting comments on the different elements of the proposed Stonestreet Green Solar project."	<p>A feedback form (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was developed and made available throughout the 2022 Statutory Consultation period, which invited comments on the different elements of the Project.</p>
12	"The questionnaire will be made available at the local information events, online through the dedicated project website"	<p>The feedback form was made available in hard copy format at the local information events, and available online at the Project website. The form was also available via post</p>

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 2	Compliance
	(www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk) and via post upon request. Consultees will be able to respond by completing the questionnaire in person at local information events, online or by returning a completed questionnaire using the contact details set out in Section 13 of this SoCC during the consultation period."	on request. Copies of the form could be returned during the local information events, online via the online form, or sent to the Project's Freepost address. For consultees who did not wish to use the feedback form, comments could be submitted by email to info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk, by post to FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar or by Freephone at 08081 698335.
12	"Following the statutory consultation, we will carefully consider all the responses that we receive and have regard to this in finalising our proposals for the Stonestreet Green Solar project, ahead of submitting our DCO application."	As explained in <b>Section 5.8</b> of the Report, the Applicant carefully considered all of the responses received and had regard to this prior to carrying out the 2023 Statutory Consultation.

Table 4: SoCC 3

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 3	Compliance
6	"In accordance with this SoCC, we will consult with the local communities in the vicinity of the land to which the proposed DCO application relates. We also welcome feedback from anyone who may be interested in or in any way feel impacted by our proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar."	As explained in the Report, the Applicant carried out the 2023 Statutory Consultation with the local communities in accordance with SoCC 3. The Applicant also publicised the 2023 Statutory Consultation in local and national press to encourage feedback from anyone interested in or impacted by the Project, see <b>Section 6</b> of the Report.  For details of the 2022 Statutory Consultation, see <b>Table 3</b> above.
6	"People can register their interest at the project website (www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk – use the 'Contact Us' tab) to receive regular updates on the project."	The Project website included a Register for Updates section on the Contact Us page: <a href="https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Contact+Us">https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Contact+Us</a>
6	"We will also consult relevant parish and town councils, area	The Applicant contacted directly parish councils, local community groups,

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 3	Compliance
	<p>committees, community groups, organisations representing local businesses and communities and tourist boards. In addition, we will also be consulting on our proposed project with a range of other statutory and non-statutory consultees."</p>	<p>organisations representing local businesses and communities and tourist boards, people who had registered for updates and other interested people (see <b>Appendix D-4: Community Organisations Consulted During 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix D-5: Emails to Community Organisations Consulted During 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>). In particular, an email was sent to these people on 2 June 2023 to publicise the launch of the 2023 Statutory Consultation. There are no relevant Town Councils or Area Committees in the consultation zone and so the Applicant did not consult these groups.</p>
6	<p>"Residents and businesses within the core consultation zone will receive our leaflets and newsletters directly."</p>	<p>A consultation leaflet (see <b>Appendix G-2: 2023 Statutory Consultation Leaflet, Advert and Poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was sent to over 2,200 homes and businesses within the Core Consultation Zone on 5 June 2023. This provided details of the 2023 Statutory Consultation, including where and when the consultation documents could be accessed and how and by what deadline any responses could be submitted.</p>
6	<p>"...we will use tools such as media relations and advertising to notify residents and businesses within a wider consultation zone about the consultation, covering a 10km radius from the site."</p>	<p>A consultation advert publicising the 2023 Statutory Consultation was published in the Kentish Express on 8 June 2023. A poster containing similar details was emailed to the parish clerks of: Aldington and Bonington Parish Council, Bilsington Parish Council, Brabourne Parish Council, Burmarsh Parish Council, Kingsnorth Parish Council, Mersham Parish Council, Smeeth Parish Council, Lympne Parish Council, Sellindge Parish Council, and Stanford Parish Council on 2 June 2023 with a request for the poster to be displayed on parish information/notice boards. Tweets publicising the statutory consultation were published on the Project Twitter account throughout the consultation period. A series of Facebook adverts also ran during the consultation period.</p>

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 3	Compliance
6	"EPL 001 will be visiting areas within the consultation area throughout the development of the proposals to meet with communities, provide information and listen to feedback on the proposals."	The Applicant held four local information community events at locations throughout the consultation area during the 2023 Statutory Consultation period, see <b>Section 6.5</b> of the Report details. At these events the Applicant provided information about the proposals and listened to feedback from the community.
7	"We will be seeking feedback on all aspects of our plans for Stonestreet Green Solar. We will encourage the local communities to give their views about how our proposals may affect them or their area."	Consultees were encouraged to complete a feedback form covering all aspects of the proposals, which was made available online on the Project website and as hard copies at the local information events held in June 2023 or on request from the Applicant. A copy of the feedback form is available at <b>Appendix G-1: 2023 Statutory Consultation Information Pack, Part 1 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> .
7	"More information will be available regarding technical aspects of the project as our proposals develop, which will be provided as part of our consultation material."	A PEIR was published in support of the 2022 Statutory Consultation in October 2022, containing information on the proposals and a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects (see <b>Appendix F-1: Consultation Information Pack (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> for the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR). A PEIR Addendum, which updated and supplemented the PEIR, was published in support of the 2023 Statutory Consultation in June 2023.
8	"EPL 001 consulted on the PEIR as part of the 2022 Statutory Consultation (see Section 9 of this SoCC). EPL 001 is currently considering the feedback received from that consultation, and the results of further studies/surveys, and is preparing further preliminary environmental information (which will take the form of a "PEIR Addendum") that will be consulted on as part of the 2023 Statutory Consultation (see Section 9 of this SoCC). Together the PEIR and the PEIR Addendum will enable consultees to develop an informed view of any likely significant environmental effects of the development."	



Section No.	Extract from SoCC 3	Compliance
9	"The consultation process for Stonestreet Green Solar will be an iterative one as the design of the project develops in response to the consultation."	Non-statutory consultation was undertaken in March to April 2022 on the initial proposals then statutory consultation was undertaken in October to November 2022 and June to July 2023 which provided more detailed information about the proposals.
9	"A further round of statutory consultation, in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, will take place in 2023 in advance of the DCO application being submitted. The consultation will be carried out over a period of five weeks."	The 2023 Statutory Consultation took place between 12 June and 17 July 2023 over a period of five weeks.
9	<p>"The consultation materials will provide information about the project as updated following consideration of the feedback received from the 2022 Statutory Consultation and the results of further studies/surveys, and will seek consultation comments from the local community. It will provide information in particular on topics including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A summary of the key themes in the responses to the 2022 Statutory Consultation and how that feedback has been taken into account in shaping the project</li> <li>• The anticipated landscape and visual impacts of the project, including information on glint and glare</li> <li>• The anticipated impacts on ecology including the proposed biodiversity net gain as a result of the project</li> <li>• The anticipated impacts on cultural heritage</li> <li>• The proposed alterations to the Public Rights of Way network</li> </ul>	The consultation materials published as part of the 2023 Statutory Consultation provided this information, as explained in <b>Section 6.1</b> of the Report and <b>Appendix G-1: 2023 Statutory Consultation Information Pack, Parts 1, 2 and 3 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> .



Section No.	Extract from SoCC 3	Compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation measures that are proposed to seek to address the project impacts (including proposed landscaping approach)"</li> </ul>	
9	<p>"Details of the consultation will be publicised through adverts in the local press and on social media, via a newsletter to residents and businesses in the core consultation zone, via email to local parish councils, via the project Twitter feed and via the project website, in advance of the consultation starting. Notices about the statutory consultation will be placed in local and national newspapers and at the site."</p>	<p>A consultation advert (see <b>Appendix G-2: 2023 Statutory Consultation Leaflet, Advert and Poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) publicising the 2023 Statutory Consultation was published in the Kentish Express on 8 June 2023.</p> <p>A series of tweets publicising the 2023 Statutory Consultation were published on the Project Twitter account before and during the consultation period. In addition, a series of Facebook adverts ran throughout the consultation period.</p> <p>A consultation leaflet (see <b>Appendix G-2: 2023 Statutory Consultation Leaflet, Advert and Poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was sent to over 2,200 homes and businesses within the Core Consultation Zone on 5 June 2023. This provided details of the 2023 Statutory Consultation, including where and when the consultation documents could be accessed and how and by what deadline any responses could be submitted.</p> <p>An email was sent to relevant local authorities, parish councils, MPs, the Project CLP, community groups, and other interested parties on 2 June 2023 publicising the 2023 Statutory Consultation (see <b>Appendix D-5: Emails to Community Organisations Consulted During 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>).</p> <p>A poster (see <b>Appendix G-2: 2023 Statutory Consultation Leaflet, Advert and Poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix D-5: Emails to Community Organisations Consulted During 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was emailed to parish councils on 2 June 2023 with a request for the poster to be displayed on notice boards. The poster provided a link to the Project website where the consultation</p>

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 3	Compliance
9	<p>"Anyone interested in our proposals is welcome to get in touch with us at any time during the pre-application process. Our contact details are listed at the end of this SoCC. We will consider the feedback and comments we receive on an ongoing basis."</p>	<p>documents could be viewed and set out the details of the local information events.</p> <p>Information about the consultation was uploaded to the Project website in advance of the launch of the consultation, with the 2023 Statutory Consultation documents being made available at the start of the consultation period.</p> <p>A notice about the 2023 Statutory Consultation (see <b>Appendix G-2: 2023 Statutory Consultation Leaflet, Advert and Poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was placed in the following newspapers on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kentish Express (Ashford and District): 8 and 15 June 2023</li> <li>▪ London Gazette: 8 June 2023</li> <li>▪ The Guardian: 7 June 2023</li> <li>▪ Folkestone and Hythe Express: 7 and 14 June 2023</li> </ul> <p>A copy of this notice was also displayed at the Site (see <b>Appendix E-4: Site Notices for 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>).</p> <p>The Applicant monitored the Project communications lines throughout the pre-application period and considered the feedback and comments received.</p>
9	<p>"In addition to the above, we may also decide to hold further rounds of statutory or non-statutory consultation, including targeted consultation with specific groups, where appropriate."</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook targeted consultation between 13 November and 13 December 2023 and between 12 February and 12 March 2024 with persons with an interest in the land that was directly affected by the proposed changes to the Order limits under section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 and with section 42(1)(a) and (b) consultees who the Applicant considered would be</p>

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 3	Compliance
		interested in the proposed changes. A targeted approach was considered to be appropriate given the minor, localised nature of the proposed changes.
9	<p>"Local information events open to the public will be held as part of the 2023 Statutory Consultation, subject to any Covid-19 restrictions that may be in place at the time, at the following venues or equivalent nearby venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mersham Village Hall</li> <li>▪ Aldington Village Hall</li> <li>▪ Sellindge Village Hall</li> <li>▪ Bilsington Village Hall</li> </ul> <p>The events will be held during afternoons and early evenings in the week and on one day at the weekend."</p>	<p>As part of the 2023 Statutory Consultation, local information events were held at the following times, dates and venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sellindge Village Hall: Friday 23 June 2023, 2pm to 6pm</li> <li>▪ Mersham Village Hall: Saturday 24 June 2023, 11am to 3pm</li> <li>▪ Aldington Village Hall: Monday 26 June 2023, 3pm to 7pm</li> <li>▪ Bilsington Village Hall: Tuesday 27 June 2023, 1pm to 5pm</li> </ul>
9	<p>"The dates and times of the events will be publicised through adverts in the local press, via newsletters to residents and businesses in the core consultation zone, via email to local parish councils, via the project Twitter feed and via the project website, before the commencement of consultation."</p>	<p>The dates and times of the 2023 Statutory Consultation local information events were publicised through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a consultation advert published in the Kentish Express on 8 June 2023 (see <b>Appendix G-2: 2023 Statutory Consultation Leaflet, Advert and Poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>);</li> <li>▪ a consultation leaflet (see <b>Appendix G-2: 2023 Statutory Consultation Leaflet, Advert and Poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) sent to over 2,200 homes and businesses within the Core Consultation Zone on 5 June 2023;</li> <li>▪ an email sent to parish councils, MPs, community groups, and other interested parties on 2 June 2023 publicising the 2023 Statutory Consultation (see <b>Appendix D-5: Emails to Community Organisations Consulted During</b></li> </ul>

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 3	Compliance
		<p><b>2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2));</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a series of tweets published on the Project Twitter account before and during the consultation period; and</li> <li>▪ the Project website.</li> </ul>
9	<p>"The exhibition materials used at these events will be made available to download on the project website during the 2023 Statutory Consultation."</p>	<p>The exhibition boards used at the local information events for the 2023 Statutory Consultation were available to download on the Project website during the 2023 Statutory Consultation period.</p>
9	<p>"A hard copy of the 2023 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR Addendum will be made available at these events, and members of the project team will be available to answer questions about the project."</p>	<p>Hard copies of the consultation documents including the PEIR and PEIR Addendum were made available during the local information events that took place during the 2023 Statutory Consultation. Members of the Project team attended the events and were available to answer questions raised about the Project.</p>
9	<p>"Stakeholder briefing packs were provided to elected members in spring 2022 to introduce the scheme and inform them of how their constituents will be engaged with during the process. Further briefing packs will be provided to elected members in advance of the 2023 Statutory Consultation."</p>	<p><b>Section 7</b> of the Report provides details of the engagement undertaken to introduce the community and stakeholders to the Project. This includes a briefing pack sent by email on 4 November 2021 containing an introductory leaflet, details of the Project and a link to the Project website. Elected members were emailed again on 23 March 2022 with details of the 2022 Non-Statutory Consultation. The Applicant sent a members Briefing Pack to local authority officers via email on 12 June 2023 to provide to their elected members.</p>
11	<p>"Leaflets and newsletters have been and will continue to be distributed to all residents and businesses within the core consultation zone (as shown in Figure 2 of this SoCC) at key preapplication consultation stages which provide information on the proposals and details of how the local community can have their say. Newsletters will continue to be</p>	<p>A consultation leaflet (see <b>Appendix G-2: 2023 Statutory Consultation Leaflet, Advert and Poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was sent to over 2,200 homes and businesses within the Core Consultation Zone on 5 June 2023. This provided details of the 2023 Statutory Consultation, including where and when the consultation documents could be accessed and how and by what deadline any responses could be submitted. <b>Section 7</b> of the Report provides information about other</p>

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 3	Compliance
	distributed during the examination stage."	newsletters sent during the pre-application period.
11	<p>"Subject to any measures put in place by the government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, during the pre-application period, copies of this SoCC, leaflets and newsletters, the 2022 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR and (from the start of the 2023 Statutory Consultation) the 2023 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR Addendum will be available to view free of charge at the following public buildings and libraries ("Deposit Locations"):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ashford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL (Monday to Friday: 9am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed)</li> <li>▪ Folkestone and Hythe Council Offices, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY (Monday to Friday: 10am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed)</li> <li>▪ Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ (Monday to Friday: 8am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday: closed) – by appointment only</li> <li>▪ Ashford Library, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS New Romney Library, 82 High Street, New Romney, TN28 8AU</li> <li>▪ Lyminge Library, Station Road, Lyminge,</li> </ul>	Copies of SoCC 3, leaflets and newsletters, the 2022 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR and the 2023 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR Addendum were available to view free of charge at the Deposit Locations.

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 3	Compliance
	<p>Folkestone, Kent CT18 8HS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hythe Library, 1 Stade Street, Hythe, Kent CT21 6BQ</li> </ul> <p>Information on the opening hours for the libraries listed above can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at:  <a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library">https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library</a>"</p>	
11	<p>"Copies of this SoCC, leaflets and newsletters, the 2022 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR and (from the start of the 2023 Statutory Consultation) the 2023 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR Addendum are also available to access on the project website at <a href="http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk">www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk</a>"</p>	<p>Copies of SoCC 3, leaflets and newsletters, the 2022 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR and the 2023 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR Addendum were available to download free of charge from the Project website during the 2023 Statutory Consultation period.</p>
11	<p>"Anyone interested in the project can contact us using any of the communication lines detailed in Section 13 of this SoCC. All project information will be available to download from the project website at <a href="http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk">www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk</a>"</p>	<p>The Applicant monitored the Project communications lines throughout the pre-application period and considered the feedback and comments received.</p>
11	<p>"Across the consultation area we have been and will continue to raise awareness of the project amongst those living or working in this area. As mentioned above, documents providing information about the project are available to view at the Deposit Locations and the 2023 Statutory Consultation documents will be available at these locations from the start of the 2023 Statutory Consultation</p>	<p>Efforts were made across the consultation area to publicise the Project and the 2023 Statutory Consultation as explained below.</p> <p>Copies of SoCC 3, leaflets and newsletters, the 2022 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR and the 2023 Statutory Consultation documents including the PEIR Addendum were available to view free of charge at the Deposit Locations.</p>



Section No.	Extract from SoCC 3	Compliance
	(subject to any applicable Covid-19 restrictions)."	
11	"This SoCC will also be sent to local community groups as appropriate."	An email was sent on 2 June 2023 (see <b>Appendix D-5: Emails to Community Organisations Consulted During 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> ) to local stakeholder and community groups which provided a link to SoCC 3 on the Project website.
11	"We will use a newsletter, posters, social media, the project website and local media to reach out to those within the consultation area to inform them about the 2023 Statutory Consultation (as we did for the 2022 Statutory Consultation)."	<p>A consultation leaflet (see <b>Appendix G-2: 2023 Statutory Consultation Leaflet, Advert and Poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was sent to over 2,200 homes and businesses within the Core Consultation Zone on 5 June 2023. This provided details of the 2023 Statutory Consultation, including where and when the consultation documents could be accessed and how and by what deadline any responses could be submitted.</p> <p>A poster containing similar details was emailed to parish councils on 2 June 2023 with a request for the poster to be displayed on notice boards (see <b>Appendix G-2: 2023 Statutory Consultation Leaflet, Advert and Poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>).</p> <p>Information about the 2023 Statutory Consultation was publicised through the Project Twitter feed and Facebook page, and the Project website contained information about the consultation and copies of the consultation documents to download free of charge.</p>
11	"EPL 001 will also seek to consult with "hard to reach" groups, which are demographic groups that may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation techniques. They may find it harder to get involved in consultation and need additional support to access materials. As was the case for the 2022 Statutory Consultation, the 2023 Statutory Consultation will therefore include measures to	<p>A range of online and offline communication methods was used to engage a wide number of people in the consultation process for the 2023 Statutory Consultation. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ information about the consultation and the consultation documents were made available to download free of charge on the Project website during the statutory consultation period;</li> </ul>



Section No.	Extract from SoCC 3	Compliance
	<p>ensure we communicate effectively with these groups and provide an opportunity for them to have their say. This includes making information available across a number of online or offline outlets and in different formats. We will be directly engaging with representative groups in the community. We will ensure our written consultation material is in easy to understand, plain English style. A Freephone number, staffed by our community relations team, will be available to assist people who find it difficult to submit written comments and we will offer a telephone surgery to discuss the proposals if required. Large print and braille versions of consultation documents will also be available on request. A Freepost service will be available for people who prefer to send feedback by post rather than respond online or by email."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ hard copies of the consultation documents were made available at the Deposit Locations, which were agreed with the relevant local authorities through the SoCC process;</li> <li>▪ information about the 2023 Statutory Consultation was publicised through the Project Twitter feed;</li> <li>▪ a consultation advert was published in the Kentish Express on 8 June 2023 (see <b>Appendix G-2: 2023 Statutory Consultation Leaflet, Advert and Poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>);</li> <li>▪ a consultation leaflet was sent on 5 June 2023 to over 2,200 homes and businesses (see <b>Appendix G-2: 2023 Statutory Consultation leaflet, advert and poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>);</li> <li>▪ a notice publicising the consultation was displayed at the site (see <b>Appendix E-4: Site notices for 2023 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>);</li> <li>▪ an email sent to community groups on 2 June 2023 with details of the 2023 Statutory Consultation and an offer to answer any queries they may have;</li> <li>▪ a poster was emailed to parish councils on 2 June 2023 with a request for the poster to be displayed on notice boards (see <b>Appendix D-2: Emails to Community Organisations 2022 Statutory Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> and <b>Appendix G-2: 2023 Statutory Consultation Leaflet, Advert and Poster (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>); and</li> <li>▪ local information events took place throughout the Core Consultation Zone.</li> </ul> <p>The Consultation Booklet (see <b>Appendix G-1: 2023 Statutory Consultation</b>)</p>

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 3	Compliance
		<p><b>Information Pack, Part 1 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b> was written in an easy to understand, plain English style. A Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR and PEIR Addendum (see <b>Appendix G-1: 2023 Statutory Consultation Information Pack, Part 3 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was provided written in non-technical language to summarise the findings of the PEIR and PEIR Addendum. The feedback form (see <b>Appendix G-1: 2023 Statutory Consultation Information pack, Part 1 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was designed in an easy to use format that provided structure for consultees whilst ensuring that they had the opportunity to provide any other comments they might have about the Project.</p> <p>A Freephone number, staffed by the Applicant's community relations team, was available throughout the 2023 Statutory Consultation period. The Applicant did not receive any requests for a telephone surgery. A Freepost service was also available for people to send feedback by post if desired.</p> <p>Large print, audio or braille versions of the consultation documents were available upon request. One request for a large print copy of a technical report was received and provided by the Applicant.</p> <p>Emails were sent to a number of hard to reach groups (agreed with ABC) informing them of the consultation on 2 June 2023, with an offer to answer any questions they may have. The groups sent this email included the following: Action with Communities in Rural Kent (subsequently closed), The Sedgwick Godfrey Trust, Kent Community Energy and Kent Community Foundation.</p>
11	"We have established a Community Liaison Panel (CLP). The terms of reference for the CLP, along with notes of meetings,	A Terms of Reference document of the CLP and notes of meetings were published on the Project website:

Section No.	Extract from SoCC 3	Compliance
	<p>can be viewed on the project website at</p> <p><a href="https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Consultation">https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Consultation.</a>"</p>	<p><a href="https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Consultation">https://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Consultation</a></p>
12	<p>"To capture participant feedback, we will produce a consultation questionnaire for the 2023 Statutory Consultation inviting comments on the proposed Stonestreet Green Solar project, as we did previously for the 2022 Statutory Consultation and Non-Statutory Consultation."</p>	<p>A feedback form (see <b>Appendix G-1: 2023 Statutory Consultation Information Pack, Part 1 (Doc Ref. 6.2)</b>) was developed and made available throughout the 2023 Statutory Consultation period, which invited comments on the different elements of the Project.</p>
12	<p>"During the 2023 Statutory Consultation period, the questionnaire will be made available at the local information events, online through the dedicated project website (<a href="http://www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk">www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk</a>) and via post upon request. Consultees will be able to respond by completing the questionnaire online or by returning a completed questionnaire at a local information event or by using the contact details set out in Section 13 of this SoCC during the 2023 Statutory Consultation period."</p>	<p>The feedback form was made available in hard copy format at the local information events, and available online at the Project website. The form was also available via post on request. Copies of the form could be returned during the local information events, online via the online form, or sent to the Project's Freepost address. For consultees who did not wish to use the feedback form, comments could be submitted by email to <a href="mailto:info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk">info@stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk</a>, by post to FREEPOST Stonestreet Green Solar or by Freephone at 08081 698335.</p>
12	<p>"Following the end of the 2023 Statutory Consultation, we will carefully consider all the responses that we have received and have regard to this in finalising our proposals for the Stonestreet Green Solar project, ahead of submitting our DCO application."</p>	<p>As explained in <b>Section 6.11</b> of the Report, the Applicant carefully considered all of the responses received and had regard to this prior to submitting the DCO Application.</p>