

**Byers Gill Solar
EN010139****5.2 Consultation Report Appendices
Part 4 of 4**

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APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms
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Appendix 6.1(1) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 1 and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 1 and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general opposition as a result of the impact on and general use of agricultural land.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p> <p>Additionally, solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain's farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability</p>	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation supported the development of solar farms, but not on or at the expense of productive farmland.		N
3	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objections to the use of productive farmland land for the Proposed Development, citing that the land could and/or should be used for food production.		N
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objections to the use of agricultural land for the Proposed Development, citing concerns regarding the impact on food production and overall food security.		N
5	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the use of agricultural land for the Proposed Development, instead suggesting that other areas such as brownfield land, new housing		Y

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	developments, roof tops of existing buildings are utilised.	of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.	
6	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development is 'swapping one problem for another' by using agricultural land.		N
7	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the benefits of the Proposed Development are outweighed by the impact on and reduction of agricultural land.		N
8	Those who responded to the consultation expressed that the removal of agricultural land from the area is industrialising the local area.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) in support of the DCO Application, which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
Assessment of Alternatives			
9	Those who responded to the consultation queried why this location had been selected for the Proposed Development,	The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill	Y

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	and suggests an alternative location is proposed.	Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3).	
10	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development is 180MW and is large scale within a rural area.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
11	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the selected location for the Proposed Development will not be efficient in producing solar power.	The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3). Specifically, the north-east region has suitable levels of irradiance to gain a viable yield from current solar panel technology. For this reason, the north-east region was identified as a potential location for solar development by the Applicant.	N
12	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for solar power as part of the renewable energy mix in order to reach net zero, but only when placed in the 'right' location, suggesting that the location of the Proposed Development was not appropriate.	The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
13	Those who responded to the consultation considered that solar power is not contributing to net zero sufficiently, and that it is not an efficient form of energy production in the UK.		N
14	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that other forms of electricity generation, such as small nuclear plants or wind farms, should be considered as a	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated, further	Y

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	viable alternative because of their lesser impacts.	supporting the growth of renewable energy production in the UK.	
15	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that there is becoming an overreliance on solar power, and that alternative methods of electricity generation should be prioritised.	As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	N
16	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that improved planning and wages would lead to the proposal of schemes which are less impactful.	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated, further supporting the growth of renewable energy production in the UK.	N
Battery Energy Safety Storage (BESS)			
17	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the electromagnetic radiation produced by the battery stations.	There is no evidence that there are any perceptible impacts of electromagnetic radiation from any of the infrastructure resulting from the Proposed Development, or other solar projects.	N
Biodiversity			
18	Those who responded to the consultation expressed a general concern for the impact on biodiversity, including loss and displacement of habitat.	The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct	N

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19	<p>Those who responded to the consultation explicitly expressed support for renewable energy but considered that generally fields should be left for wildlife and not used for solar farms.</p>	<p>impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.</p> <p>To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.</p> <p>The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units. More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).</p>	N
20	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on protected bird species.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development will include areas within the Order Limits reserved for biodiversity enhancement. These areas will not have solar panels to create suitable habitats for ground-nesting birds like meadow pipits, lapwings, and curlews. They will be sown with flower-rich meadows and cut in late summer to avoid disturbing nesting birds. This initiative is expected to positively impact the bird species within the Order Limits.</p> <p>Additionally, the project will incorporate wildflower meadows, tussock grasslands, and wild seed bird mix along the field margins. The hedgerows across the Order Limits will also be enhanced. Together, these measures will significantly increase biodiversity across the agriculturally managed landscape within the Order Limits, which currently exhibits limited species diversity.</p>	N

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Cable Routes			
21	Those who responded to the consultation stated that they do not believe the proposed layout for the cable routes makes sense.	The DCO application includes cable route options rather than one single defined route to provide sufficient flexibility to ensure that the Proposed Development is deliverable. The Applicant has stated a clear preference in the DCO application for off-road cable routes wherever possible. These are depicted in ES Figure 2.13 (Document Reference 6.3.2.13). Cable route options have been developed taking into account factors such as environmental constraints, technical feasibility and cost. In addition, specific consideration for on-road routes has included the layout and routing of the existing road network, whilst off-road routes have been developed with regard to the need for voluntary land agreement.	N
Climate Change			
22	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns about the efficiency of solar power.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated, further supporting the growth of renewable energy production in the UK.	N
23	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the carbon footprint of the Proposed Development.	Up to 99% of materials in a solar PV module are recyclable, with organisations around the UK specialising in solar panel recycling in line with the WEEE Regulations. Additionally, an Assessment of Likely Waste Arisings (Document Reference 6.4.2.3) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, and provides further information on the removal of materials following the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	N

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Cumulative Effects			
24	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the effect of the Proposed Development when combined with other energy developments proposed or in construction in the local area.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly relating to the cumulative and in-combination effect of this Proposed Development with other developments also proposed in the local area.</p> <p>As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13), which takes into account and assesses the combined and cumulative impact on other proposed, in-planning or in-construction developments, and seeks to conclude the overall effect of these, should they all be built. The list of developments included in the assessment has been agreed in consultation with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.</p> <p>It is important to note that projects which are already in operation are not included specifically in this assessment, as they have been considered part of the 'baseline' information. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13).</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N

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Decommissioning			
25	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed opposition to the removal of agricultural land from the local community, citing concerns that it won't return to its current use after decommissioning or that the Proposed Development will affect the legacy of the land.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. Following operation, the Proposed Development would require decommissioning. The process of decommissioning would involve the removal of all solar infrastructure, including the solar PV modules, cabling and on-site supporting equipment, from the site to be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and processes at that time. Any requirements to leave certain infrastructure, for example access tracks, would be discussed and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process.</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
Engineering Design			
26	<p>Those who responded expressed a general objection regarding the scale of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development. Through ongoing engagement with landowners</p>	N

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		<p>and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>Solar energy production at this scale is supported by National Policy Statement EN-3 which identifies solar energy production as Critical National Infrastructure. The scale of the proposed development is defined by the capacity available on the National Grid. The Applicant has an agreement with Northern Power Grid to supply 180MW of electricity from solar power to the Norton Substation. The area of land proposed, which was reduced following consultation, is required to produce the generating capacity.</p>	
27	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact for future generations.	The significance of the impacts of the proposed development has been expressed in the Environmental Statement. While impacts on the landscape are inevitable, the benefits of the project in helping to prevent irreversible climate change that would inhibit the survivability of future generations are considered to outweigh this, as outlined in the Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.2).	N
28	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the expensive of solar panels which are unaffordable to many.	Solar energy from ground mounted utility solar is one of the cheapest forms of energy alongside onshore wind power. It is expected that meeting national targets for the deployment of these technologies would result in lower energy bills in the future.	N
29	Those who responded to the consultation states the purpose of the Proposed Development is to make profit at the expense of others.	RWE is a PLC company that generates electricity across Europe.	N
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Approach			
30	Those who responded expressed support for the Proposed Development subject to	The DCO application for the Proposed Development includes an Environmental Statement (ES), which assesses impacts of the Proposed	N

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	a thorough investigation of the local impacts and their minimisation.	<p>Development on topics such as (but not limited to) landscape, biodiversity, traffic and transport and cultural heritage. Along with the assessment of these impacts, the ES also identifies any required and appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures.</p> <p>The DCO Application also comprises a Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	
Food Security			
31	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that by using solar and other forms of renewable energy to solve the energy supply issue, it is worsening food security in the UK.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. Solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain's farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.	N
32	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that current global affairs highlight the need for food security, which solar developments on agricultural land effects.		N
General			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
33	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for renewable energy in order to reach net zero.	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets.	N
34	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for solar power as part of the renewable energy mix in order to reach net zero.		N
35	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for renewable energy but consider that solar power is not an efficient way of producing it.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
36	Those who responded to the consultation expressed opposition for the Proposed Development.		N
37	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for solar power as part of the renewable energy mix in order to reach net zero, but do not support the Proposed Development.		N
38	Those who responded do not believe that solar farms are necessary, and that UK Government may change policy direction regarding them in the future.		
39	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed, and thanks the respondent for their support of Byers Gill Solar.	N
40	Those who responded support the use of solar energy but suggest that it should not	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	be developed at the expense of the local community.	targets. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	
Human Health			
41	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the close proximity of Panel Area B to properties and the health implications of this.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
42	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the Proposed Development impacting residents' livelihoods and wellbeing.		N
Landscape and Visual			
43	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns with regards to the impact on the landscape resulting from the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.	N
44	Those who responded to the consultation object to the Proposed Development as it would negatively impact the landscape and change the visual amenity of the local area.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.	N
45	Those who responded to the consultation consider that the Proposed Development must carefully consider the surrounding landscape and expressed concerns about	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach	Y

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	the size of the Proposed Development and its visual impact.	taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	
46	Those who responded to the consultation acknowledges the contribution solar farms make in supporting renewable energy but remained concerned about the visual impact of the Proposed Development.		N
47	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the visual impact of the proposed security fencing.		N
Planning and Consents			
48	Those who responded to the consultation suggests that solar projects of this scale would not be required, should their placement be prioritised on roofs, new builds, brownfield sites and/or commercial sites.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	N
49	Those who responded to the consultation suggests that solar projects should be prioritised on roofs, new builds, brownfield sites and/or commercial sites to reduce the environmental impact of solar developments.		N
50	Those who responded expressed that the net zero 2050 target is unrealistic.		N
51	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed	As set out in this Report, since statutory consultation, the Applicant has made a number of changes to the design of the Proposed Development in	N

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	Development will not align or match up with what was shown during statutory consultation, and what can be done to challenge that if it is the case.	order to take into account feedback received in response to consultation and further technical assessment and design work. This updated design is presented in the DCO application in the Environmental Masterplans and other drawings. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development and sets out key design principles for individual aspects of the proposals. The draft DCO (Document Reference 3.1) secures the delivery of the Proposed Development as presented in the DCO application, legally requiring that the Applicant adheres to the environmental masterplans, the design principles presented in the DAD and other documents which secure environmental mitigation and management measures.	
Socioeconomics			
52	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the impact on tourism and the wider local economy, resulting from the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding impact on local businesses as a result of the Proposed Development. As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the impact on socioeconomic receptors, which includes local businesses within the local area. The assessment itself and the findings of it can be found in ES Chapter 9 Land use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9), which finds that there would be retained access during all stages of the proposed development, and an increase in revenue during the construction period.	N
53	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the size and close proximity of the Proposed Development to residential areas and services.		N

Appendix 6.1(2) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 2 and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 2 and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development, including cable routes, is using arable land.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development, and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p>	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation object to solar developments in the North East generally, specifically in consideration of the impact on agricultural land.		N
3	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the use of agricultural land which is Grade 2 or higher.		N
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern about the impact of the Proposed Development on agricultural land.		N
5	Those who responded to the consultation object to the Proposed Development due to its placement and subsequent impact on agricultural land.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>Development, and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	
6	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objections to the use of agricultural land for the Proposed Development, citing concerns regarding the impact on food production and overall food security.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).	N
7	Those who responded to the consultation supported the development of solar farms, but not on or at the expense of productive farmland.	As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not	N
8	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that current global affairs highlight the need for food security, which solar on agricultural land effects.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development will result in detrimental effects to local farming and agricultural practices.	have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	N
10	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the use of agricultural land for the Proposed Development, instead suggesting that other areas such as brownfield land, new housing developments, roof tops of existing buildings are utilised.	Solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain's farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.	N
Assessment of Alternatives			
11	Those who responded to the consultation queried why this location had been selected for the Proposed Development, and suggests an alternative location is proposed.	The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3).	N
12	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objection to the general location of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
13	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the Proposed Development and suggested that there were more suitable alternatives which should be explored.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
14	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that other forms of electricity generation, such as small nuclear plants or wind farms, should be considered as a viable alternative because of their lesser impacts.	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated, further supporting the growth of renewable energy production in the UK.	N
15	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that alternative locations that do not utilise agricultural land should be selected for the Proposed Development.	As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	N
16	Those who responded to the consultation considered that solar power is not contributing to net zero sufficiently, and that it is not an efficient form of energy production in the UK.		N
17	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development is located in an area where the character of the countryside will be affected.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.</p> <p>The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including</p>	N

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		<p>how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	
18	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the overall size and scale of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development. Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>Solar energy production at this scale is supported by National Policy Statement EN-3 which identifies solar energy production as Critical National Infrastructure. The scale of the proposed development is defined by the capacity available on the National Grid. The Applicant has an agreement with Northern Power Grid to supply 180MW of electricity from solar power to the Norton Substation. It would not be possible to reduce this generating capacity under the terms of this agreement, and the Applicant would not be able to connect the project to the Norton substation without re-applying to Northern Power Grid and National Grid to connect a new project. The area of land proposed, which was reduced following consultation, is required to produce the generating capacity.</p>	N
19	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the selected location for the Proposed Development will not be efficient in producing solar power.</p>	<p>The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3). A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3). 3.6.6. Specifically, the north-east region has suitable levels of irradiance to gain a viable yield from current solar panel technology. For this reason, the north-east region was identified as a potential location for solar development by the Applicant.</p>	N

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		The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	
20	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the Proposed Development should be distributed in smaller schemes.	In order for the Proposed Development to be feasible, it requires a connection to the national grid through which the energy it generates would be delivered and would contribute to the national energy supply. Engagement with the relevant Distribution Network Operator (DNO) Northern Power Grid (NPG) identified that connection capacity was available from the Norton Substation, located to the north-west of Stockton-on-Tees. The scale of the proposed development is defined by the capacity available on the National Grid. The Applicant has an agreement with Northern Power Grid to supply 180MW of electricity from solar power to the Norton Substation. The area of land proposed, which was reduced following consultation, is required to produce the generating capacity. In doing so, it seeks to ensure that the delivery of solar energy can be provided to the national grid when the construction of the solar farm is complete.	Y
Biodiversity			
21	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the Proposed Development as a result of the impact on local wildlife and biodiversity.	The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.	N
22	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact on wildlife and species which have been found on site.	To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.</p> <p>The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units.</p> <p>More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).</p>	
23	Those who responded to the consultation consider that the proposed wildflower meadows will not adequately replace the habitat which is being lost, including habitats for ground nesting birds.	<p>The proposed development will include areas within the Order Limits reserved for biodiversity enhancement. These areas will not have solar panels to create suitable habitats for ground-nesting birds.</p> <p>Additionally, the proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units.</p>	N
24	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would endanger wildlife.	<p>More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).</p>	N
25	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the proposed orchard is doubled in size, with additional bird hides provided.	<p>The proposed development is expected to result in a substantial increase in biodiversity across the Order Limits. Once the lifespan of the solar farm expires, the Order Limits will be repurposed for agricultural uses.</p>	Y
26	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the Proposed Development should include more habitat creation in light of the UK government's 30 by 30 rewilding target, and improve biodiversity in the local area.		N

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27	Those who responded to the consultation expressed particular concern for the safety of wildlife as a result of the proposed deer fencing.	The deer fence is intended to be designed in a manner that would accommodate badger access points. These access points will also facilitate the movement of small-sized animals across the Panel Areas, including but not limited to badgers, hares, and foxes. Fencing itself will also be on the inside of existing field boundaries with an appropriate buffer so that large mammal species such as deer can still move across the landscape in the buffer zone between the security fence and existing field boundaries – the buffer zone will be managed to encourage wildlife.	N
Cable Routes			
28	The respondent states that as cable installation is done in 'drum', a section of trench is left open after excavation to reduce the number of joints. The respondent raised concerns that there is a lack of information surrounding how many cables are to be run in parallel on the last section from Bishopton to the Letch Lane substation. There is concern that if other schemes in the area go ahead along with the Proposed Development, there will not be space for all to have road cabling if more than one main cable is required to achieve the rating required.	The DCO application includes cable route options rather than one single defined route to provide sufficient flexibility to ensure that the Proposed Development is deliverable. The Applicant has stated a clear preference in the DCO application for off-road cable routes wherever possible. The final cable route and detailed considerations around its design and installation will be developed post-consent and approved through DCO requirement. The concerns raised regarding detailed aspects of the cable installation are noted, and the interaction of the works with other schemes in the area will be considered by the Applicant at the point of detailed design, with co-ordination of works on roads to be sought where feasible, should on-road cable routes form part of the final confirmed route.	Y
Climate Change			
29	Those who responded to the consultation expressed the concerns of the environmental impacts of solar panels if not handled and disposed of properly.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding the anticipating disruption during the construction stage.</p> <p>Up to 99% of materials in a solar PV module are recyclable, with organisations around the UK specialising in solar panel recycling in line with the WEEE Regulations. Additionally, an Assessment of Likely Waste Arisings</p>	N

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		(Document Reference 6.4.2.3) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, and provides further information on the removal of materials following the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	
Community Benefits			
30	Those who responded to the consultation suggested for RWE to provide grants for community activities, schools such as inputting into science lessons and churches.	The Applicant offers a Community Benefit Fund of approximately £1.5 million to be paid over the lifetime of the Proposed Development. The Applicant also welcome opportunities to engage with schools and any other communities that matter.	N
Construction			
31	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of construction of the Proposed Development on residents.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding the anticipating disruption during the construction stage.	N
32	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the adverse environmental impacts of construction.	As part of the planning application, an Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared which seeks to assess the impact on particular topics during the construction stage of the Proposed Development. ES Chapter 14 Summary (Document Reference 6.2.14) provides an overview of the assessed effects during construction on each of those topics, including traffic and transport, and socioeconomics, including public rights of way. Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages.	N
Consultation			
33	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the consultation and communication with local residents has been inadequate.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.	N

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34	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that their local village (unnamed) had only been visited once in the consultation process.	As part of the preparation for the consultation, the Applicant engaged with Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council about the approach to consultation, including the location of events, the information provided and the ability to make the documents accessible as much as practicable. This was done through meetings, but also through the development of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This document was prepared in consultation with the three local authorities, and the Applicant sought to carry out the consultation in accordance with that document; this is evidenced in Appendix 4.7 of the Consultation Report Appendices (Document Reference 5.2).	N
35	Those who responded to the consultation asked if further consultation would take place or suggested that further consultation is undertaken.		N
36	Those who responded to the consultation expressed that no consideration has been given to local residents with regards to the way that consultation was undertaken.		N
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
37	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development due to its proximity to and potential impact on Bishopton Conservation Area.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village. Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton.	N
38	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development, specifically panel Areas E and F, due to their proximity to and potential impact on Bishopton Conservation Area.	To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.	N
39	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development due to its potential impact on cultural heritage and archaeology.		N

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40	Those who responded to the consultation considers that there is a lack of protection provided for the conservation area.	To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of supporting structures and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.	N
41	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the change in local setting as a result of the Proposed Development.	To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.	N
Cumulative Effects			
	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the cumulative impact between the Proposed Development and other current and planned developments for the area.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly relating to the cumulative and in-combination effect of this Proposed Development with other developments also proposed in the local area.	N
42	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the lack of assessment of the impact between the Proposed Development and other developments	As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13), which takes into account and assesses the combined and cumulative impact on other proposed, in-planning or in-construction developments, and seeks to conclude the overall	N

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	planned for the area, particularly surrounding the timing and installation of road cables.	affect of these, should they all be built. The list of developments included in the assessment has been agreed in consultation with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.	
43	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the cumulative impact between the Proposed Development and other current and planned developments for the area, particularly surrounding the visual impact and impact on the character of the area.	It is important to note that projects which are already in operation are not included specifically in this assessment, as they have been considered part of the 'baseline' information. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13).	N
44	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the cumulative impact between the Proposed Development and other current and planned developments for the area, particularly regarding the impact on Bishopton Conservation Area.		N
Decommissioning			
45	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the environmental impact of chemicals and metals if not disposed of correctly.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. Up to 99% of materials in a solar PV module are recyclable, with organisations around the UK specialising in solar panel recycling in line with the WEEE Regulations. Additionally, an Assessment of Likely Waste Arisings (Document Reference 6.4.2.3) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application and provides further information on the removal of materials following the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	N
46	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the disruption during decommissioning.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. Following operation, the Proposed Development would require decommissioning. The process of decommissioning would involve the removal of all solar infrastructure, including the solar PV modules, cabling and on-site supporting equipment, from the site to be recycled or disposed of in	N

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		<p>accordance with good practice and processes at that time. Any requirements to leave certain infrastructure, for example access tracks, would be discussed and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	
Engineering Design			
47	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the size and scale of the Proposed Development, particularly in this location.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
48	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that Panel Area F should be excluded from the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.</p> <p>Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton, to address the comments received during the statutory consultation and following ongoing engagement with landowners.</p>	Y

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49	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the height of the solar panels to be used for the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the solar panels to be used for the Proposed Development. Through ongoing assessments and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the height of the solar panels will now be a maximum of 3.5 metres in height, reduced from the 4.5 metres as presented in the statutory consultation.	Y
50	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the site layout has not taken residents' views into account.	Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, many changes have been made to the design of the Proposed Development. For example, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares and the height of the solar panels will now be a maximum of 3.5 metres in height, reduced from the 4.5 metres as presented in the statutory consultation. The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
51	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the lack of consideration for Bishopton residents and local villages.		N
52	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns regarding the impact that the Proposed Development would have on villages and farms in its close proximity.		N
Food Security			
53	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that current global affairs highlight the need for food security, which solar on agricultural land effects.	Solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain's farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while	N
54	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that by using solar and other forms of renewable energy to solve the		N

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	energy supply issue, it is worsening food security in the UK.	providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.	
General			
55	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed, and thanks the respondent for their support of Byers Gill Solar.	N
56	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for solar power as part of the renewable energy mix in order to reach net zero.	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets.	N
57	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for renewable energy but consider that solar power is not an efficient way of producing it.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
58	Those who responded to the consultation expressed opposition for the Proposed Development.		N
59	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	The DCO application for the Proposed Development includes an Environmental Statement (ES), which assesses impacts of the Proposed Development on topics such as (but not limited to) landscape, biodiversity, traffic and transport and cultural heritage. Along with the assessment of these impacts, the ES also identifies any required and appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures.	N

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		<p>The DCO Application also comprises a Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	
60	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the solar farm integration which requires investment in infrastructure.	The Applicant will be constructing and operating the project including all costs for alternative infrastructure.	N
Human Health			
61	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development will negatively impact on residents' daily lives.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
62	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development will negatively impact on mental health and wellbeing.		N
63	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that overall physical health of residents' will be affected.		N
64	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that residents and local businesses would be affected by stress and anxiety caused by the Proposed Development.		N

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65	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development would negatively impact their work life balance.		N
66	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that stress caused by the Proposed Development would exacerbate residents' existing health conditions.		N
67	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern of health and safety risk associated with the Proposed Development, including risk to school children, equestrian activities, elderly residents etc.	<p>Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
68	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the lack of consideration for livelihoods and quality of life.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).</p> <p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, many changes have been made to the design of the Proposed Development. For example, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>hectares and the height of the solar panels will now be a maximum of 3.5 metres in height, reduced from the 4.5 metres as presented in the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	
Landscape and Visual			
69	Those who responded to the consultation understood and appreciates the contribution solar farms make in supporting renewable energy but remained concerned about the visual impact of the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.</p>	N
70	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns with regards to the impact on the landscape resulting from the Proposed Development.	<p>The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.</p>	N
71	Those who responded to the consultation object to the Proposed Development as it would change the visual amenity of the local area.	<p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
72	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would result in the local area feeling industrialised.		
73	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	proximity of the Proposed Development to residential properties, and the visual impact on residents.		
74	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would have an impact on the character of the surrounding area and local villages.		N
75	Those who responded to the consultation consider that solar farm developments need to carefully consider the surrounding landscape and expressed concerns about the size of the Proposed Development and its visual impact.		N
76	Those who responded to the consultation raised concern around the lack of benefits to offset the adverse visual impact of the Proposed Development.		N
77	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the visual impact of the proposed security fencing.	The proposed fencing would be deer fencing, i.e. wooden poles and a large grid wire mesh, appropriate to the rural setting. ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) considers the impact of the proposed fencing along with other elements of the Proposed Development.	N
78	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that screening of panels will be impossible due to the elevation of Great Stainton.	ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) identifies that full screening of visibility of panels in views from Great Stainton will not be achievable. However, the Chapter also describes and illustrates the landscape and visual effects that would arise, and the subsequent proposed mitigation to reduce the landscape and visual effects as much as possible.	N
79	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed	During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the adequacy of the screening.	<p>areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	
80	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the length of time it will take the screening to establish.	Across the study area identified in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7), the existing hedgerows and hedgerow trees are generally in relatively good condition. Much of the mitigation of the Proposed Development would be provided by allowing existing hedges to become taller. This would achieve design heights (typically 1-1.5m above existing heights) in a short timeframe. In relation to new plantings, there is nothing about the soils or climate and no locally prevalent plant pests or diseases that would give rise to particular problems with establishment. The likely time for planting to establish is considered in reporting operation stage effects in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).	N
81	Those who responded to the consultation suggested the Proposed Development be placed further from housing to prevent adverse visual impacts.	This was carefully considered throughout the design of the solar farm with amendments made to the set back of panels and perimeter planting to mitigate effects on properties which would have the closest and most open views of the Proposed Development. A number of individual properties were visited as part of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (Document Reference 6.4.7.6) and concerns discussed with residents. The detailed findings of the RVAA set out effects on properties within 100m of the Proposed Development.	N
Noise and Vibration			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
82	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the impacts of noise and vibration disturbance during construction of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development, particularly with regards to the construction phase.	N
83	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of noise and vibration impacts resulting from increased traffic and large vehicles associated with the Proposed Development.	<p>As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development, which finds that there would be short-term, temporary and localised impacts arising from noise pollution during the construction stage of the Proposed Development. There would be no significant effects on local communities resulting from the operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11).</p> <p>Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. We have also produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which details the traffic planning and HGV management during construction, as well as the associated impacts on noise as a result of construction traffic. Both documents will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.</p>	N
Planning and Consents			
84	Those who responded to the consultation suggests that solar projects should be prioritised on roofs, new builds, brownfield sites and/or commercial sites, which would in turn reduce the environmental impact of solar developments.	As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
85	Those who responded to the consultation consider that the Proposed Development has not been prepared in accordance with local and national policy.	<p>Adopted and emerging National Policy Statements for Energy (including EN-1 and EN-3) are the primary planning documents against which the Proposed Development is assessed by the Secretary of State in deciding whether to grant a Development Consent Order, however local planning policy does form part of the assessment to test the compliance overall with national and local planning policy.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, a Policy Compliance Document (PCD) (Document Reference 7.1.1) has been submitted, which details the relevant planning policy which the Proposed Development will be assessed against, and a summary of how the Proposed Development is in accordance with that policy(s).</p>	N
Safety			
86	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development would pose a safety risk to the local residents, specifically disallowing children to play in the local area.	Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.	N
87	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the location Proposed Development due to the close proximity to residential areas and surrounding services such as schools.	Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.	N
88	Those who responded to the consultation expressed safety concerns and limited accessibility.	Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront. Additionally, the DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	
Socioeconomics			
89	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for the PRow proposals.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed, and thanks the respondent for their support of Byers Gill Solar.	N
90	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on PRow.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N
91	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the visual impact from the Proposed Development would negatively impact business and tourism.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding impact on local businesses as a result of the Proposed Development.	N
92	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the lack of consideration for economic and social impact.	As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the impact on socioeconomic receptors, which includes local businesses within the local area. The assessment itself and the findings of it can be found in ES Chapter 9 Land use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9), which finds that there would be retained access during all stages of the proposed development, and an increase in revenue during the construction period. The assessment concludes that there would be a minor beneficial effect on local businesses, which is not significant.	N
93	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the visual impact from the Proposed Development would negatively impact property values.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to changes to property values as a result of the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would affect the value of local properties.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
94	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the cost of construction and maintenance which could impact energy bills.	Solar energy from ground mounted utility solar is one of the cheapest form of energy alongside onshore wind power. It is expected that meeting national targets for the deployment of these technologies would result in lower energy bills in the future.	N
95	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact for future generations.	The significance of the impacts of the proposed development has been expressed in the Environmental Statement. While impacts on the landscape are inevitable, the benefits of the project in helping to prevent irreversible climate change that would inhibit the survivability of future generations are considered to outweigh this.	N
Traffic and Transport			
96	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the increase in traffic volume resulting from the Proposed Development.	An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Following the assessment of potential impacts within ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12), it is deemed that the magnitude of impact is negligible, with none of the effects being significant at all stages of the Proposed Development.	N
97	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the impacts of traffic on residents during construction.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The Outline CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
98	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of negative traffic related impacts on the village and its connectivity/ accessibility.		n
99	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the existing road network being unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and construction traffic.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation. The existing road network is currently used by HGVs, with this being shown in the results from traffic surveys undertaken between 15-21 March 2023 as presented in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		6.2.12). Baseline flows were assessed and HGVs were identified as part of the current mix of vehicles that use the existing road network. The prepared Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) presents proposed access routes for HGVs, taking into account weight restrictions, the nature of the roads and nearby villages.	
100	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of existing transport infrastructure not being able to support an increase in traffic associated with the Proposed Development.	An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The Outline CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
101	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of an increase in traffic, congestion and disruption to residents.		N
102	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the safety implications of increased traffic and large vehicles, especially on pedestrians, school children, cyclists and horse riders.	The assessment significance and impact assessment of the proposed development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	N
103	Those who responded to the consultation expressed queries regarding the accuracy of traffic assessments.	Traffic Assessments have been undertaken using information gathered from Traffic Surveys undertaken between 15-21 March 2023 and information available on proposed developments in the vicinity alongside relevant guidelines. Detail of the Traffic Assessment undertaken is outlined in ES Chapter Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). The Chapter has been compiled in accordance with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines on the Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement, published in 2023.	N
104	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that Mill Lane will no longer be of use for recreation and exercise.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised with regards to the use of Mill Lane as part of the Proposed Development.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		In response to the concerns raised during the consultation, the Applicant has amended the layout of the Proposed Development, and therefore removed the need to use Mill Lane as a construction route and removed the need to use land adjacent to it.	
105	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of damage to roads and queried RWE's responsibility to repair roads if damaged during construction.	<p>The Proposed Development will be accessed using the adopted highway, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) shows the routes that construction vehicles will be advised to use. The advised routes avoid roads with weight limit restrictions and avoid roads through residential areas, where possible. The Outline CTMP includes the requirement to ensure wheel washing facilities are provided and drivers will be required to check that their vehicle is free of dirt, stones and dust prior to departing from the site.</p> <p>It will be the responsibility of the Applicant and the principal contractor to make good any damage if it were to occur, including to roads.</p>	N

Appendix 6.1(3) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 3 and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 3 and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the solar panels are proposed on productive agricultural land which will in turn reduce food production.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development, and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p> <p>Solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is</p>	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the solar panels in agricultural land allows farmers to benefit financially.		N
3	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the Proposed Development converting greenbelt and agricultural land into industrial land.		N
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of the scale of the Proposed Development on agricultural land.		N
5	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of soils.		N
6	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the use of agricultural land for the Proposed Development, instead suggesting that other areas such as brownfield land, new housing developments, roof tops of existing buildings are utilised.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		working closely with Britain's farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.	
Arboriculture			
7	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding potential detrimental impact to two veteran trees within the site boundary, and states any works proposed within proximity to veteran trees should occur in line with Natural England and Forestry Commission's standing advice.	The design of arrays and security fencing has been amended to afford all veteran trees on site the full 15 x Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) buffer zone for ancient and veteran trees, as recommended in Natural England's Standing Advice. Please see the ES Appendix 7.7. Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.7.7) for further information.	N
8	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that a veteran ash tree would be subject to root encroachment from the siting of a solar panel within the veteran buffer zone, and suggest this panel should be removed to ensure the long-term vitality and retention of the veteran specimen.	The solar panels have been redesigned in this area to ensure that there is no encroachment on T20 or its buffer zone. Tree protection fencing will be erected at the edge of the buffer zone for the duration of construction to ensure that the tree is adequately protected. Please see the ES Appendix 7.7. Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.7.7) for further information.	Y
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern an access track is proposed within the veteran buffer zone of T111 (a veteran willow tree). The respondents suggest that the track should be re-designed to avoid the buffer zone or should be completed to no-dig specifications outside of the root protection area.	The access track has been re-routed in this area to ensure that there is no encroachment on T111 or its buffer zone. Tree protection fencing will be erected at the edge of the buffer zone for the duration of construction to ensure that the tree is adequately protected. Please see the ES Appendix 7.7. Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.7.7) for further information.	Y

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Assessment of Alternatives			
10	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objection to the general location of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3). The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
11	Those who responded to the consultation queried why this location had been selected for the Proposed Development, and suggests an alternative location is proposed.		N
12	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that other forms of electricity generation, such as small nuclear plants or wind farms, should be considered as a viable alternative because of their lesser impacts.	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated, further supporting the growth of renewable energy production in the UK.	N
13	Those who responded to the consultation stated that the Proposed Development is not needed as there are operational wind farms in the area.	As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	
Biodiversity			
14	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development would adversely impact the environment.	The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.	N
15	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the Proposed Development should include more habitat creation in light of the UK government's 30 by 30 rewilding target, and improve biodiversity in the local area.	<p>To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.</p> <p>The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units.</p> <p>More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).</p>	N
16	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern with regards to the displacement of Lapwings.	The breeding bird survey (BBS) carried out observed a peak count of 10 lapwing with probable breeding within the study area, the majority of lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) breeding behaviour, i.e., singing, occurred near Downland Farm, which falls outside the Order Limits. A large area of Panel Area F is to remain free of solar panels and managed for	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		ground-nesting birds, such as lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) and curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>). This area will comprise a flower-rich meadow mix and be subject to late-summer cutting, to ensure that nesting birds are not disturbed. It will be managed this way for the life-time of the development. As discussed, the scheme design has avoided the areas of farmland where majority of ground nesting birds identified and in addition large area F will remain free of panels and will be managed to support ground nesting birds. In addition, provision of habitat under and around panels including cover crops and herbal leys will improve the insect biomass providing additional foraging resource and a supply of winter seed for small passerine species such as skylark.	
17	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the wildflower meadows will become neglected and turn into fields of weeds, the seeds of which will blow into gardens.	The proposed management of wildflower meadows is outlined within an Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.14), submitted to support the DCO application. The first year following sowing of wildflower mix, it can also be mown regularly to reduce the presence of annual weeds, starting in July and then monthly in August, September and October. Management can move to a more traditional hay cut in late summer early autumn to allow wildflower seeds to drop ahead of the following growing season. Management of habitats such as wildflower meadows will be secured as a requirement of the DCO and detailed within a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) produced by the appointed contractor at an appropriate stage. In addition, due the legislation, governing biodiversity net gain habitat creation such as wildflower meadows need to be secured for a minimum of 30 years with a prescription management plan in place with remedial actions if the habitat does not meet the conditions outlined – this can be enforced by the Local Planning Authority. Additionally, the Outline LEMP will be secured via Requirement of the DCO, giving confidence that the habitat creation and enhancement measures will be properly implemented and	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		secured for the duration of the Proposed Development's operational life.	
18	Those who responded to the consultation consider that the layout of the Proposed Development in Brafferton and Ketton specifically will have an adverse impact on wildlife.	The design of the Proposed Development has avoided any habitats of conservation importance retaining all woodland and the vast majority of hedgerows and other field boundaries – some limited vegetation removal will be required to facilitate access but this will be more than compensated for by new planting. There will be a short temporary period of disturbance whilst the solar panels and infrastructure are installed and built. After that, during the operational stage of the Proposed Development, it will remain relatively passive with minimal impacts on wildlife. Furthermore, habitat creation and enhancement measures are likely to increase biodiversity locally.	N
19	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the proposed mitigation will not adequately mitigate the impact of the Proposed Development, and ultimately result in displacement of and disturbance to local wildlife.	The proposed development incorporates a robust ecological mitigation plan that aims to minimise and mitigate any potential impact on wildlife. Furthermore, the designation of biodiversity enhancement areas in multiple panel areas, with a focus on management for nesting birds, reflects a targeted approach to the conservation of local wildlife. The commitment to avoid and prevent adverse effects on local biodiversity through design development, good design principles, and the incorporation of embedded design measures, is outlined in the Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP). The presence of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) during the construction phase, following good practice survey guidelines, is an additional assurance that valued biodiversity features will be protected, and site-specific advice will be provided.	N
Cable Routes			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
20	Those who responded to the consultation stated that there was a lack of detailed information on cable routes.	At statutory consultation, the cable routes under consideration were presented, comprising of on-road and off-road routes. Since then, the Applicant has decided to retain cable route options within the DCO application to provide sufficient flexibility to ensure that the Proposed Development is deliverable. The Applicant has stated a clear preference in the DCO application for off-road cable routes wherever possible. The final cable route and detailed considerations around its design and installation will be developed post-consent and approved through DCO requirement.	N
Community Benefits			
21	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that residents will be severely impacted without gaining any measurable benefits.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
22	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the lack of benefits that the location of the Proposed Development offers to local residents.		N
23	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would adversely impact local amenity and that the local communities would receive no benefit from it.	<p>In addition to a community benefit fund of ~£1.5m available across the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ displace over 4m tonnes of CO₂ from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking approximately 101,000 cars off the road for a year; ▪ Provide 7km of new and enhanced hedgerows, 59 hectares of planting and sowing between panel areas, 24 hectares of community picnic areas and orchards, 3 hectares of new trees and 29 hectares of biodiversity enhancement areas; 	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ allocate two large fields in the Order Limits solely for habitat enhancement, which will be sown without fertiliser to help lower nutrients in the soil, and will be retained during the 40-year duration of the Proposed Development specifically for ground nesting birds; ▪ prove a 87.85% net gain of in area habitat Biodiversity Units (BUs) and a 108.12% net gain of hedgerow Bus; ▪ provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, enhancing the local public right of way network; ▪ provide interpretation boards to be provided at points of local interest along the public right of way network; ▪ provide a community orchard in Bishopton; ▪ provide a sensory garden and car park for the Bishopton Redmarshall Primary School; and ▪ generate approximately £27m in business rates over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, alongside approximately 200 jobs during construction. 	
Construction			
24	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern with the site layout of the Proposed Development and resultant disruption from the construction process.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding the anticipated disruption during the construction stage.</p> <p>The DCO application for the Proposed Development includes an Environmental Statement (ES), which assesses impacts of the Proposed Development on topics such as (but not limited to) landscape, biodiversity, traffic and transport and cultural heritage. Along with the assessment of these impacts, the ES also identifies any required and appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures. ES Chapter 14 Summary (Document Reference 6.2.14) provides an overview of the assessed effects during construction on each of those topics, including traffic and transport, and socioeconomics, including public rights of way.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages.	
Consultation			
25	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the consultation and communication with local residents has been inadequate.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.	N
26	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that many local residents do not have access to the internet, therefore not providing paper copies of consultation documents is unacceptable.	As part of the preparation for the consultation, the Applicant engaged with Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council about the approach to consultation, including the location of events, the information provided and the ability to make the documents accessible as much as practicable. This was done through meetings, but also through the development of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This document was prepared in consultation with the three local authorities, and the Applicant sought to carry out the consultation in accordance with that document; this is evidenced in Appendix 4.7 of the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.2).	N
Cumulative Impacts			
27	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns around cumulative impacts between the Proposed Development and other developments in the area, particularly when considering the scale of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly relating to the cumulative and in-combination effect of this Proposed Development with other developments also proposed in the local area.	N
28	Those who responded to the consultation states that there are already solar farms in the area that have been placed in areas not in use and screened from local residents.	As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13), which takes into account and assesses the combined and cumulative impact on other proposed, in-planning or in-construction developments, and seeks to conclude the overall effect of these, should they all be built. The list of	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
29	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the number of Panel Areas in one area.	developments included in the assessment has been agreed in consultation with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.	N
30	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns around cumulative impacts between the Proposed Development and other developments in the area, particularly when considering the cumulative reduction of green space.	It is important to note that projects which are already in operation are not included specifically in this assessment, as they have been considered part of the 'baseline' information. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13).	N
31	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns around cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development's multiple Panel Areas, particularly when considering the impact on the local landscape.		N
32	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns around the proximity of the Proposed Development to human and livestock receptors and that it would industrialise the local landscape.		N
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
33	Those who responded to the consultation object to the Proposed Development due to its proximity to Bishopton Conservation Area.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village.	Y
34	Those who responded to the consultation considers that there is a lack of protection provided for the conservation area.	Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton.	Y
35	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed		Y

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	Development due to its potential impact on cultural heritage and archaeology, particularly local conservation areas.	To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.	
36	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development due to its proximity to and potential impact on Bishopton Conservation Area, specifically Panel Area B.	To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of supporting structures, and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.	N
37	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development due to its proximity to and potential impact on Bishopton Conservation Area, specifically Panel Area C.	To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets.	N
38	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development due to its proximity to and potential impact on Bishopton Conservation Area, specifically Panel Area D.	An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development.	N
39	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development due to its proximity to and potential impact on Bishopton Conservation Area, specifically Panel Area E.	These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.	N
40	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development due to its proximity to and potential impact on Bishopton Conservation Area, specifically Panel Area F.		Y

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41	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development due to its proximity to and potential impact on Bishopton Conservation Area.		Y
42	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the change in local setting as a result of the Proposed Development.		N
Decommissioning			
43	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the disruption during the decommissioning stage of the Proposed Development.	<p>Following operation, the Proposed Development would require decommissioning. The process of decommissioning would involve the removal of all solar infrastructure, including the solar PV modules, cabling and on-site supporting equipment, from the site to be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and processes at that time. Any requirements to leave certain infrastructure, for example access tracks, would be discussed and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process.</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in</p>	N

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		support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	
Engineering Design			
44	Those who responded to the consultation objected the large size of the Proposed Development in this location.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development.	N
45	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the location Proposed Development due to the close proximity to residential areas and surrounding services, particularly highlighting the school.	Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.	N
46	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the site layout will disrupt the local community and impact peoples' lives.	The Applicant has prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
47	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the Proposed Development encircling local villages.		N
48	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that Panel Areas E and F will impact the local amenity.		N
49	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that panels should be raised above ground to allow agriculture to continue below.		This technology is being explored by the solar industry but is not yet mature, and would require solar panel structures to be 2m high. Some agricultural activities such as sheep and chicken grazing could be carried out, and is subject to agreement with the landowner.

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50	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the site compromises the integrity of residential areas.	There are no expected effects from the construction of the solar farm or cable route on the structural integrity of residential housing. ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11) outline that, as a worst-case scenario, earthworks and construction works may potentially take place at a distance of approximately 15m from existing residential properties. This vibration would also be transient only and for very limited periods during the works (i.e. when activities take place at the Site's boundaries, close to dwellings).	N
51	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the high concentration of solar panels in one area.	The availability of capacity on the National Grid at Norton Substation is the reason for the number of projects in the area, alongside the lack of environmental designations and status of the agricultural land as not Best and Most Versatile according to national records (as evidenced in ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources).	N
52	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development is scattered.	ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3) provides a detailed account of the site selection process and the subsequent discussions with local landowners about the viability of their land to be provided through voluntary agreement for the Proposed Development.	N
53	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the site layout being planned according to farmer preference.		N
54	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the Proposed Development should be distributed more evenly across the area.		Y
EIA Approach and Methodology			
55	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development does not correspond with	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil	N

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	<p>environmental regulations such as protecting green belt land.</p>	<p>Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development, and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>Adopted and emerging National Policy Statements for Energy (including EN-1 and EN-3) are the primary planning documents against which the Proposed Development is assessed by the Secretary of State in deciding whether to grant a Development Consent Order, however local planning policy does form part of the assessment to test the compliance overall with national and local planning policy.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, a Policy Compliance Document (PCD) (Document Reference 7.1.1) has been submitted, which details the relevant planning policy which the Proposed Development will be assessed against, and a summary of how the Proposed Development is in accordance with that policy(s).</p>	
Food Security			
56	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that by using solar and other forms of renewable energy to solve the energy supply issue, it is worsening food security in the UK.</p>	<p>Solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain's farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.</p>	N

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General			
57	Those who responded to the consultation expressed opposition for the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
58	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that there has been minimal consideration of the local communities, besides that of landowners.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
59	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the lack of consideration for livelihoods and quality of life.		N
60	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development seeks a profit to the detriment of the local community.	<p>In addition to a community benefit fund of ~£1.5m available across the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ displace over 4m tonnes of CO2 from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking approximately 101,000 cars off the road for a year; ▪ Provide 7km of new and enhanced hedgerows, 59 hectares of planting and sowing between panel areas, 24 hectares of community 	N

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		<p>picnic areas and orchards, 3 hectares of new trees and 29 hectares of biodiversity enhancement areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ allocate two large fields in the Order Limits solely for habitat enhancement, which will be sown without fertiliser to help lower nutrients in the soil, and will be retained during the 40-year duration of the Proposed Development specifically for ground nesting birds; ▪ prove a 87.85% net gain of in area habitat Biodiversity Units (BUs) and a 108.12% net gain of hedgerow Bus; ▪ provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, enhancing the local public right of way network; ▪ provide interpretation boards to be provided at points of local interest along the public right of way network; ▪ provide a community orchard in Bishopton; ▪ provide a sensory garden and car park for the Bishopton Redmarshall Primary School; and ▪ generate approximately £27m in business rates over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, alongside approximately 200 jobs during construction. 	
Human Health			
61	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development will negatively impact on mental health and wellbeing.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns over the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the mental health of local communities.	N
62	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development will negatively impact on residents' daily lives.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health	N

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63	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that overall physical health of residents' will be affected.	has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
64	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that residents' quality of life will decrease.	Additionally, during construction the Applicant will have a Public Liaison Officer to provide ongoing communications with stakeholders and members of the public, and who any specific concerns can be address to during the construction of the Proposed Development.	N
65	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern of health and safety risk associated with the Proposed Development, including risk to school children, equestrian activities, elderly residents etc.	Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront. Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.	N
Hydrology			
66	The respondent suggested that new wetland to the north of Bishopton beck (OS grid reference NZ 364 224) could assist in SuDS proposal and may offer flood mitigation capacity.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As part of the design of the Proposed Development, critical infrastructure has been sited outside of the identified flood zones and the solar panels would be raised above flood levels, which would result	N

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		<p>in a negligible effect on flood risk within the Order Limits or surrounding areas.</p> <p>Included within ES Chapter 10 Hydrology and Flood Risk (Document Reference 6.2.10) is a surface water drainage strategy. This focuses on promoting natural land drainage conditions, mimicking the existing environment and not using engineered drainage features. As the wetland is on the other side of the Bishopton Beck, a watercourse crossing over the main river would be required which the Applicant is avoiding so as not to impact flood risk and hydrology in that location.</p>	
Landscape and Visual			
67	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns with regards to the impact on the landscape resulting from the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.	N
68	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would result in the local area feeling industrialised.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.	N
69	Those who responded to the consultation object to the Proposed Development as it would change the visual amenity of the local area.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
70	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would have an impact on the character of the surrounding area and local villages.		N

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71	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the proximity of the Proposed Development to residential properties, and the visual impact on residents.		N
72	Those who responded to the consultation consider that solar farm developments need to carefully consider the surrounding landscape and expressed concerns about the size of the Proposed Development and its subsequent visual impact.		N
73	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the visual impact of the proposed infrastructure.		N
74	Those who responded to the consultation suggested the installation of the solar panels should create a suitable aesthetic in keeping with the local area.		N
75	Those who responded to the consultation raised concern around the lack of benefits to offset the adverse visual impact of the Proposed Development.		N
76	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the visual impact of the Proposed Development on Mill Lane.	The design of this area of Panel Area A was considerably altered between statutory consultation and the information submitted as part of the DCO Application. Following statutory consultation, the Applicant has located any infrastructure markedly further back from Mill Lane and a reduction in the proposed panel height. These changes, along with proposed mitigation of growing the existing hedge to the north side of Mill Lane will result in effective mitigation in a short timescale as	N

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		illustrated by the Photomontage for viewpoint 26 (Document Reference 6.3.7.9).	
77	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would have a visual impact on the local school.	To reduce the visual impact on the school as much as is practicable, there is a proposed community orchard as part of the Proposed Development. The orchard has been located between Panel Area F and Bishopton Primary School to mitigate the visual impact.	N
78	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the adequacy of the screening.	During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.	N
79	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the length of time it will take the screening to establish.	Across the study area identified in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7), the existing hedgerows and hedgerow trees are generally in relatively good condition. Much of the mitigation of the Proposed Development would be provided by allowing existing hedges to become taller. This would achieve design heights (typically 1-1.5m above existing heights) in a short timeframe. In relation to new plantings, there is nothing about the soils or climate and no locally prevalent plant pests or diseases that would give rise to particular problems with establishment. The likely time for planting to establish is considered in reporting operation stage effects in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).	N
Noise and Vibration			
80	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of noise and vibration impacts resulting from increased traffic and large	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development.	N

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	vehicles associated with the construction of the Proposed Development.	As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development, which finds that there would be no significant effects on local communities resulting from the construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11).	
81	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of increased noise during operation, and subsequent disruption to local residents.	Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. We have also produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which details the traffic planning and HGV management during construction, as well as the associated impacts on noise as a result of construction traffic. Both documents will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
82	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns with regards to the proximity of the Proposed Development to live stock and horses.	There are no specific noise guidelines associated with horses, however noise from the Proposed Development does not have any impulsive noise associated with it, so alarm to horses is unlikely. In addition, the Proposed Development will not notably increase ambient noise levels, so it is unlikely that horses would notice noise from the proposed development.	N
Planning and Consents			
83	Those who responded to the consultation suggests that solar projects should be prioritised on roof tops.	As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to	N
84	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the Proposed Development should be placed on brownfield land.		N

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85	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that this proposal is being pushed through at pace by the Government under the Green agenda.	support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	N
Safety			
86	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the safety of the Proposed Development.	Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront. Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan (oBFSMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.	N
87	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development is a risk to life and has safety issues.		N
Socioeconomics			
88	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on Public Rights of Way.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N
89	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that Mill Lane will no longer be of use for recreation and exercise.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised with regards to the use of Mill Lane as part of the Proposed Development.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
90	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the perceived impact on the amenity of Mill Lane due to the Proposed Development surrounding it.	In response to the concerns raised during the consultation, the Applicant has amended the layout of the Proposed Development, and therefore removed the need to use Mill Lane as a construction route, and removed the need to use land adjacent to it.	N
91	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of decreasing property prices.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to changes to property values as a result of the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would affect the value of local properties.	N
Traffic and Transport			
92	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the increase in traffic volume.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
93	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of an increase in traffic, congestion and disruption to residents.		N
94	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of existing transport infrastructure not being able to support an increase in traffic associated with the Proposed Development.		N
95	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the character of the area and country roads will change to accommodate increase traffic and large vehicles.		N
96	Those who responded to the consultation queried the practicality of getting the plant and		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	equipment required to the Proposed Development safely.		
97	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the existing road network being unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and construction traffic.	The existing road network is currently used by HGVs, with this being shown in the results from traffic surveys undertaken between 15-21 March 2023. Baseline flows were assessed and HGVs were identified as part of the current mix of vehicles that use the existing road network. The prepared Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) presents proposed access routes for HGVs, taking into account weight restrictions, the nature of the roads and nearby villages.	N
98	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the safety implications of increased traffic and large vehicles, especially on pedestrians, school children, cyclists and horse riders.	The assessment significance and impact assessment of the proposed development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	N
99	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns specifically relating to the safety and loss of Mill Lane, due to it being a narrow road with no footpath.	The Proposed Development will be accessed using the adopted highway, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) shows the routes that construction vehicles will be advised to use. The advised routes avoid roads with weight limit restrictions and avoid roads through residential areas, where possible. An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). The assessment significance and impact assessment of the Proposed Development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	N
100	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact of	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	increased emissions from vehicles on residents' and school children's health.	has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	

Appendix 6.1(4a) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 4a and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 4 (Panel Area A) and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Engineering Design			
1	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the location Proposed Development due to the close proximity to residential areas and surrounding services.	<p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, many changes have been made to the design of the Proposed Development. For example, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares and the height of the solar panels will now be a maximum of 3.5 metres in height, reduced from the 4.5 metres as presented in the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
General			
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objection to Panel Area A.	<p>The DCO application for the Proposed Development includes an Environmental Statement (ES), which assesses impacts of the Proposed Development on topics such as (but not limited to) landscape, biodiversity, traffic and transport and cultural heritage. Along with the assessment of these impacts, the ES also identifies any required and appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures.</p> <p>The DCO Application also comprises a Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	
Human Health			
3	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the lack of consideration for livelihoods and quality of life.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
Socioeconomic			
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that walking routes near Panel Area A would be negatively impacted.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N
Traffic and Transport			
5	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of loss of parking amenity in the village.	The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	
6	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of proposed roads being too close to residential properties and are unsuitable for the area.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N

Appendix 6.1(4b) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 4b and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 4 (Panel Area B) and the Applicant’s response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the solar panels are proposed on productive agricultural land which reduced food production.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government’s Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p> <p>Additionally, solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK’s food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain’s farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.</p>	
Biodiversity			
2	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact on wildlife and species specifically located in and around Panel Area B.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.</p> <p>To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.</p> <p>The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units. More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).</p>	N
Engineering Design			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
3	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the location Proposed Development due to the close proximity to residential areas and surrounding services.	<p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, many changes have been made to the design of the Proposed Development. For example, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares and the height of the solar panels will now be a maximum of 3.5 metres in height, reduced from the 4.5 metres as presented in the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
Human Health			
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the lack of consideration for livelihoods and quality of life.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
5	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the close proximity of Panel Area B to properties and the health implications of this.		N
Landscape and Visual			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
6	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns with regards to the impact on the landscape resulting from Panel Area B.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.	N
7	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that Panel Area B would have an impact on the character of the surrounding area and local villages.	<p>The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
Socioeconomic			
8	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the public rights of way in Great Stainton.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding impact on local businesses as a result of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the impact on socioeconomic receptors, which includes local businesses within the local area. The assessment itself and the findings of it can be found in ES Chapter 9 Land use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9), which finds that there would be retained access during all stages of the proposed development, and an increase in revenue during the construction period. The assessment concludes that there would be a minor beneficial effect on local businesses, which is not significant.</p>	N
Traffic and Transport			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the safety implications of increased traffic and large vehicles, especially on pedestrians, school children, cyclists and horse riders.	The assessment significance and impact assessment of the proposed development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	N

Appendix 6.1(4c) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 4c and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 4 (Panel Area C) and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Air Quality			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of health risks arising from dust.	<p>Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>As part of the planning application, an Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared which seeks to assess the impact on topics during the life cycle of the Proposed Development. As part of the ES, a Construction Dust Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.4) has been prepared, which concludes that there will be a negligible effect arising from dust-generating activities during the construction of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages.</p>	N
Biodiversity			
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact on wildlife and species specifically located in and around Panel Area C.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.</p> <p>To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units. More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).	
Engineering Design			
3	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the location Proposed Development due to the close proximity to residential areas and surrounding services.	<p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, many changes have been made to the design of the Proposed Development. For example, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares and the height of the solar panels will now be a maximum of 3.5 metres in height, reduced from the 4.5 metres as presented in the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
Human Health			
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the designs of panel areas do not consider residents' health and wellbeing.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
5	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	regarding the lack of consideration for livelihoods and quality of life.		
Landscape and Visual			
6	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objected to the visual aspect of the substation and the proximity to residential areas.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.	N
7	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that Panel Area C would have an impact on the character of the surrounding area and local villages.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable. Additionally, in response to feedback received during statutory consultation, the Applicant has increased the distance of solar panel PV arrays between a number of residential properties in close proximity to Panel Area C.	N
8	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that Panel Area C would result in the local area feeling industrialised, particularly due to the presence of the infrastructure.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the proximity of Panel Area C to residential properties, and the visual impact on residents.		N
Socioeconomic			
10	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding impact on local businesses as a result of the Proposed Development.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	the visual impact from Panel Area C would negatively impact business.	As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the impact on socioeconomic receptors, which includes local businesses within the local area. The assessment itself and the findings of it can be found in ES Chapter 9 Land use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9), which finds that there would be retained access during all stages of the proposed development, and an increase in revenue during the construction period. The assessment concludes that there would be a minor beneficial effect on local businesses, which is not significant.	
11	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact on footpaths in Great Stainton.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N
Traffic and Transport			
12	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the safety implications of increased traffic and large vehicles, especially on pedestrians, school children, cyclists and horse riders.	The assessment significance and impact assessment of the proposed development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	N

Appendix 6.1(4d) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 4d and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 4 (Panel Area D) and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the solar panels are proposed on productive agricultural land which reduced food production.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of the scale of the Proposed Development on agricultural and green belt land.	<p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p> <p>Additionally, solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		with Britain's farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.	
Arboriculture			
3	Those who responded to the consultation state that a hedgerow was planted by the charity Darlington Forest Project in winter 2021/22 on the southern border of Woogra Farm and requests that cabling does not disturb this hedgerow.	Absent of specific information about where this hedge is located, it has been assumed that the hedge in question is immediately south of Woogra Farm and perhaps represents the gapping up and continuation of existing hedges H2607, 2608, 2609 and 2610. The proposed cable route passes south of this, and whilst the northernmost border of the cable corridor abuts this hedge, in practice the cable route (which requires a trench of max. 2m in width) will likely be routed near the centre of the corridor in most places. Where existing features such as hedges or trees (including root protection areas) are close to the cable corridor, the precise route will be chosen to avoid these features, with sufficient clearance to ensure that they are not damaged, as set out in section 3.6.5 of ES Appendix 7.7. Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.7.7).	Y
Biodiversity			
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact on wildlife and species specifically located in and around Panel Area D.	The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.</p> <p>The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units. More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).</p>	
5	Those who responded to the consultation queried whether solar PV panels would be placed within the biodiversity area in Panel Area D.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of concerns raised in response to the consultation. No solar PV panels will be placed within the biodiversity enhancement area, the enhancement area in Panel Area D (Great Stainton) is to be sown with lowland meadow seed mix providing suitable nesting habitat for skylark and potentially lapwing.	N
Engineering Design			
6	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the location Proposed Development due to the close proximity to residential areas and surrounding services.	Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, many changes have been made to the design of the Proposed Development. For example, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares and the height of the solar panels will now be a maximum of 3.5 metres in height, reduced from the 4.5 metres as presented in the statutory consultation.	N
7	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the proximity of Panel Area D to Great Stainton village.		

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	
General			
8	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concern regarding Panel Area D.</p>	<p>The DCO application for the Proposed Development includes an Environmental Statement (ES), which assesses impacts of the Proposed Development on topics such as (but not limited to) landscape, biodiversity, traffic and transport and cultural heritage. Along with the assessment of these impacts, the ES also identifies any required and appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures.</p> <p>The DCO Application also comprises a Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
Human Health			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the designs of panel areas do not consider residents' health and wellbeing.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
10	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the lack of consideration for livelihoods and quality of life.		N
Landscape and Visual			
11	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that Panel Area D would have an impact on the character of the surrounding area and local villages.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.	N
12	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that Panel Area D would result in the local area feeling industrialised.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.	N
13	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that Panel Area D is visible on the road approach from Darlington.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
14	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the proximity of the Panel Area D to residential properties, and the visual impact on residents.	This was carefully considered throughout the design of the Proposed Development with amendments made to the set back of panels and perimeter planting to mitigate effects on properties which would have the closest and most open views of the Proposed	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
15	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation for Panel Area D.	Development. A number of individual properties were visited as part of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (Document Reference 6.4.7.6) and concerns discussed with residents. The detailed findings of the RVAA set out effects on properties within 100m of the Proposed Development.	N
Socioeconomic			
16	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the high density of horses and bridleways near to Panel Area D	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N

Appendix 6.1(4e) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 4e and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 4 (Panel Area E) and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Arboriculture			
1	Those who responded to the consultation requested that the proposed cable routes through Bishopton do not disturb any tree routes.	The aim with the cable route will be to avoid root protection areas (RPAs) completely. If a RPA cannot be completely avoided, a technical assessment will be made of the presence location and significance of tree roots in the area that the cable route will affect (the RPA is a formula based on trunk diameter that gives an area around the tree where roots are likely to be, but does not reflect where roots actually are. In practice, the rooting patterns of trees can be very asymmetric due to the presence of underground obstacles and other factors. For example, where trees are growing next to roads, it is likely that the road subbase is too compacted for roots to be able to penetrate). If the cable route passes through Bishopton Village, the 2-m wide trench will likely be dug down the road, where the likelihood of significant tree roots growing is low. Nevertheless, the above protocol will be followed to avoid disturbing tree roots during operations to install the cable, as set out in Sections 3.6.6 and 3.6.7 of the ES Appendix 7.7. Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.7.7).	N
Biodiversity			
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the loss of song birds resulting from the Proposed Development.	The operational phase of the development includes the creation and management of habitats aimed at enhancing biodiversity and promoting the growth of native species. This involves the creation of biodiversity enhancement areas with wildflower meadows and the formation of a network of new and improved native-species-rich hedgerows, with the sowing of species-diverse grassland within field margins with a mix of either wildflower, tussock grass or wild bird seed mix. These measures will increase foraging and nesting habitat	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		for songbirds across the Order Limits during both the breeding and wintering season.	
Community Benefits			
3	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the picnic recreation.	Following the consultation, new permissive paths have been proposed to connect Bishopton Village to the amenity area in Panel Area E. The community Orchard in Panel Area F has been further defined to include a sensory garden for use by the adjacent school.	N
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development due to its proximity to and potential impact on Bishopton Conservation Area.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village.</p> <p>Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton.</p> <p>To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.</p> <p>To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of supporting structures and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.</p>	
Engineering Design			
5	<p>Those who responded to the consultation objected to the location Proposed Development due to the close proximity to residential areas and surrounding services.</p>	<p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, many changes have been made to the design of the Proposed Development. For example, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares and the height of the solar panels will now be a maximum of 3.5 metres in height, reduced from the 4.5 metres as presented in the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
General			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
6	Those who responded to the consultation expressed that no consideration has been given to local residents regarding panels E and F.	<p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, many changes have been made to the design of the Proposed Development. For example, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares and the height of the solar panels will now be a maximum of 3.5 metres in height, reduced from the 4.5 metres as presented in the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
Human Health			
7	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the lack of consideration for livelihoods and quality of life.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
8	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that loss of countryside and places to walk and exercise will impact their health and wellbeing.		N
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed health concerns around Panel Area E.		N
Landscape and Visual			
10	Those who responded to the consultation object to Panel Area E as they would negatively impact the		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	landscape and change the visual amenity and character of the local area.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.	
11	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that Panel Area E would result in the local area feeling industrialised.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.	N
12	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the visual impact of the proposed infrastructure.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
13	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the proximity of the Panel Area E to residential properties, and the visual impact on residents.	This was carefully considered throughout the design of the Proposed Development with amendments made to the set back of panels and perimeter planting to mitigate effects on properties which would have the closest and most open views of the Proposed Development. A number of individual properties were visited as part of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (Document Reference 6.4.7.6) and concerns discussed with residents. The detailed findings of the RVAA set out effects on properties within 100m of the Proposed Development.	N
14	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation for Panel Area E.		N
Socioeconomic			
15	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the high density of horses and bridleways near to Panel Area E.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
16	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the footpaths.	during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N
17	Those who responded to the consultation express concerns that the Proposed Development would cause a depreciation in local property values.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to changes to property values as a result of the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would affect the value of local properties.	N
Traffic and Transport			
18	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the increase in traffic volume.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N

Appendix 6.1(4f) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 4f and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 4 (Panel Area F) and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Biodiversity			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the loss of song birds resulting from the Proposed Development.	The operational phase of the development includes the creation and management of habitats aimed at enhancing biodiversity and promoting the growth of native species. This involves the creation of biodiversity enhancement areas with wildflower meadows and the formation of a network of new and improved native-species-rich hedgerows, with the sowing of species-diverse grassland within field margins with a mix of either wildflower, tussock grass or wild bird seed mix. These measures will increase foraging and nesting habitat for songbirds across the Order Limits during both the breeding and wintering season.	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the fields in Panel Area F which have a large returning population of swallows that use the fields as feeding and breeding grounds, and are also used for nesting and breeding of Lapwing.	<p>The breeding bird survey (BBS) observed that the majority of lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) breeding behaviour, i.e., singing, is occurring near Downland Farm, which falls outside the Order Limits. A large area in Panel Area F is to remain free of solar panels and managed for ground-nesting birds, such as lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) and curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>). This area will comprise a flower-rich meadow mix and be subject to late-summer cutting to ensure that nesting birds are not disturbed after the first year.</p> <p>The breeding bird survey (BBS) carried out observed a peak count of 10 lapwing with probable breeding within the study area, the majority of lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) breeding behaviour, i.e., singing, occurred near Downland Farm, which falls outside the Order Limits. A large area of Panel Area F is to remain free of solar panels and managed for ground-nesting birds, such as lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) and curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>). This area will comprise a flower-rich meadow mix and be subject to late-summer cutting, to ensure that nesting birds are not disturbed. It will be managed this way for the life-time of the development. As discussed, the design of the Proposed Development has avoided the areas of farmland where majority of ground nesting birds identified. In addition, a large area of</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		Panel Area F will remain free of panels and will be managed to support ground nesting birds. In addition, provision of habitat under and around panels including cover crops and herbal leys will improve the insect biomass providing additional foraging resource and a supply of winter seed for small passerine species such as skylark.	
Community Benefits			
3	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the picnic recreation.	Following the consultation, new permissive paths have been proposed to connect Bishopton Village to the amenity area in Panel Area E. The community Orchard in Panel Area F has been further defined to include a sensory garden for use by the adjacent school.	N
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development due to its proximity to and potential impact on Bishopton Conservation Area.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village.</p> <p>Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton.</p> <p>To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.</p> <p>To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of supporting structures and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.	
Engineering Design			
5	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the close proximity of Panel Area F to Bishopston.	Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, many changes have been made to the design of the Proposed Development. For example, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares and the height of the solar panels will now be a maximum of 3.5 metres in height, reduced from the 4.5 metres as presented in the statutory consultation.	N
6	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the location Proposed Development due to the close proximity to residential areas and surrounding services.	The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
General			
7	Those who responded to the consultation expressed that no consideration has been given to local residents regarding Panel Area F.	The DCO application for the Proposed Development includes an Environmental Statement (ES), which assesses impacts of the Proposed Development on topics such as (but not limited to) landscape, biodiversity, traffic and transport and cultural heritage. Along with the assessment of these	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
8	Those who responded to the consultation expressed strong opposition to the Panel Area F.	<p>impacts, the ES also identifies any required and appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures.</p> <p>The DCO Application also comprises a Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on their internet connectivity.	The proposed development would not have any impact on mobile telephone, landline telephone or broadband signal. JBM Solar has consulted with utilities including telecoms that are in proximity to the proposed development to ensure that any proposals do not affect it.	N
Glint and Glare			
10	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the effect of glint and glare on drivers who pass the Proposed Development.	<p>Panel heights have been reduced since the PEIR stage of the Proposed Development, with maximum panel heights now proposed to be 3.5m.</p> <p>Where the reflecting panels are to be significantly obstructed from view, no impact is predicted, and mitigation is not required. Where sustained solar reflections are predicted to be experienced from inside of a road user's primary field of view, expert assessment is required to determine the impact significance mitigation requirement. Detail of the Glint and Glare Assessment for road users is detailed in Environmental Statement Appendix 2.2 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.2).</p>	N
11	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the effect of glint and glare on	Modelling effects of glint and glare on equestrian activity is not a typical requirement, however has been considered in some cases.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	horses who are in close proximity to or who pass the Proposed Development.	<p>Equestrian routes could be incorporated into the modelling, however they would be considered to be a low sensitivity receptor similar to a local road, due to the slow speeds of travel, and very low traffic density. Any solar reflections from the proposed development that are experienced by a road user along a local road would be considered low impact in the worst case in accordance with Pager Power's glint and glare guidance. Technical modelling is not undertaken for local roads in the majority of cases.</p> <p>It should also be noted that the available studies have measured the intensity of reflections from solar panels with respect to other naturally occurring and manmade surfaces. The results show that the reflections produced are of intensity similar to or less than those produced from still water, e.g. bodies of water typically found in rural environments.</p>	
Human Health			
12	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the lack of consideration for livelihoods and quality of life.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
13	Those who responded to the consultation expressed health concerns around the Panel Area F.		N
14	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the designs of panel areas do not consider residents' health and wellbeing.		N
15	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the feeling of isolation created by the Proposed	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	Development, impacting their mental health.	<p>not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).</p> <p>Additionally, the DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.</p>	
Landscape and Visual			
16	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns with regards to the impact on the landscape resulting from Panel Area F.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.	N
17	Those who responded to the consultation object to Panel Area F as they would negatively impact the landscape and change the visual amenity of the local area.	<p>Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton.</p> <p>The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.</p>	N
18	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that Panel Area F would result in the local area feeling industrialised.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including	N
19	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	visual impact of the proposed infrastructure.	how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	
20	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the proximity of the Panel Area F to residential properties, and the visual impact on residents.	This was carefully considered throughout the design of the Proposed Development with amendments made to the set back of panels and perimeter planting to mitigate effects on properties which would have the closest and most open views of the Proposed Development. A number of individual properties were visited as part of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (Document Reference 6.4.7.6) and concerns discussed with residents. The detailed findings of the RVAA set out effects on properties within 100m of the Proposed Development.	N
21	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation for Panel Area F.		N
Noise and Vibration			
22	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the impacts of noise and vibration disturbance during construction.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development, particularly with regards to the construction phase.</p> <p>As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development, which finds that there would be short-term, temporary and localised impacts arising from noise pollution during the construction stage of the Proposed Development. There would be no significant effects on local communities resulting from the operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11).</p> <p>Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. We have also produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which details the traffic planning and HGV management during construction, as well as the associated impacts on noise as a result of construction traffic. Both documents will be updated throughout all stages of</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	
Socioeconomic			
23	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that Mill Lane will no longer be of use for recreation and exercise.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised with regards to the use of Mill Lane as part of the Proposed Development. In response to the concerns raised during the consultation, the Applicant has amended the layout of the Proposed Development, and therefore removed the need to use Mill Lane as a construction route and removed the need to use land adjacent to it.	N
24	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the high density of horses and bridleways near to Panel Area F.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N
Traffic and Transport			
25	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the safety implications of increased traffic and large vehicles, especially on pedestrians, school children, cyclists and horse riders.	The assessment significance and impact assessment of the proposed development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	N
26	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the impacts of traffic on residents during construction.	An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	
27	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact of increased emissions from vehicles on residents' and school children's health.	The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
28	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of proposed roads being too close to residential properties and are unsuitable for the area.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
29	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the increase in traffic volume.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N

Appendix 6.1(4 site wide) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 4 (site wide) and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 4 (Site Wide) and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the solar panels are proposed on productive agricultural land which reduces food production.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of the scale of the Proposed Development on agricultural and green belt land.	<p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p> <p>Additionally, solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain's farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.	
Assessment of Alternatives			
	Those who responded to the consultation expressed that the Proposed development should be in a location where it does not affect local populations, feeling that the local community has not been adequately considered.	The general objection is noted. ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3) sets out how the location and layout of the Proposed Development, including panel areas, was determined as part of the design process. Fundamentally, the location of the Proposed Development has been determined by the location of an agreed grid connection at Norton substation, with panel area siting subsequently identified through a multi-stage process of understanding environmental and planning constraints, technical feasibility and availability of land via voluntary agreement.	N
3	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objection to the general location of all Panel Areas.		N
4	Those who responded to the consultation queried why this location had been selected for the Panel Areas, and suggests an alternative location is proposed.		Y
5	Those who responded to the consultation suggested the Panel Areas should be placed closer top Aycliffe Business Park.	ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3) sets out how the location and layout of the Proposed Development, including panel areas, was determined as part of the design process. Fundamentally, the location of the Proposed Development has been determined by the location of an agreed grid connection at Norton substation, around which a 6km 'area of search' was applied. This area of search represents the extent within which the solar farm would be viable when taking into account the distance from the grid connection and subsequent cost of underground cable. The location suggested at Aycliffe Business Park would be outside of this viable area of search.	Y

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
6	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that other forms of electricity generation, such as small nuclear plants or wind farms, should be considered as a viable alternative because of their lesser impacts.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated, further supporting the growth of renewable energy production in the UK.</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p>	Y
7	Those who responded to the consultation considered that solar power is not contributing to net zero sufficiently, and that it is not an efficient form of energy production in the UK.	As set out in the Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), there is an established national need for renewable energy development to support the delivery of national and local net zero goals, including the legally binding commitments made by the UK Government under the Climate Change Act 2008. The revised National Policy Statements identify renewable energy development as a Critical National Priority (CNP) and delivery of solar energy generation development aligns with and supports delivery of national energy strategies.	N
8	Those who responded to the consultation suggested the Panel Areas furthest from residential properties be developed.	ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3) sets out how the location and layout of the Proposed Development, including panel areas, was determined as part of the design process. The design refinement process has sought to introduce 'set-backs' of panels from residential properties where appropriate, including substantial additional	Y

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		setbacks from settlements that were introduced following the feedback received to statutory consultation from local communities and residents.	
Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)			
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the likelihood of the battery stations catching fire.	<p>Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
10	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the electromagnetic radiation produced by the battery stations.	There is no evidence that there are any perceptible impacts of electromagnetic radiation from any of the infrastructure resulting from the Proposed Development, or other solar projects.	N
Biodiversity			
11	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact on wildlife and species which have been found on site, and biodiversity more generally.	The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.	N
12	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the same amount of land required for the		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	Proposed Development should also be provided for biodiversity net gain.		
13	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the Proposed Development stops the encouragement of locally grown flowers and crops.	<p>To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.</p> <p>The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units. More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).</p>	N
14	Those who responded to the consultation expressed particular concern for the safety and movement of wildlife as a result of the proposed deer fencing.	The deer fence is intended to be designed in a manner that would accommodate badger access points. These access points will also facilitate the movement of small-sized animals, including but not limited to hares and foxes, across the Panel Areas. Fencing itself will also be on the inside of existing field boundaries with an appropriate buffer so that large mammal species such as deer can still move across the landscape in the buffer zone between the security fence and existing field boundaries – the buffer zone will be managed to encourage wildlife.	N
15	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the impact on habitats would not be rectified until the after the decommissioning stage of the Proposed Development.	All habitat creation and enhancement will be legally secured through the DCO – legislation governing Biodiversity Net Gain requires developers to manage habitats for a minimum of 30 years and there will be a legally binding and enforceable agreement with the local planning authority to give confidence that these improvements will be secured. In addition, the Outline	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) and Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.14) will be legally binding documents secured through the DCO outlining how impacts to habitats will be minimised and rectified.	
16	Those who responded to the consultation consider that the proposed mitigation of wildflowers is not appropriate nor considered.	The incorporation of wildflower meadows will increase biodiversity within an agriculturally managed landscape characterized by limited species diversity. All habitat creation and enhancement will be legally secured through the DCO – legislation governing Biodiversity net gain requires developers to manage habitats for a minimum of 30 years and there will be a legally binding and enforceable agreement with the local planning authority to give confidence that these improvements will be secured. In addition, the and Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.14) will be a legally binding document secured through the DCO outlining how impacts to habitats will be minimised and that any habitat creation measures will be done correctly.	N
17	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact on wildlife and species which have been found on site.	The design of the Panel Areas avoids impact on protected and declining species, while the proposed new habitat creation and enhancement is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity.	N
Cable Routes			
18	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the proposed cable routes would require access to and disruption of local fields which should be used for planting.	As set out in ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (Document Reference 6.2.2), the underground cables will be located in existing gaps in hedgerows wherever feasible, however this assessment assumes the loss of some hedgerows as a worst case. Trees and Hedgerows to be removed are included within ES Appendix 7.8 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.7.8). Measures to avoid or reduce the effects of	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>construction of the cable routes during construction are secured through the DCO, including the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.7), whilst the planting proposed across the Proposed Development, resulting in a substantial overall biodiversity net gain, is depicted in the Environmental Masterplans (Document Reference 2.5).</p>	
Community Benefits			
19	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that residents will be severely impacted without gaining any measurable benefits.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p> <p>In addition to a community benefit fund of ~£1.5m available across the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ displace over 4m tonnes of CO₂ from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking approximately 101,000 cars off the road for a year; ▪ Provide 7km of new and enhanced hedgerows, 59 hectares of planting and sowing between panel areas, 24 hectares of community picnic areas and orchards, 3 hectares of new trees and 29 hectares of biodiversity enhancement areas; ▪ allocate two large fields in the Order Limits solely for habitat enhancement, which will be sown without fertiliser to help lower nutrients in the soil, and will be retained during the 40- 	N

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		<p>year duration of the Proposed Development specifically for ground nesting birds;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ prove a 87.85% net gain of in area habitat Biodiversity Units (BUs) and a 108.12% net gain of hedgerow Bus; ▪ provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, enhancing the local public right of way network; ▪ provide interpretation boards to be provided at points of local interest along the public right of way network; ▪ provide a community orchard in Bishopton; ▪ provide a sensory garden and car park for the Bishopton Redmarshall Primary School; and ▪ generate approximately £27m in business rates over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, alongside approximately 200 jobs during construction. 	
Construction			
20	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern about the impact from the construction Proposed Development and how/if it will affect access to the countryside.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development, particularly with regards to access to the local area during the construction phase.</p> <p>As part of the planning application, an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction period, including continued access arrangements. We have also produced an Outline Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which details that the diversions and safety measures of PRoW will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.</p> <p>The proposed new and/or diverted Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) as</p>	N

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		<p>part of the Proposed Development have been designed in a way which ensures that users of the PRow will still be able to enjoy the local recreational routes. Where diversions have been proposed, these have been done so in a way which ensures that users of the PRow will not have to walk through the middle of a Panel Area, but instead be able to walk safely around the edge of an existing field boundary.</p>	
Consultation			
21	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that they had no way of accessing the consultation booklet, some due to lack of internet access.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.</p> <p>As part of the preparation for the consultation, the Applicant engaged with Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council about the approach to consultation, including the location of events, the information provided and the ability to make the documents accessible as much as practicable. This was done through meetings, but also through the development of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This document was prepared in consultation with the three local authorities, and the Applicant sought to carry out the consultation in accordance with that document; this is evidenced in Appendix 4.7 of the Consultation Report Appendices (Document Reference 5.2).</p> <p>One of the aims of the consultation was to make sure that the information presented was accessible and digestible so that those with an interest in the Proposed Development were able to provide their feedback to the proposals; this was presented in the Consultation Booklet and the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR. However, the full PEIR was also made available for review, which contained a detailed account of the assessments, possible impacts and proposed mitigation measures for each topic and aspect of the proposals.</p>	N

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Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
22	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development due to its proximity to and potential impact on Bishopton Conservation Area.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village.</p> <p>Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton.</p> <p>To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.</p> <p>To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of supporting structures, and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update</p>	N

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		it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.	
Cumulative Effects			
23	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the cumulative impact between the Proposed Development and other nearby solar farms.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly relating to the cumulative and in-combination effect of this Proposed Development with other developments also proposed in the local area.</p> <p>As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13), which takes into account and assesses the combined and cumulative impact on other proposed, in-planning or in-construction developments, and seeks to conclude the overall affect of these, should they all be built. The list of developments included in the assessment has been agreed in consultation with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.</p> <p>It is important to note that projects which are already in operation are not included specifically in this assessment, as they have been considered part of the 'baseline' information. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13).</p>	N
Engineering Design			
24	Those who responded to the consultation objected the large size and scale of the Proposed Development in this location.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development. Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback	N

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		<p>received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>Solar energy production at this scale is supported by National Policy Statement EN-3 which identifies solar energy production as Critical National Infrastructure. The scale of the proposed development is defined by the capacity available on the National Grid. The Applicant has an agreement with Northern Power Grid to supply 180MW of electricity from solar power to the Norton Substation. The area of land proposed, which was reduced following consultation, is required to produce the generating capacity.</p>	
25	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the location Proposed Development due to the close proximity to residential areas and surrounding services.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
26	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that parts of the Panel Areas be relocated to reduce the visual impact on the landscape.	The effects arising from this visibility of the Proposed Development from the local road this visibility is considered in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document reference 6.2.7). During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and	N

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		<p>the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	
27	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that a reduction in the size of the Proposed Development by 50% should be made.	The proposed development has been proposed in response to the available capacity on the National Grid at Norton substation and is considered appropriate given the critical national need to construct solar energy, as evidenced in the Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1).	N
28	Those who responded to the consultation claimed that someone at the Brafferton consultation explain how the substation is further way from the Proposed Development and there is a level of uncertainty that this will work.	The proposals to connect the on-site substation to the Norton substation use existing technology which is utilised across the UK, and are also feasible in this location as part of the Proposed Development.	N
General			
29	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concern regarding the impact of the Proposed Development.	The DCO application for the Proposed Development includes an Environmental Statement (ES), which assesses impacts of the Proposed Development on topics such as (but not limited to) landscape, biodiversity, traffic and transport and cultural heritage. Along with the assessment of these impacts, the ES also identifies any required and appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures.	N
30	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concern that the Proposed Development would negatively impact local villages.		N

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		<p>The DCO Application also comprises a Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	
31	Those who responded to the consultation expressed that no consideration has been given to local residents regarding all panel areas.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development.	N
32	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objection to all the panel areas.	<p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
33	Those who responded to the consultation expressed the concern that the proposed development may cause pollution.	The Applicant acknowledges the concern raised with regards to pollution arising from the Proposed Development. The Application is supported by topic specific assessments which consider the potential impact on pollution (such as noise and traffic-generating activities) resulting from the Proposed Development. Please see ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11) and ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12) for further information.	N

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Glint and Glare			
34	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that Panel Areas should be placed where there is no major receptor of reflected light to ensure that the minimum number of people are negatively affected by glint and glare.	Where any moderate or high impacts are predicted as a result of the Proposed Development, with the absence of existing relevant factors that reduce the impact to low or none, suitable mitigative measures are recommended in ES Appendix 2.2 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study (Document Reference 6.4.2.2).	Y
Human Health			
35	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the lack of consideration for livelihoods and quality of life.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development will negatively impact on mental health and wellbeing.		N
36	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that overall physical health of residents' will be affected.		N
37	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that there may be unknown health risks associated with living in close proximity to a solar farm.		N
38	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that residents and local businesses would be affected by stress and anxiety caused by the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding impact on local businesses as a result of the Proposed Development. As part of the planning application, RWE has assessed the impact on socioeconomic receptors, which includes local businesses within the local area. The assessment itself and the findings of it can be found in ES Chapter 9 Land use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9), which finds that there would be retained access during all stages of the proposed development, and an increase in revenue	N

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		during the construction period. The assessment concludes that there would be a minor beneficial effect on local businesses, which is not significant.	
39	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that residents are already experiencing stress due to the fear of losing their property due to the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to changes to property values as a result of the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would affect the value of local properties.	N
40	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that their enjoyment of living in a rural village will be taken away.	The Applicant prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
Landscape and Visual			
41	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns with regards to the impact on the landscape resulting from all Panel Areas.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.	N
	Those who responded to the consultation object to all Panel Areas as it would change the visual amenity and character of the local area.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.	N
42	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that all Panel Areas would result in the local area feeling industrialised.	The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N

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43	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the proximity of all Panel Areas to residential properties, and the visual impact on residents.	This was carefully considered throughout the design of the solar farm with amendments made to the set back of panels and perimeter planting to mitigate effects on properties which would have the closest and most open views of the Proposed Development. A number of individual properties were visited as part of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (Document Reference 6.4.7.6) and concerns discussed with residents. The detailed findings of the RVAA set out effects on properties within 100m of the Proposed Development.	N
44	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the length of time it will take the screening to establish.	Across the study area, hedgerows and hedgerow trees are generally in relatively good condition. Much of the mitigation of the Proposed Development would be provided by allowing existing hedges to become taller. This would achieve design heights (typically 1-1.5m above existing heights) in a short timeframe. In relation to new plantings, there is nothing about the soils or climate and no locally prevalent plant pests or diseases that would give rise to particular problems with establishment. The likely time for planting to establish is considered in reporting operation stage effects in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).	N
45	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the adequacy of the screening, particularly along Mill Lane.	ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) assesses the effects of the Proposed Development on local landscape and settlement character. During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.	N

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46	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that parts of Panel Areas be screened from immediate visibility.	<p>During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.</p> <p>Across the study area, hedgerows and hedgerow trees are generally in relatively good condition. Much of the mitigation of the Proposed Development would be provided by allowing existing hedges to become taller. This would achieve design heights (typically 1-1.5m above existing heights) in a short timeframe. In relation to new plantings, there is nothing about the soils or climate and no locally prevalent plant pests or diseases that would give rise to particular problems with establishment. The likely time for planting to establish is considered in reporting operation stage effects in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).</p>	N
47	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the inaccurate photomontage interpretation of Byers Gill in 15 years.	The visualisations are prepared to relevant standards as detailed in ES Appendix 7.1 Methodology (Document Reference 6.4.7.1).	N
Lighting			
48	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of increased lighting impacts resulting from the construction of the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including concerns regarding light pollution during construction.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared and submitted an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) which provides details on the construction practices and methods that will be used, referencing the working hours and associated lighting which will be required to</p>	N

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		enable a safe working area. This is accompanied by a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which outlines the potential impact of lighting on local wildlife, and proposes a series of mitigation measures where required.	
Noise and Vibration			
49	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of noise and vibration impacts resulting from increased traffic and large vehicles associated with the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development, particularly with regards to the construction phase. As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development, which finds that there would be short-term, temporary and localised impacts arising from noise pollution during the construction stage of the Proposed Development. There would be no significant effects on local communities resulting from the operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11).	N
50	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the proximity of infrastructure, such as the BESS, to noise receptors.		N
51	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the noise impact on the landscape and character of the area.		N
52	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of increased noise during operation, and subsequent disruption to local residents.	Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. The Applicant has produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which details the traffic planning and HGV management during construction, as well as the associated impacts on noise as a result of construction traffic. Both documents will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
53	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the impact of continuous/ low level noise	Noise from the proposed development has been considered in detail within ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11). The chapter follows national guidance on the	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	on receptors in close proximity to the site, including associated health risks.	assessment of industrial noise and concluded that the proposed development would have a negligible impact on all receptors. The proposed development will be inaudible most of time, so there will be no health risks associated with noise from the development	
54	Those who responded to the consultation questioned the accuracy of the noise test or requested further clarification on regulating noise levels.	The noise from the proposed development has been modelled using noise software which takes into account, noise sources levels, frequencies, land topography and ground absorption and all other known contributing factors which affect how noise travels. The assessment has therefore been undertaken as accurately as possible. The modelled noise levels have been assessed in line with national guidelines, which concluded that the noise impact of the proposed development will be negligible.	N
Planning and Consents			
55	Those who responded to the consultation suggests that solar projects should be prioritised on roofs, new builds, brownfield sites and/or commercial sites to reduce the environmental impact of solar developments	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p>	N
Safety			
56	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the measures put in place for		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	ongoing fire safety for communities surrounding the Proposed Development	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised with regards to the ongoing safety of residents.	
57	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern of health and safety risk associated with the Proposed Development, including risk to school children, equestrian activities, elderly residents etc.	<p>Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>The Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.5 Major Accidents and Disasters – Battery safety elements and fire risk, and utilities safety (Document Reference 6.4.2.5) and ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery and Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
58	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding a potential increase in crime.	The Applicant has consulted with the local police force and no concerns have been raised to date. CCTV and deer fencing will secure the site and ensure that any activity is intercepted.	N
Socioeconomic			
59	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the footpaths.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
60	Those who responded to the consultation express concerns that the Proposed Development would cause a depreciation in local property values.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to changes to property values as a result of the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would affect the value of local properties.	N
Traffic and Transport			
61	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of negative traffic related impacts on the village and its connectivity/ accessibility.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
62	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the existing road network being unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and construction traffic.	The existing road network is currently used by HGVs, with this being shown in the results from traffic surveys undertaken between 15-21 March 2023. Baseline flows were assessed and HGVs were identified as part of the current mix of vehicles that use the existing road network. The prepared Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) presents proposed access routes for HGVs, taking into account weight restrictions, the nature of the roads and nearby villages.	N
63	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of an increase in traffic, congestion and disruption to residents.	An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout	N
64	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of increased pollution resulting from construction activity.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	
65	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of existing transport infrastructure not being able to support an increase in traffic associated with the Proposed Development.	An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
66	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the character of the area and country roads will change to accommodate increase traffic and large vehicles.	The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
67	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns specifically relating to the safety and loss of Mill Lane, due to it being a narrow road with no footpath.	The Proposed Development will be accessed using the adopted highway, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) shows the routes that construction vehicles will be advised to use. The advised routes avoid roads with weight limit restrictions and avoid roads through residential areas, where possible. An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). The assessment significance and impact assessment of the Proposed Development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
68	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns relating to the design of the Proposed Development in terms of connectivity of proposed routes and access of amenities.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
69	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the height of the panels and their impact on driver's visibility.	<p>Panel heights have been reduced since the PEIR stage of the Proposed Development, with maximum panel heights now proposed to be 3.5m.</p> <p>Where the reflecting panels are to be significantly obstructed from view, no impact is predicted, and mitigation is not required. Where sustained solar reflections are predicted to be experienced from inside of a road user's primary field of view, expert assessment is required to determine the impact significance mitigation requirement. Detail of the Glint and Glare Assessment for road users is detailed in Environmental Statement Appendix 2.2 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.2).</p>	N

Appendix 6.1(5) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 5 and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 5 and the Applicant’s response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	<p>Those who responded to the consultation states there is no justification for damaging the land.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government’s Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p> <p>Additionally, solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK’s food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain’s farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned. The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p>	
Assessment of Alternatives			
2	Those who responded to the consultation queried why this location had been selected for the cable routes, and suggests an alternative location is proposed.	The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3).	N
3	Those who responded to the consultation object to the cable routes near Norton.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
4	Those who responded to the consultation object to the plans on cable route installation.		N
5	Those who responded to the consultation suggested an alternative cable route through the middle of the village.		Y
Cable Routes			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
6	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the adverse impacts to road conditions as a result of cabling.	The Applicant has expressed a preference within the DCO application for off-road cable routes, in part due to the reduced potential impact and disruption to the local road network of this option compared to the on-road cable routes. Should an on-road cable route be delivered as part of the Proposed Development, impacts to the local road network would be managed through the measures secured via the DCO in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.7).	N
7	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the cable routes and queried whether permission has been granted.	Permission has not yet been granted for the Proposed Development. The objection to the cable routes is noted. The DCO application includes cable route options rather than one single defined route to provide sufficient flexibility to ensure that the Proposed Development is deliverable. The Applicant has stated a clear preference in the DCO application for off-road cable routes wherever possible. The final cable route and detailed considerations around its design and installation will be developed post-consent and approved through DCO requirement.	N
8	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern about the proximity of the cable routes to local villages.	The DCO application includes cable route options rather than one single defined route to provide sufficient flexibility to ensure that the Proposed Development is deliverable. The Applicant has stated a clear preference in the DCO application for off-road cable routes wherever possible, which are generally located further away from the villages. The final cable route and detailed considerations around its design and installation will be developed post-consent and approved through DCO requirement. Measures to avoid or reduce the effects of construction of the cable routes during construction are secured through the DCO, including the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.7).	N
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern about the proximity of the cable routes to local schools.	The DCO application includes cable route options rather than one single defined route to provide sufficient flexibility to ensure that the Proposed Development is deliverable. The Applicant has stated a clear preference in the DCO application for off-road cable routes wherever possible, which would be located further from the main school in proximity to the Proposed Development, Bishopton Redmarshall school. The final cable route and detailed considerations around its design and installation will be	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		developed post-consent and approved through DCO requirement. Measures to avoid or reduce the effects of construction of the cable routes during construction are secured through the DCO, including the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.7).	
10	Those who responded to the consultation suggested cables should be placed overhead rather than underground.	Overhead cables would have a greater visual impact compared to underground cables and are generally avoided where feasible in solar development. Measures to avoid or reduce the effects of construction of the cable routes during construction are secured through the DCO, including the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.7).	Y
11	Those who responded to the consultation suggested cables behind sewage works should be moved further northwest.	Whilst not specified in the feedback received, it is assumed that this is referring to sewage works outside of Bishopton village. The location of the proposed cable route option in that area is driven by the existing road network, as it is an on-road cable option. The Applicant has expressed a preference for off-road cable routes. ES Appendix 2.5 Major Accidents and Disasters – Battery safety elements and fire risk, and utilities safety (Document Reference 6.4.2.5) sets out how the risk of damage to existing utilities has been assessed and would be managed during construction activities. This is applicable to either cable route option.	Y
12	Those who responded to the consultation suggested an alternative method of placing cables is found.	As set out in ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (Document Reference 6.2.2), two methods for cable installation are under consideration and would be determined at the detailed design stage of the Proposed Development. These are cable plough and horizontal directional drilling (HDD). It is anticipated that underground cables would be installed using a cable plough, wherever possible. This is considered to be the most efficient and least impactful method of cable installation, causing minimal disruption to the ground, by cutting, installing and back-filling in one operation. Only in instances where the cable plough cannot be used, alternative methods, such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD), will be used in more constrained locations such as going underneath water courses and roads.	Y

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
13	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding disruption caused by the cable routes of the Proposed Development.	The final cable route and detailed considerations around its design and installation will be developed post-consent and approved through DCO requirement. Measures to avoid or reduce the effects of construction of the cable routes during construction are secured through the DCO, including the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.7).	N
14	Those who responded to the consultation stated that they do not understand the cable routing.	The DCO application includes cable route options rather than one single defined route to provide sufficient flexibility to ensure that the Proposed Development is deliverable. The Applicant has stated a clear preference in the DCO application for off-road cable routes wherever possible. These are depicted in ES Figure 2.13 (Document Reference 6.4.13). Cable route options have been developed taking into account factors such as environmental constraints, technical feasibility and cost. In addition, specific consideration for on-road routes has included the layout and routing of the existing road network, whilst off-road routes have been developed with regard to the need for voluntary land agreement.	N
15	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impacts on tree roots and property foundations.	The aim with the cable route will be to avoid root protection areas (RPAs) completely. If RPA cannot be completely avoided, a technical assessment will be made of the presence location and significance of tree roots in the area that the cable route will affect. If the cable route passes through Bishopton Village, the 2-m wide trench will likely be dug down the road, where the likelihood of significant tree roots growing is low. Nevertheless, the above protocol will be followed to avoid disturbing tree roots during operations to install the cable, as set out in Sections 3.6.6 and 3.6.7 of ES Appendix 7.7. Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.7.7)	N
16	Those who responded to the consultation queried why existing cable routes could not be utilised.	The Applicant will engage with other developers in the area to discuss whether shared works would be possible.	N
17	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns regarding	It is not expected that the cable connection would improve or make worse the existing supply network which is operated by the DNO.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	the current power cuts and the cables will not improve the power supply.		
Community Benefits			
18	Those who responded to the consultation suggests for compensation as a result of the Proposed Development design	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p> <p>In addition to a community benefit fund of ~£1.5m available across the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ displace over 4m tonnes of CO2 from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking approximately 101,000 cars off the road for a year; ▪ provide 7km of new and enhanced hedgerows, 59 hectares of planting and sowing between panel areas, 24 hectares of community picnic areas and orchards, 3 hectares of new trees and 29 hectares of biodiversity enhancement areas; ▪ allocate two large fields in the Order Limits solely for habitat enhancement, which will be sown without fertiliser to help lower nutrients in the soil, and will be retained during the 40-year duration of the Proposed Development specifically for ground nesting birds; ▪ provide a 87.85% net gain of in area habitat Biodiversity Units (BUs) and a 108.12% net gain of hedgerow Bus; ▪ provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, enhancing the local public right of way network; ▪ provide interpretation boards to be provided at points of local interest along the public right of way network; ▪ provide a community orchard in Bishopton; 	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provide a sensory garden and car park for the Bishopton Redmarshall Primary School; and ▪ general approximately £27m in business rates over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, alongside approximately 200 jobs during construction. 	
Construction			
19	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact on local roads during the construction period, and how restoration will be undertaken once construction is complete.	The Proposed Development will be accessed using the adopted highway, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) shows the routes that construction vehicles will be advised to use. The advised routes avoid roads with weight limit restrictions and avoid roads through residential areas, where possible. The Outline CTMP includes the requirement to ensure wheel washing facilities are provided and drivers will be required to check that their vehicle is free of dirt, stones and dust prior to departing from the site. The Applicant would make good any damage to the highway following works.	N
20	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of damage to roads and queried RWE's responsibility to repair roads if damaged during construction.		N
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
21	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the potential disturbance to the Motte and Bailey as a result of the potential cable routes.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to the potential impact on the Motte and Bailey. To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Document Reference 6.2.8), which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.</p> <p>ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Document Reference 6.2.8) confirms that there will be no physical impact to the monument, a design principal which was established at the outset of the Proposed Development.</p>	
Engineering Design			
22	Those who responded to the consultation queried whether tarmac would be patched up or new tarmac would be used.	It is not proposed that full resurfacing of the road would be carried out.	N
23	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact on existing gas pipelines in Panel Area A.	The Applicant is engaging with the gas pipeline and other utility owners to ensure that the cable route does not impede the utilities.	N
General			
24	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the negative effect on breeding livestock and horses.	There are no specific noise guidelines associated with horses, however noise from the Proposed Development does not have any impulsive noise associated with it, so alarm to horses is unlikely. In addition, the Proposed Development will not notably increase ambient noise levels, so it is unlikely that horses would notice noise from the proposed development.	N
25	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding damage to properties.	There are no expected effects from the construction of the solar farm or cable route on the structural integrity of residential housing. ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11) outline that, as a worst-case scenario, earthworks and construction works may potentially take place at a distance of approximately 15m from existing residential properties. This vibration would also be transient only and for very	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		limited periods during the works (i.e. when activities take place at the Site's boundaries, close to dwellings).	
Human Health			
26	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the adverse effects on residents and livelihoods.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
Hydrology and Flood Risk			
27	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern specifically about the proposed cable routes along Mill Lane, and the proposed cable route resulting in further water damage and flooding.	Full utilities mapping has been carried out to ensure that the cable would be capable of being routed within the Red Line Boundary. The Applicant has engaged with all affected utility companies and seeking agreement with them to ensure any assets are protected. This would be secured through protective provisions in the draft DCO.	N
Landscape and Visual			
28	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the adequacy of screening.	During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A. The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	
Socioeconomics			
29	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the cable routes would cause disruption to local businesses.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding impact on local businesses as a result of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the impact on socioeconomic receptors, which includes local businesses within the local area. The assessment itself and the findings of it can be found in ES Chapter 9 Land use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9), which finds that there would be retained access during all stages of the proposed development, and an increase in revenue during the construction period.</p>	N
Traffic and Transport			
30	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the safety implications of increased traffic and large vehicles, especially on pedestrians, school children, cyclists and horse riders.	The assessment significance and impact assessment of the proposed development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	N
31	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of an increase in traffic, congestion and disruption to residents.	An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
32	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of negative traffic related impacts on the village and its connectivity/ accessibility.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N

Appendix 6.1(6) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 6 and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 6 and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the solar panels are proposed on productive agricultural land which reduced food production.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development, and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV). As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the Proposed Development converting greenbelt and agricultural land into industrial land.		N
3	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the decommissioning of associated infrastructure and the future impacts of this on agricultural land.		N
Assessment of Alternatives			
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objection to the general location of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
5	Those who responded to the consultation queried why this location had been selected for the Proposed Development, and suggests an alternative location is proposed.	<p>provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3). 3.6.6. Specifically, the north-east region has suitable levels of irradiance to gain a viable yield from current solar panel technology. For this reason, the north-east region was identified as a potential location for solar development by the Applicant.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)			
6	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns with regards to the safety of and associated fire protection provisions related to the BESS.	<p>Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and has been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
Biodiversity			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
7	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns with regards to the impact on free ranging animals such as roe deer.	The Applicant notes the concerns raised in response to the consultation. As part of the Proposed Development the security fencing will be around blocks of panels, allowing continued movement of deer through the landscape.	N
8	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the associated infrastructure would disrupt local wildlife and ecology.	The design of the Proposed Development has avoided any habitats of conservation importance retaining all woodland and the vast majority of hedgerows and other field boundaries. There will be some limited vegetation removal will be required to facilitate access but this will be more than compensated for by new planting. There will also be a short temporary period of disturbance whilst the solar panels and infrastructure are installed built after that during the operation life solar developments are relatively passive with minimal impacts on wildlife. The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units.	N
9	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that solar farms generally cause disruption to local wildlife.		N
10	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would fragment species, increasing their vulnerability.	The design of the Panel Areas avoids impact on protected and declining species, while the proposed new habitat creation and enhancement is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity. The deer fence is intended to be designed in a manner that would accommodate badger access points. These access points will also facilitate the movement of small-sized animals, including but not limited to hares and foxes, across the Panel Areas. Fencing itself will also be on the inside of existing field boundaries with an appropriate buffer so that large mammal species such as deer can still move across the landscape in the buffer zone between the security fence and existing field boundaries – the buffer zone along hedgerows will be managed to encourage wildlife.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
11	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the Proposed Development would result in the disappearance of local wildlife.	The forecast of 11.73 km of hedgerow creation and 28.89 km of hedgerow enhancement specifically contributes to the improvement of wildlife habitats, showcasing a dedication to maintaining and promoting biodiversity.	N
Community Benefits			
12	Those who responded to the consultation suggested for local funding to be allocated to villages.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p> <p>In addition to a community benefit fund of ~£1.5m available across the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ displace over 4m tonnes of CO2 from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking approximately 101,000 cars off the road for a year; ▪ provide 7km of new and enhanced hedgerows, 59 hectares of planting and sowing between panel areas, 24 hectares of community picnic areas and orchards, 3 hectares of new trees and 29 hectares of biodiversity enhancement areas; ▪ allocate two large fields in the Order Limits solely for habitat enhancement, which will be sown without fertiliser to help lower nutrients in the soil, and will be retained during the 40-year duration of the Proposed Development specifically for ground nesting birds; 	N
13	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that residents will be severely impacted without gaining any measurable benefits.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provide a 87.85% net gain of in area habitat Biodiversity Units (BUs) and a 108.12% net gain of hedgerow Bus; ▪ provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, enhancing the local public right of way network; ▪ provide interpretation boards to be provided at points of local interest along the public right of way network; ▪ provide a community orchard in Bishopton; ▪ provide a sensory garden and car park for the Bishopton Redmarshall Primary School; and ▪ generate approximately £27m in business rates over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, alongside approximately 200 jobs during construction. 	
Consultation			
14	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that false or a lack of information was conveyed during a consultation meeting.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.	N
15	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that sufficient details about the Proposed Development have not been disclosed.	As part of the preparation for the consultation, the Applicant engaged with Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council about the approach to consultation, including the location of events, the information provided and the ability to make the documents accessible as much as practicable. This was done through meetings, but also through the development of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This document was prepared in consultation with the three local authorities, and the Applicant sought to carry out the consultation in accordance with that document; this is evidenced in Appendix 4.7 of the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.2).	N
16	Those who responded to the consultation suggests there is a need for community consultation to ensure local voices are heard.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>One of the aims of the consultation was to make sure that the information presented was accessible and digestible so that those with an interest in the Proposed Development were able to provide their feedback to the proposals; this was presented in the Consultation Booklet and the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR. However, the full PEIR was also made available for review, which contained a detailed account of the assessments, possible impacts and proposed mitigation measures for each topic and aspect of the proposals.</p>	
Construction			
17	<p>Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the construction compounds and central depot should be located at a distance from local villages so construction vehicles would not need to travel through them.</p>	<p>Following the consultation, construction routes at Brafferton and Bishopton have been changed to avoid going through the villages with the majority of construction traffic, as outlined in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8).</p>	Y
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
18	<p>Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the impact of the Proposed Development on Bishopton Conservation Area.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village.</p> <p>Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton.</p> <p>To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.</p> <p>To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of</p>	Y

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>supporting structures, and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.</p>	
Cumulative Effects			
19	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns around the cumulative impact between the Proposed Development and current and planned developments in the area.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly relating to the cumulative and in-combination effect of this Proposed Development with other developments also proposed in the local area.	N
20	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around combined impacts of noise, light, CCTV, security provision, and visual impacts from the infrastructure on the rural area.	As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13), which takes into account and assesses the combined and cumulative impact on other proposed, in-planning or in-construction developments, and seeks to conclude the overall affect of these, should they all be built. The list of developments included in the	N

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		<p>assessment has been agreed in consultation with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.</p> <p>It is important to note that projects which are already in operation are not included specifically in this assessment, as they have been considered part of the 'baseline' information. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13).</p>	
Engineering Design			
21	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the scale, size and associated disruption of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development. Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.	N
22	Those who responded to the consultation suggested the Proposed Development be scaled down.		Solar energy production at this scale is supported by National Policy Statement EN-3 which identifies solar energy production as Critical National Infrastructure. The scale of the proposed development is defined by the capacity available on the National Grid. The Applicant has an agreement with Northern Power Grid to supply 180MW of electricity from solar power to the Norton Substation. The area of land proposed, which was reduced following consultation, is required to produce the generating capacity.
23	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the location Proposed Development due to the close proximity to residential areas and surrounding services especially the school.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the proximity of the Proposed Development to residential areas and surrounding services.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
24	Those who responded to the consultation suggested the infrastructure should be located at least 2 miles from Great Stainton and Bishopton.	The Applicant has prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
25	Those who responded to the consultation suggested infrastructure be placed at least 3 miles from residential properties	The site selection for a solar farm is led by availability of capacity on the National Grid and the availability of land through agreement. It is very unlikely that enough solar farm sites would be found 3 miles away from any residential properties to meet the need for solar power, as outlined in the Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.2).	Y
Food security			
26	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns regarding the use of productive farmland land for the Proposed Development, citing that the land could and/or should be used for food production.	Solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain's farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.	N
General			
27	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general opposition to the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	
28	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the lack of consideration for livelihoods and quality of life.	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
29	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding general impact of the Proposed Development on lifestyle in Bishopton.		N
30	Those who responded to the consultation expressed financial concerns.	There is no available evidence to suggest that solar farms affect house prices during its operation.	N
Human Health			
31	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development will negatively impact on mental health and wellbeing.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns over the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the mental health of local communities. The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are	N
32	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the designs of panel areas do not consider residents' health and wellbeing.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).</p> <p>Additionally, during construction the Applicant will have a Public Liaison Officer to provide ongoing communications with stakeholders and members of the public, and who any specific concerns can be address to during the construction of the Proposed Development.</p>	
Landscape and Visual			
33	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns with regards to the impact on the landscape resulting from the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in the landscape setting.	N
34	Those who responded to the consultation object to the Proposed Development as it would change the visual amenity of the local area.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity and landscape character are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.	N
35	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the proximity of the Proposed Development to residential properties, and the visual impact on residents.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
36	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would have an impact on the character of the surrounding area and local villages.		N
37	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would result in the local area feeling industrialised.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
38	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the visual impact of the proposed infrastructure, particularly regarding the security fencing.	The proposed fencing would be deer fencing, i.e. wooden poles and a large grid wire mesh, appropriate to the rural setting. ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) considers the impact of the proposed fencing along with other elements of the Proposed Development.	N
39	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the visual impact of the proposed infrastructure, particularly regarding security lighting.	There would be no visible security lighting, except at the substation compound when required for maintenance purposes, and would only be switched on manually or via movement. The CCTV cameras would be infra-red. All elements of the Proposed Development are considered in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (document reference 6.2.7).	N
40	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the visual impact of the proposed infrastructure, particularly regarding battery storage.	The solar battery storage would be set amongst the solar panels and would be of a similar scale. All elements of the Proposed Development are considered in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (document reference 6.2.7).	N
41	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the visual impact of the proposed infrastructure, particularly regarding CCTV.	The CCTV poles would be up to 3m in height - no taller than the solar panels and would not permanently 'look out' over the adjacent areas, but would be along the gap between the fence and panels. All elements of the Proposed Development are considered in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (document reference 6.2.7).	N
42	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the visual impact of the proposed infrastructure, particularly regarding the substation.	The proposed substation would be sited in a low-lying location away from nearby settlements and properties and where there is existing woodland screening to the west and south. Further mitigation planting is proposed. All elements of the Proposed Development are considered in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (document reference 6.2.7).	N
43	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the visual impact of the proposed infrastructure, particularly regarding the access roads.	The access roads would have a similar appearance to farm gates and tracks and where feasible would make use of existing gates and tracks. All elements of the Proposed Development are considered in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (document reference 6.2.7).	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
44	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the adequacy of the screening.	<p>During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
45	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the length of time it will take the screening to establish.	<p>Across the study area identified in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7), the existing hedgerows and hedgerow trees are generally in relatively good condition. Much of the mitigation of the Proposed Development would be provided by allowing existing hedges to become taller. This would achieve design heights (typically 1-1.5m above existing heights) in a short timeframe. In relation to new plantings, there is nothing about the soils or climate and no locally prevalent plant pests or diseases that would give rise to particular problems with establishment. The likely time for planting to establish is considered in reporting operation stage effects in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).</p>	N
46	Those who responded to the consultation suggested the Proposed Development should be located further from residential areas.	<p>This was carefully considered throughout the design of the solar farm with amendments made to the set back of panels and perimeter planting to mitigate effects on properties which would have the closest and most open views of the Proposed Development. A number of individual properties were visited as part of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (Document Reference 6.4.7.6) and concerns discussed with residents. The detailed findings of the RVAA</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		set out effects on properties within 100m of the Proposed Development.	
47	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that greater areas of screening should be implemented.	The effectiveness of proposed mitigation planting has been carefully considered within the design and where more extensive planting was deemed important and likely to be effective, it has been included, in particular in places around panel areas A, E and F, and around the substation.	N
Lighting			
48	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding light pollution arising from the Proposed Development impacting the rural setting.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including concerns regarding light pollution arising from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared and submitted an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) which provides details on the construction practices and methods that will be used, referencing the working hours and associated lighting which will be required to enable a safe working area. This is accompanied by a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which outlines the potential impact of lighting on local wildlife, and proposes a series of mitigation measures where required.</p>	N
Noise and Vibration			
49	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of increased noise pollution resulting from the Proposed Development, and subsequent disruption to local communities.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development, particularly with regards to the construction phase.	N
50	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of noise and vibration impacts resulting	As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development, which finds	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	from increased traffic and large vehicles associated with the construction of the Proposed Development.	that there would be short-term, temporary and localised impacts arising from noise pollution during the construction stage of the Proposed Development. There would be no significant effects on local communities resulting from the operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11). Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. We have also produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which details the traffic planning and HGV management during construction, as well as the associated impacts on noise as a result of construction traffic. Both documents will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	
51	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of noise resulting from the BESS facilities.		N
52	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the impact of continuous low-level noise increase on receptors in close proximity to the site, with a particular focus on any associated health risks.		N
53	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the noise impact on the landscape and character of the area.		N
54	Those who responded to the consultation questioned the accuracy of the noise test or requested further clarification on regulating noise levels.		N
55	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the noise impacts on animal safety, such as horses.	There are no specific noise guidelines associated with horses, however noise from the Proposed Development does not have any impulsive noise associated with it, so alarm to horses is unlikely. In addition, the Proposed Development will not notably increase ambient noise levels, so it is unlikely that horses would notice noise resulting from the Proposed Development.	N
Planning and Consents			

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56	Those who responded to the consultation suggests that solar projects should be prioritised on roofs.	As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	N
57	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern and query regarding the different consenting regime through which the Proposed Development operates in comparison to those of homeowners within Bishopton Conservation Village.	The Application for development consent is considered and applied for under the Planning Act 2008. Further information can be found on the Planning Inspectorates website.	N
Safety			
58	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the measures put in place for ongoing fire safety for communities surrounding the Proposed Development, and considered that this had not been appropriately assessed.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised with regards to the ongoing safety of residents.</p> <p>Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>The Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.5 Major Accidents and Disasters – Battery safety elements and fire risk, and</p>	N

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		utilities safety (Document Reference 6.4.2.5) and ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery and Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.	
59	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding health and safety of chemicals.	The use of chemicals that would be harmful to human health in the construction or operation of the solar farm is negligible, as set out in the Pollution and Spillage Response Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.9).	N
60	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns regarding the weather conditions such as wind uprooting the panels in Panel Area F.	The Proposed Development has been designed, and would be constructed to take into account wind loading.	N
61	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding privacy issues with CCTV.	The CCTV used on the site is aimed only toward the panel areas and would not be capable of looking into private property.	N
62	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding a potential increase in crime.	The Applicant has consulted with the local police force and no concerns have been raised to date. CCTV and deer fencing will secure the site and ensure that any activity is intercepted.	N
Socioeconomics			
63	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on Public Rights of Way.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction. Additionally, the Applicant is proposing to provide approximately 3600m of	N
64	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns relating to the design of the Proposed Development in terms of connectivity of proposed routes and access of amenities.		N

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		permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, further enhancing the local public right of way network.	
65	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that Mill Lane will no longer be of use for recreation and exercise.	Following the consultation, a panel area has been removed from Mill Lane and the panel area remaining has been moved back from the boundary with Mill Lane. The construction routes have been changed to avoid going through Bishopton Village or use Mill Lane	N
66	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the disruption to local businesses.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding impact on local businesses as a result of the Proposed Development. As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the impact on socioeconomic receptors, which includes local businesses within the local area. The assessment itself and the findings of it can be found in ES Chapter 9 Land use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9), which finds that there would be retained access during all stages of the proposed development, and an increase in revenue during the construction period.	N
67	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the visual impact from the Proposed Development would negatively impact property values.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to changes to property values as a result of the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would affect the value of local properties.	N
Traffic and Transport			
68	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of negative traffic related impacts on the village and its connectivity/ accessibility.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated	N

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		throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	
69	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the existing road network being unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and construction traffic.	An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
70	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of an increase in traffic, congestion and disruption to residents.	An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
71	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the impacts of traffic on residents during construction.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
72	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the increase of pollution arising from construction vehicles.	The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
73	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of existing transport infrastructure not being able to support an increase in traffic associated with the Proposed Development.	An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
74	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of loss of parking amenity in the village.	The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
75	Those who responded to the consultation queried how long the area will be impacted by traffic associated with the Proposed Development.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). It would take approximately 12-18 months to construct the Proposed Development all at once, or 18-24 months to undertake the construction of each Panel Area in phases following the granting of the DCO application. The Applicant will	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12).	
76	Those who responded to the consultation queried the mitigation planned for increased traffic associated with the substation.	The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
77	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact of increased emissions from vehicles on residents' and school children's health.	The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
78	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the character of the area and country roads will change to accommodate increase traffic and large vehicles.	An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
79	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the safety implications of increased	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	traffic and large vehicles, especially on pedestrians, school children, cyclists and horse riders.	Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	

Appendix 6.1(7a) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 7a and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 7a and the Applicant’s response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed general opposition as a result of the impact on and general use of agricultural land.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government’s Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p> <p>Additionally, solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK’s food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain’s farmers to reduce their energy costs</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.	
Biodiversity			
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concern with regards to the Proposed Development's impact on biodiversity and local wildlife.	The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.	N
3	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on the local biodiversity and environment, stating that proposed wildflower meadows would not counteract the impact of development.	To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.	N
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on the local biodiversity and environment, stating that proposed bird boxes would not counteract the impact of development.	The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units. More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).	N
5	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact of the	Habitats will take time to establish, but currently, the land is intensive agriculture, so taking land out of intensive farming has biodiversity benefits. The biodiversity assessment has taken habitat establishment	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	Proposed Development on the local landscape, habitats and biodiversity, stating that proposed enhancements would take decades to establish.	time into account, and the Applicant is confident that the Proposed Development will deliver a significant gain in biodiversity over the lifecycle of the Proposed Development. Furthermore, the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.14) includes necessary interventions should habitats fall short of their desired future condition.	
Community Benefits			
6	Those who responded to the consultation considered that the proposed community benefit fund and amenity proposals are insufficient.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
7	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the proposed new paths and public rights of way are a tokenistic gesture and not a meaningful mitigation of the visual impact of the Proposed Development.	<p>In addition to a community benefit fund of ~£1.5m available across the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ displace over 4m tonnes of CO2 from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking approximately 101,000 cars off the road for a year; ▪ provide 7km of new and enhanced hedgerows, 59 hectares of planting and sowing between panel areas, 24 hectares of community picnic areas and orchards, 3 hectares of new trees and 29 hectares of biodiversity enhancement areas; ▪ allocate two large fields in the Order Limits solely for habitat enhancement, which will be sown without fertiliser to help lower nutrients in the soil, and will be retained during the 40-year duration of the Proposed Development specifically for ground nesting birds; 	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ prove a 87.85% net gain of in area habitat Biodiversity Units (BUs) and a 108.12% net gain of hedgerow Bus; ▪ provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, enhancing the local public right of way network; ▪ provide interpretation boards to be provided at points of local interest along the public right of way network; ▪ provide a community orchard in Bishopton; ▪ provide a sensory garden and car park for the Bishopton Redmarshall Primary School; and ▪ generate approximately £27m in business rates over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, alongside approximately 200 jobs during construction. 	
8	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the size and accessibility of the proposed amenity area.	Following the consultation, new permissive paths have been proposed to connect Bishopton Village to the amenity area in Panel Area E. The community Orchard in Panel Area F has been further defined to include a sensory garden for use by the adjacent school.	N
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the community areas are not large enough and lack safe access.	The community areas have been provided as an enhancement to the scheme for the local community. Following the consultation, a further permissive path has been proposed to connect the amenity area in Panel Area E to Bishopton on the PROW network.	N
Cultural Heritage			
10	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development due to its potential impact on cultural heritage and archaeology.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village.	Y
11	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed	Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton. To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	Development due to its proximity to and potential impact on Bishopton Conservation Area.	<p>has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.</p> <p>To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of supporting structures and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.</p>	
Cumulative			
12	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the effect of the Proposed Development when combined with other energy developments proposed or in construction in the local area.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly relating to the cumulative and in-combination effect of this Proposed Development with other developments also proposed in the local area.</p> <p>As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13), which takes into account and assesses the combined and cumulative impact on other</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>proposed, in-planning or in-construction developments, and seeks to conclude the overall effect of these, should they all be built. The list of developments included in the assessment has been agreed in consultation with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.</p> <p>It is important to note that projects which are already in operation are not included specifically in this assessment, as they have been considered part of the 'baseline' information. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13).</p>	
Decommissioning			
13	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development would be unusable within 40 years of operation.	<p>Following operation, the Proposed Development would require decommissioning. The process of decommissioning would involve the removal of all solar infrastructure, including the solar PV modules, cabling and on-site supporting equipment, from the site to be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and processes at that time. Any requirements to leave certain infrastructure, for example access tracks, would be discussed and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process.</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	
Engineering Design			
14	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns with regards to the size and scale of the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development. Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>Solar energy production at this scale is supported by National Policy Statement EN-3 which identifies solar energy production as Critical National Infrastructure. The scale of the proposed development is defined by the capacity available on the National Grid. The Applicant has an agreement with Northern Power Grid to supply 180MW of electricity from solar power to the Norton Substation. The area of land proposed, which was reduced following consultation, is required to produce the generating capacity.</p>	Y
15	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the Proposed Development surrounding the village of Great Stainton.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the proximity of the Proposed Development to residential areas and surrounding services.	N
16	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the proximity of the Proposed Development to residential areas.	<p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>The Applicant has prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	
General			
17	Those who responded to the consultation object to the Proposed Development, and the principle of solar development generally.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
18	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objection to the Proposed Development.		N
19	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the landscape would be negatively impacted for more than 40 years and questions the credibility of the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The Applicant has prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p> <p>Adopted and emerging National Policy Statements for Energy (including EN-1 and EN-3) are the primary planning documents against which the Proposed Development is assessed by the Secretary of State in deciding whether to grant a Development Consent Order, however local planning policy does form part of the assessment to test the compliance overall with national and local planning policy.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		To support the DCO Application, a Policy Compliance Document (PCD) (Document Reference 7.1.1) has been submitted, which details the relevant planning policy which the Proposed Development will be assessed against, and a summary of how the Proposed Development is in accordance with that policy(s).	
20	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the land would be negatively impacted by the Proposed Development.	<p>Following operation, the Proposed Development would require decommissioning. The process of decommissioning would involve the removal of all solar infrastructure, including the solar PV modules, cabling and on-site supporting equipment, from the site to be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and processes at that time. Any requirements to leave certain infrastructure, for example access tracks, would be discussed and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process.</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
Human Health			
21	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns over the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the mental health of local communities. The Applicant has prepared and	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	would have a visual impact that would adversely affect the mental health of local residents.	<p>submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p> <p>As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).</p> <p>Additionally, during construction the Applicant will have a Public Liaison Officer to provide ongoing communications with stakeholders and members of the public, and who any specific concerns can be address to during the construction of the Proposed Development.</p>	
Landscape and Visual			
22	Those who responded to the consultation object to the Proposed Development, stating that the landscape and environment should not be developed.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in the landscape setting.	N
23	Those who responded to the consultation object to the Proposed Development as it would negatively impact the landscape and change the visual amenity of the local area.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity and landscape character are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.	N
24	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the visual impact of the Proposed		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	Development and suggested that Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments should be produced so that local residents can ascertain the impact of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	
25	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern with the design of the landscaping and environmental elements of the Proposed Development.		N
26	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the design of the Proposed Development not being fit for the rural environment.		N
27	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the visual impact of the Proposed Development on local walks.		N
28	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would result in the local area feeling industrialised.		N
29	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the landscape impact being permanent, and the approach to visual impact mitigation placing more emphasis on 'environmental work'.		N
30	Those who responded to the consultation queried what investigations have been undertaken regarding landscape and visual impact.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
31	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the visual impact of fencing as part of the Proposed Development.	The 'security fencing' proposed around the solar panels is not the metal palisade type fencing that may be imagined from that description. The proposed fencing would be deer fencing, i.e. wooden poles and a large grid wire mesh, appropriate to the rural setting. ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) considers the impact of the proposed fencing along with other elements of the Proposed Development.	N
32	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the visual impact of CCTV as part of the Proposed Development.	The CCTV poles would be up to 3m in height - no taller than the solar panels and would not permanently 'look out' over the adjacent areas but would along the gap between the fence and panels. All elements of the Proposed Development are considered in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).	N
33	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that it is impossible to adequately screen the Proposed Development due to the local topography/landscape, stating that claims against this would be false.	Full screening of visibility of panels in all views is not achievable. ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) describes and illustrates the landscape and visual effects that would arise.	N
34	Those who responded to the consultation expressed that they wish for the Proposed Development to be completely hidden from view to minimise visual impact.		N
35	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the visual impact of the Proposed Development from the highway between Great Stainton and Darlington.	The effects arising from the visibility of the Proposed Development from this local road is considered in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document reference 6.2.7).	N
36	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the visual impact of the Proposed Development of the village of Bishopton.	This was carefully considered throughout the design of the solar farm with amendments made to the set back of panels and perimeter planting to mitigate effects on properties which would have the closest and most open views of the Proposed Development. A number of individual	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
37	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the visual impact of Panel F and that it would engulf homes in the area.	properties were visited as part of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (Document Reference 6.4.7.6) and concerns discussed with residents. The detailed findings of the RVAA set out effects on properties within 100m of the Proposed Development.	
38	Those who responded to the consultation stated that the area has already maintained hedgerows and landscaping features.	Across the study area, hedgerows and hedgerow trees are generally in relatively good condition. Much of the mitigation of the Proposed Development would be provided by allowing existing hedges to become taller. This would achieve design heights (typically 1-1.5m above existing heights) in a short timeframe. In relation to new plantings, additional new hedgerow is proposed in terms of new hedgerows and planting up of existing hedges where gaps exist.	N
39	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that environmental design proposals are a token gestures that would not mitigate the visual impacts of the Proposed Development.	During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.	N
40	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns with regards to the impact on the landscape resulting from the Proposed Development, citing that the proposed mitigation is inadequate.		N
41	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the ability of the proposed amenity area to mitigate or substitute for the impact of the Proposed Development.		N
42	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the scale and visual impact of the Proposed Development, and that		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	mitigation through planting hedges and trees would be of little effect.		
43	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objection to the visual mitigation measures, stating that they would take too long to implement.	Across the study area, hedgerows and hedgerow trees are generally in relatively good condition. Much of the mitigation of the Proposed Development would be provided by allowing existing hedges to become taller,. This would achieve design heights (typically 1-1.5m above existing heights) in a short timeframe. In relation to new plantings, there is nothing about the soils or climate and no locally prevalent plant pests or diseases that would give rise to particular problems with establishment. The likely time for planting to establish is considered in reporting operation stage effects in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).	N
Socioeconomics			
44	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the impact of the Proposed Development on the use of the PRoW network.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N
45	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development would adversely impact property values.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to changes to property values as a result of the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would affect the value of local properties.	N

Appendix 6.1(7b) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 7b and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 7b and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the loss of agricultural land due to the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p> <p>Additionally, solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain's farmers to</p>	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impacts on food security due to the loss of arable agricultural land due to the Proposed Development.		N
3	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the biodiversity enhancement measures associated with the Proposed Development, stating that they are inadequate and that the land would be better retained as agricultural land.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.	
Assessment of Alternatives			
4	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the Proposed Development should be moved to an industrial site.	The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3). The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
5	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the Proposed Development should be built elsewhere.		N
6	Those who responded to the consultation expressed opposition to the Proposed Development surrounding the village of Great Stainton.		N
Biodiversity			
7	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for the biodiversity measures.	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
8	Concern that the Proposed Development would cause a permanent change to the landscape and local ecological conditions.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.</p> <p>The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on biodiversity receptors are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that existing habitats, biodiversity and wildlife will be severely impacted.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.</p> <p>To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.</p>	N
10	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of panels C and D of the Proposed Development on habitats and biodiversity.		N
11	Concern that the impact of the Proposed Development on biodiversity is unacceptable.		N
12	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that mitigation measures would be inadequate in offsetting the biodiversity loss of the Proposed Development.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
13	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the area not used for solar panels for the Proposed Development is unsuitable in size for adequate biodiversity enhancement and mitigation.	The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units. More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).	N
14	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that biodiversity mitigation and environmental design proposals contradict themselves, and that more detail on the proposals is needed.		N
15	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of panel F of the Proposed Development on local biodiversity, stating that wildflower environmental design mitigation would be insufficient.		N
16	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that solar farms are not environmentally friendly and as such the Proposed Development would have an adverse impact on local biodiversity.		N
17	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns whether wildlife can viably co-exist alongside the Proposed Development.		N
18	Those who responded to the consultation oppose the Proposed Development due to its impact on the existing natural environment which is believed to be biodiverse.		N
19	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that there is a general disregard for		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	biodiversity exhibited through the Proposed Development.		
20	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the management and on-going funding of the biodiversity mitigation measures, and queries who will fund them.	The Applicant will remain responsible for the ongoing management, maintenance and funding for the proposed biodiversity measures for the lifecycle of the Proposed Development.	N
21	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that wildlife would not return to the area following the construction of the Proposed Development.	An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) have been produced for this ES with details presented in ES Appendix 2.6 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.6). The CEMP will ensure that construction activities are carried out in an environmentally responsible manner, minimising adverse effects on the surrounding environment and complying with relevant environmental regulations. The CEMP will be secured as a requirement of the DCO.	N
22	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on endangered or threatened species such as lapwings.	The breeding bird survey (BBS) carried out observed a peak count of 10 lapwing with probable breeding within the study area, the majority of lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) breeding behaviour, i.e., singing, occurred near Downland Farm, which falls outside the Order Limits. A large area of Panel Area F is to remain free of solar panels and managed for ground-nesting birds, such as lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) and curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>). This area will comprise a flower-rich meadow mix and be subject to late-summer cutting, to ensure that nesting birds are not disturbed. It will be managed this way for the life-time of the Proposed Development. As discussed, the scheme design has avoided the areas of farmland where majority of ground nesting birds identified and in addition large area F will remain free of panels and will be managed to support ground nesting birds. In addition, provision of habitat under and around panels including cover crops and herbal leys will improve the insect biomass providing additional foraging resource and a supply of winter seed for small passerine species such as skylark.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6).	
23	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the fencing associated with the Proposed Development would prevent the movement of animals.	The deer fence is intended to be designed in a manner that would accommodate badger access points. These access points will also facilitate the movement of small-sized animals, including but not limited to hares and foxes, across the Panel Areas. Fencing itself will also be on the inside of existing field boundaries with an appropriate buffer so that large mammal species such as deer can still move across the landscape in the buffer zone between the security fence and existing field boundaries – the buffer zone will be managed to encourage wildlife.	N
24	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the hedgerow screening, believing it to be inadequate in mitigating the loss of natural habitats.	As a result of the grid connection cables and access routes, construction activities may lead to the loss of 0.15 km of hedgerow. Lost hedgerows will be replanted, with gaps to be stocked up and management relaxed on others. This will result in a hedgerow creation forecast of 11.73 km and a hedgerow enhancement of 28.89 km. This hedgerow planting and management plan will mitigate for the minor loss required and result in a predicated biodiversity net gain of 108.12% in hedgerows.	N
25	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on the local landscape, habitats and biodiversity, stating that proposed enhancements would take decades to establish.	Habitats will take time to establish, but currently, the land is intensive agriculture, so taking land out of intensive farming has biodiversity benefits. The biodiversity assessment has taken habitat establishment time into account, and we are confident we will deliver a significant gain in biodiversity over the life of the project. Furthermore, the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.13) includes necessary interventions should habitats fall short of their desired future condition.	N
26	Those who responded to the consultation expressed that the proposed biodiversity mitigation is tokenistic and questions the methodology of the biodiversity study.	The surveys, technical reports and Environmental Statement have been carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance and best practice guidelines. Surveys were specifically targeted towards the species and habitats that are likely to be affected by the Proposed Development.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		The primary aims of the proposed Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) process are for developments to secure a measurable improvement in habitat for biodiversity. The BNG was carried out in accordance with set principles outlined in the user guide (Natural England Joint Publication, 2023). Overall, the Proposed Development will result in a 87.85% net gain in area habitats and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerows., calculated	
27	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the removal of existing hedgerows despite their ecological importance.	Hedgerow removal has been kept to a minimum with a predicted loss of 0.15km. Lost hedgerows will be replanted, with gaps to be stocked up and management relaxed on others. This will result in a hedgerow creation forecast of 11.73 km and a hedgerow enhancement of 28.89 km.	N
28	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development would have a negative impact on migratory species.	Survey work and desk study has not established that the site supports a significant assemblage of migratory species likely to be significantly affected as a result of the Proposed Development.	N
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
29	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impacts of the Proposed Development on Bishopton Conservation Village.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village.</p> <p>Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton.</p> <p>To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.</p> <p>To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of supporting structures and take further measures to protect any</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.</p>	
Engineering Design			
30	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern over the proximity of the Proposed Development to Great Stainton.	Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.	N
31	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the design of the Proposed Development is not appropriate for the rural environment.	The Applicant has prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
General			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
32	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the principle of solar energy, stating that it is not environmentally friendly.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
33	Those who responded to the consultation expressed opposition to the Proposed Development.		N
33	Those who responded to the consultation expressed that the Proposed Development provides no improvements or benefits.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p> <p>In addition to a community benefit fund of ~£1.5m available across the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ displace over 4m tonnes of CO2 from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking approximately 101,000 cars off the road for a year; ▪ Provide 7km of new and enhanced hedgerows, 59 hectares of planting and sowing between panel areas, 24 hectares of community picnic areas and orchards, 3 hectares of new trees and 29 hectares of biodiversity enhancement areas; ▪ allocate two large fields in the Order Limits solely for habitat enhancement, which will be sown without fertiliser to help lower nutrients in the soil, and will be retained during the 40-year 	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>duration of the Proposed Development specifically for ground nesting birds;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ prove a 87.85% net gain of in area habitat Biodiversity Units (BUs) and a 108.12% net gain of hedgerow Bus; ▪ provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, enhancing the local public right of way network; ▪ provide interpretation boards to be provided at points of local interest along the public right of way network; ▪ provide a community orchard in Bishopton; ▪ provide a sensory garden and car park for the Bishopton Redmarshall Primary School; and ▪ generate approximately £27m in business rates over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, alongside approximately 200 jobs during construction. 	
34	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that little consideration has been shown to the local villages.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant has prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
Landscape and Visual			
35	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the general visual and landscape impact of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.	N
36	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that biodiversity mitigation and		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	enhancement would not make up for the visual and landscape impacts of the Proposed Development.	<p>The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	
37	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the rural landscape will become visually industrialised by the Proposed Development.		N
38	Concern that the Proposed Development would cause a permanent change to the landscape and local ecological conditions.		N
39	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development would permanently change the landscape.		N
40	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the effectiveness of the proposed screening.	During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.	N

Appendix 6.1(7c) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 7c and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 7c and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Assessment of Alternatives			
1	Those who responded to the consultation suggested panels be placed on roofs of buildings instead.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p>	N
Biodiversity			
2	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned around adverse impacts from the Proposed Development on local wildlife and nature.	The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
3	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns regarding the impact on existing wildlife corridors.	<p>are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.</p> <p>To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.</p> <p>The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 94% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units.</p> <p>More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).</p>	N
Consultation			
4	Those who responded to the consultation raised concern that there was inadequate detail around PRoW design and what is being proposed for footpaths and bridleways.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction. This is supported by ES Figure 9.3 Public Rights of Way (Document Reference 6.3.9.3) and the Rights of Way and Access Plans	N
5	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned that PRoW plans were not more definitive.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		(Document Reference 2.3) which provide details on the proposed diversions and new permissive routes for both footpaths and bridleways.	
6	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned that documentation is misleading, particularly regarding the height of the Proposed Development.	<p>Details of the Proposed Development, including the height of the elements of the infrastructure which it comprises, were provided in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report during the statutory consultation.</p> <p>Following the feedback received during the statutory consultation, the Applicant has decreased the height of the solar panels from up to 4.35m to a maximum of 3.5m, as detailed in ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (Document Reference 6.2.2).</p>	N
Construction			
7	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned around the impact of construction on PRowWs.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N
8	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that construction of Panel Area F is in close proximity to PRowWs.		N
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
9	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the loss of the historic nature of current PRowWs.	To the north of Bishopton, where the footpath runs in a north to south alignment from Old Stillington, the solar PV panels will be constructed within a field to the north-west of Cobby Castle Lane, approximately 250m north of the northern settlement limits of Bishopton. The footpath is included within the designs to be re-routed around the field containing the solar PV panels, however, the experience of moving from Old Stillington south to Bishopton	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>in the context of the character and appearance of the Conservation Area, and its significance, will remain broadly the same.</p> <p>The principal experience afforded by the footpath is when it enters the settlement limits and snakes through a number of existing buildings allowing for a sense of arrival into the settlements historic core, most obviously manifest through St Peter's Church. This accords with the overall experience of the character and appearance of the conservation area which is best appreciated within the settlement centre as set out in paragraph 8.10.41 with the wider landscape not making any contribution to its significance.</p> <p>Proposed Development will not affect the experience of the character and appearance of the conservation area along the footpath within the settlement boundaries.</p>	
General			
10	Those who responded to the consultation raised a general objection to the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
11	Those who responded to the consultation stated that there is a lack of community support for the Proposed Development.		N
12	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that alternative solar projects make large scale solar farms unnecessary.		N
13	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the adverse impact the Proposed Development would have on Mill Lane.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Human Health			
14	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned around the adverse impact of the Proposed Development on PRow user mental health and wellbeing.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
15	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned that they would no longer be able to walk or cycle along the PRow which would adversely impact their health.		N
16	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the Proposed Development would have potential health risks.		N
17	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns around the lack of research into the effects of living in close proximity to solar farms.		N
Landscape and Visual			
18	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns that the visual amenity of the PRow would be adversely impacted by the Proposed Development.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
19	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the Proposed Development would adversely impact open views from PRowWs.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in the landscape setting and visual amenity from the existing PRowWs.</p> <p>The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity and landscape character are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
20	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns around the adverse visual impact of the associated infrastructure, such as security fencing and CCTV, on PRowWs.	The proposed fencing would be deer fencing, i.e. wooden poles and a large grid wire mesh, appropriate to the rural setting. ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) considers the impact of the proposed fencing along with other elements of the Proposed Development.	N
21	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the visual mitigation and how long it would take screening to establish.	Across the study area, hedgerows and hedgerow trees are generally in relatively good condition. Much of the mitigation of the Proposed Development would be provided by allowing existing hedges to become taller. This would achieve design heights (typically 1-1.5m above existing heights) in a short timeframe. In relation to new plantings, there is nothing about the soils or climate and no locally prevalent plant pests or diseases that would give rise to particular problems with establishment. The likely time for planting to establish is considered in reporting operation stage	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		effects in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).	
22	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that screening would not adequately mitigate the visual impact.	During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.	N
23	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that PRowWs alongside Mill Lane should have screening on both sides.	Following the consultation, a panel area has been removed from Mill Lane and the panel area remaining has been moved back from the boundary with Mill Lane. The construction routes have been changed to avoid going through Bishopton Village or use Mill Lane.	N
Noise and Vibration			
24	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the impact of noise on horses using the PRowWs should be reviewed.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development, particularly with regards to the construction phase.</p> <p>As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development, which finds that there would be short-term, temporary and localised impacts arising from noise pollution during the construction stage of the Proposed Development. There would be no significant effects on local communities resulting from the operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11).</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. We have also produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which details the traffic planning and HGV management during construction, as well as the associated impacts on noise as a result of construction traffic. Both documents will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.</p>	
Safety			
25	Those who responded to the consultation raised general concerns around the safety of the proposed re-route of the PRowWs.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised with regards to the ongoing safety of residents.	N
26	Those who responded expressed concerns around the safety of equestrians on PRowWs.	Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.	N
27	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned around that the setting would be dangerous for and would spook horses.	<p>The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.</p>	N
	Those who responded expressed concerns around the safety of users of Mill Lane.	Following the consultation, a panel area has been removed from Mill Lane and the panel area remaining has been moved back from	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		the boundary with Mill Lane. The construction routes have been changed to avoid going through Bishopton Village or use Mill Lane.	
28	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that PRowS would be unsafe due to theft being prevalent in the area.	The Applicant has consulted with the local police force and no concerns have been raised to date. CCTV and deer fencing will secure the site and ensure that any activity is intercepted.	N
29	Those who responded expressed concerns around the safety of children.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised with regards to the ongoing safety of residents. Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.	N
Socioeconomics			
30	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the adverse impact on users of the PRowS, including walkers, equestrians, and cyclists.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction. Additionally, the Applicant is proposing to provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, further enhancing the local public right of way network.	N
31	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that a joined-up network of bridleways and footpaths should be set up.		N
32	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that Public Right of Way (PRow) are enhanced more, such as making them suitable to be used as cycleways and bridleways.		N
34	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that there should be additional public		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	access to the Proposed Development. They suggested that circular routes of 3-5km would be beneficial to local residents.		
35	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the PRow network be publicised.		N
36	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for keeping and improving access to the countryside.		N
37	Those who responded to the consultation raised concern that public access points would need to be moved and that existing access would cease.		N
38	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned around adverse impacts on the recreational amenity of the PRowS.		N
39	Those who responded to the consultation raised general concerns around the changes to current PRowS and that current PRowS would need to be re-routed.		N
40	Those who responded to the consultation state that The Proposed Development would lead to a reduction in use of the PRowS.		N
41	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that new PRow routes would not adequately compensate for loss of current routes.		N
42	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the impact of the Proposed Development on property prices.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to changes to property values as a result of the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would affect the value of local properties.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
43	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that changes in PRowWs would reduce visitors which would impact local businesses.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding impact on local businesses as a result of the Proposed Development. As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the impact on socioeconomic receptors, which includes local businesses within the local area. The assessment itself and the findings of it can be found in ES Chapter 9 Land use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9), which finds that there would be retained access during all stages of the proposed development, and an increase in revenue during the construction period.	N
44	Those who responded to the consultation emphasized that the British Horse Society (BHS) has guidelines on how wide bridleways should be to allow for hedgerow growth. They suggested that a width of at least 5m is left between hedges to allow for the statutory 3m clearance after growth.	The Applicant has ensured that the design of the Proposed Developments and the proposed public rights of way are in accordance with the relevant safety and design standards.	N
45	Those who responded to the consultation highlighted that there is a well-used bridleway to the south of Brafferton which passes through the Proposed Development and could cause concern for equestrians unless hedged appropriately.		N
46	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that PRowWs over fields containing livestock should be placed to the edge of fields and separated for user safety.		N
47	Those who responded to the consultation suggested parking, particularly for those with disabilities, be provided along the PRowWs.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the proposed diversions and provisions of PRow will follow a similar or as close to as possible alignment of the existing rights of way, and so providing car parking facilities along the newly proposed routes is not possible.	
48	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned that PRowS would feel enclosed and have a 'tunnel' effect.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
49	Those who responded to the consultation queried if PRowS would be maintained in an appropriate manner.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N
50	Those who responded to the consultation stated that PRowS cannot normally be rerouted unless there is a strong reason, they queried how RWE are able to re-route the PRowS.	The Applicant will have the necessary powers to re-route the public rights of way identified on the Street Works, Rights of Way and Access Plans (Document Reference 2.3) through the development consent order, should it be granted.	N
51	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned around the proximity of solar panels to the PRowS.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised with regards to the ongoing safety of the PRow.	N
52	Those who responded to the consultation queried how people diverting off PRowS would be avoided.	Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development,	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
53	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that changes to a PRoW in Panel Area E means it leads onto a busy road with no footpath and adds a mile onto the route.	<p>and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.</p>	N
Traffic and Transport			
54	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns around increased traffic adversely impacting users of Mill Lane, including walkers and cyclists.	Following the consultation, a panel area has been removed from Mill Lane and the panel area remaining has been moved back from the boundary with Mill Lane. The construction routes have been changed to avoid going through Bishopton Village or use Mill Lane	N

Appendix 6.1(7d) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 7d and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 7d and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Assessment of Alternatives			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the scale of the Proposed Development would be industrial and should be restricted to already industrial areas.	The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3). Specifically, the north-east region has suitable levels of irradiance to gain a viable yield from current solar panel technology. For this reason, the north-east region was identified as a potential location for solar development by the Applicant.	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed an alternative location should be found for the Proposed Development that doesn't affect heritage assets.	The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
Construction			
3	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns about the impact of the construction period on cultural heritage and archaeological assets.	To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Consultation			
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the information presented in the statutory consultation documents was not accurate or true.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.</p> <p>As part of the preparation for the consultation, the Applicant engaged with Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council about the approach to consultation, including the location of events, the information provided and the ability to make the documents accessible as much as practicable. This was done through meetings, but also through the development of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This document was prepared in consultation with the three local authorities, and the Applicant sought to carry out the consultation in accordance with that document; this is evidenced in Appendix 4.7 of the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.2).</p>	N
Cultural Heritage			
5	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the Proposed Development should not be located in an area with important heritage assets, such as listed buildings and a designated conservation area.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village.</p> <p>Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton. To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.</p>	N
6	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development due to its potential impact on cultural heritage sites and archaeology.	<p>Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton. To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.</p>	N
7	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the Proposed Development due to its proximity to and potential impact on Bishopton Conservation Area.	<p>To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of supporting structures and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
8	Those who responded to the consultation suggest that Panel Areas E and F should be removed from the Proposed Development in order to protect Bishopton Conservation Area.	collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.	N
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the protection of all heritage assets has not been adequately considered as part of the Proposed Development.	To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.	N
10	Those who responded to the consultation object generally to the heritage impact of the Proposed Development.		N
11	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the setting of Bishopton Conservation Village and Castle Hill should be left alone.		N
12	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the heritage mitigation for the Proposed Development, stating that proposals would not adequately replace the longstanding impact of development.	Mitigation proposals have been produced in line with all relevant legislation, national and local planning policy and within industry standard practice. These have been presented to statutory consultees throughout the process who have agreed in general with the approach proposed. Mitigation going forward will be guided by the Archaeological Management Strategy (Document Reference 6.4.8.5) which has a range of measures which can be applied in a variety of scenarios should significant, unexpected, archaeological remains be encountered.	N
13	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns about the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the WW2 landing strip.	The landing strip is unlikely to have left any archaeological footprint for a number of reasons: 1 - it was a satellite ground so was used when fighters needed to land (low fuel etc) but could not reach their home station; 2 - the fighters were light and did not require any large runway infrastructure to operate; 3 - as a satellite station, there is no evidence	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>there were any associated structures. However, should this prove to have been the case, the archaeological footprint would be limited to postholes for wooden structures. Depending on their longevity, the material used to fill those and a range of environmental factors these could be impossible to identify. In recognition of the presence of this asset, and additional anomalies from the geophysical survey, the Applicant has included an ongoing monitoring provision within ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Document Reference 6.2.8) and the Archaeological Management Strategy (Document Reference 6.4.8.5), to ensure any remains which could be present are sufficiently recorded in consultation with the County Archaeologist and Historic England.</p>	
14	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns about the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the Motte and Bailey Castle.</p>	<p>As outlined in ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (6.2.8), there will be no physical impact to the monument. The Applicant's approach to the Proposed Development has been based on ensuring the fewest impacts to heritage assets.</p>	N
15	<p>Those who responded to the consultation suggest that the old aerodrome and works around Castle Hill should not be included as part of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>There is little evidence to suggest the Proposed Development will have any impacts on archaeology in these areas. Where ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Document Reference 6.2.8) has identified the potential for minor impacts, appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed. The assessment and the subsequent mitigation have been produced in collaboration with Historic England, especially regarding potential effects on designed heritage assets with both parties generally agreeing on the key issues.</p>	N
16	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the heritage statements for the Proposed Development are misleading.</p>	<p>The Applicant's assessment work is undertaken in line with all relevant legislation, national and local planning policy and to industry standard guidelines, undertaken by a team who comprises experts in their field who regularly undertake such assessments to the highest professional standard. The heritage consultant (Wessex Archaeology) are a ClfA registered organisation so are bound by their standards and guidance.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		Additionally, the assessment and the subsequent mitigation has been produced in collaboration with Historic England, especially regarding potential effects on designed heritage assets with both parties generally agreeing on the key issues.	
17	Those who responded to the consultation expressed the importance of protecting heritage assets.	The Applicant's approach to the Proposed Development has been based on ensuring the fewest impacts to heritage assets. This has included the provision of above ground foundations in areas where archaeological remains of sufficient significance have been identified. In terms of enhancement, the Applicant cannot enhance archaeological remains, they are a fixed and finite resource whose significance is determined by the information they could yield through expert investigation at some point. For other assets, there are opportunities to enhance the understanding of the WW1 landing ground through greater information but also through exploring and highlighting its connection to other contemporary sites in the area and to the primary station in Hartlepool.	N
18	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the approach to protection and enhancement of heritage assets is tokenistic.		N
19	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development will have a negative impact on people's ability to enjoy local heritage assets.	As outlined in ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Document Reference 6.2.8), the integrity of the conservation area and its character and appearance will be unaffected by the Proposed Development. This integrity and relationship is best appreciated within the limits of the settlement where the afforded proximity allows the architectural interest of the constituent buildings to be viewed and experienced in conjunction with the defined grass verges and mature vegetation. Additionally, at Church View/Mill Lane as solar PV panels will be constructed approximately 60m behind the existing hedgerows to the north, there will be very limited visibility, if any, of the solar PV panels. The Proposed Development will not only be located at distance from the boundary with the road, but will also reinforce and enhance any gaps in the hedgerows.	N
Engineering Design			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
20	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the scale of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the scale and design of the Proposed Development.	N
21	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the design of the Proposed Development is not appropriate for the local area.	Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.	N
22	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the Proposed Development surrounding the village of Great Stainton.	The Applicant has prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
General			
23	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general opposition to the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
24	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	Development would cause the local area to be industrialised for many years.	Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.	
25	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development would generally have an adverse impact for the affected villages and visitors to the countryside.	The Applicant has prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
Landscape and Visual			
26	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the visual impact of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity and character of the local area.	N
27	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the visual impacts of the Proposed Development, stating that it will cause an industrialising effect to the rural area.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
28	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the proposed	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity and character of the local area.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	planting will not be provided as outlined in the statutory consultation.	<p>The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p> <p>The commitments outlined within both of those documents are secured via the DCO, and therefore the Applicant must deliver the proposed planting in accordance with the commitments made and proposals presented in the DCO application.</p>	
29	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the proposed screening will not be sufficient to obstruct the view of the panel areas.	During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.	N
30	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the time it will take for the screening to become effective.	Across the study area, hedgerows and hedgerow trees are generally in relatively good condition. Much of the mitigation of the Proposed Development would be provided by allowing existing hedges to become taller. This would achieve design heights (typically 1-1.5m above existing heights) in a short timeframe. In relation to new plantings, there is nothing about the soils or climate and no locally prevalent plant pests or	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		diseases that would give rise to particular problems with establishment. The likely time for planting to establish is considered in reporting operation stage effects in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).	
Socioeconomics			
31	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the impacts of the Proposed Development would adversely affect local property values.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to changes to property values as a result of the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would affect the value of local properties.	N

Appendix 6.1(7e) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 7e and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 7e and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation queried if land would be returned to agricultural use.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development, and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned that construction would adversely impact the agricultural land and soil.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	
3	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned that construction would impact soil compaction and drainage and lead to increased erosion.	The Outline Soil Resource Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.12) sets out the monitoring and amelioration procedures that would apply to any soil or drainage problems arising from construction.	N
4	Those who responded to the consultation queried how the site could support grazing sheep and hens when there are foxes in the area.	This technology is being explored by the solar industry but is not yet mature, and would require solar panel structures to be 2m high. Some agricultural activities such as sheep and chicken grazing could be carried out.	N
Biodiversity			
5	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned that construction would impact wildlife.	<p>The design of the Panel Areas avoids impact on protected and declining species, while the proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units.</p> <p>The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.6), which seeks to set out the appropriate management, mitigation and maintenance activities to take place during the construction period to ensure that there are limited to no adverse impact on wildlife during that stage. This document is secured via requirement of the DCO.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Construction			
6	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned around the general impacts of construction stage of the Proposed Development.	An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) have been produced for this ES with details presented in ES Appendix 2.6 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.6). The CEMP will ensure that construction activities are carried out in an environmentally responsible manner, minimising adverse effects on the surrounding environment and complying with relevant environmental regulations. The CEMP will be secured as a requirement of the DCO.	N
7	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the lack of certain plans including a plan regarding the construction impacts arising from the Proposed Development.	Similarly to the CEMP, the following Management Plans have also been produced to support the DCO Application, which seek to assess and ensure minimised effects during the construction period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.2 - Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study (Document Reference 6.4.2.2) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.3 - Assessment of Likely Waste Arisings (Document Reference 6.4.2.3) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.4 - Construction Dust Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.4) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.5 - Major Accidents and Disasters Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.5) 	N
8	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the impact of construction on residential properties, including impacts on property foundations and access to properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.7 - Outline Decommissioning EMP (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.8 - Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.9 - Outline Pollution and Spillage Response Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.9) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.10 - Outline Materials Management Plan (MMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.10) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.11 - Outline Site Waste Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.11) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.12 - Outline Soil Resources Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.12) 	N
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that construction would adversely impact resident's lives and the local community.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.13 - Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan (oBFSMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.13) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.14 - Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.14) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.15 - Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) 	
10	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned about the impacts of construction on the farming community.	Solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain's farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.	N
11	Those who responded to the consultation raised concern around how long construction would take place.	As outlined within ES Chapter 2 (Document Reference 6.2.2), the construction would take approximately 12-18 months to construct the Proposed Development all at once, or 18-24 months to undertake the construction of each Panel Area in phases following the granting of the DCO application.	N
12	Those who responded to the consultation raised concern around the impact of pollution and HGV fumes from construction.	In support of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared a Construction Dust Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.4), which concludes that in parallel with the proposed mitigation measures, there is likely to be a negligible effect resulting from dust-generating activities during the construction of the Proposed Development. Additionally, a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) has been prepared and submitted in support of the DCO. Both documents will be secured via requirement of the DCO, should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
13	Those who responded to the consultation raised concern that construction would cause dust.	In support of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared a Construction Dust Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.4), which concludes that in parallel with the proposed mitigation measures, there is likely to be a negligible effect resulting from dust-generating activities during the construction of the Proposed Development.	N
14	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that construction work for Panel Area F should take place during academic holidays to prevent disruption and noise to the school. It was suggested that work is undertaken in May or June, consultation should take place with the school to ensure construction does not occur during examinations.	Effects on the school during construction will be considered by the Contractor. Where possible, the Applicant will seek to limit effects in the area surrounding the school.	N
15	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that construction vehicles are scheduled to not pass the school during school start and end times.	Following the consultation, the construction routes have been changed to avoid going through Bishopton Village, as outlined in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8).	N
Consultation			
16	Those who responded to the consultation raised concern that documents seem misleading and there seemed to be a lack of consultation.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.</p> <p>As part of the preparation for the consultation, the Applicant engaged with Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council about the approach to consultation, including the location of events, the information provided and the ability to make the documents accessible as much as practicable. This was done through meetings, but also through the</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		development of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This document was prepared in consultation with the three local authorities, and the Applicant sought to carry out the consultation in accordance with that document; this is evidenced in Appendix 4.7 of the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.2).	
Decommissioning			
17	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the lack of certain plans including a plan regarding a decommissioning plan.	<p>Following operation, the Proposed Development would require decommissioning. The process of decommissioning would involve the removal of all solar infrastructure, including the solar PV modules, cabling and on-site supporting equipment, from the site to be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and processes at that time. Any requirements to leave certain infrastructure, for example access tracks, would be discussed and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process.</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
Human Health			
18	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned that		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
19	<p>construction would adversely impact residents mental health.</p> <p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that fumes from construction would adversely impact residents health.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns over the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the mental health of local communities.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).</p> <p>Additionally, during construction the Applicant will have a Public Liaison Officer to provide ongoing communications with stakeholders and members of the public, and who any specific concerns can be address to during the construction of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
Landscape and Visual			
20	<p>Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that construction would impact the character and industrialise the rural area.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.</p> <p>The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
21	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned around the visual impact of construction.	The construction effects arising from the Proposed Development are considered in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).	N
Noise and Vibration			
22	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned around high noise levels during construction.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development, which finds that there would be no significant effects on local communities resulting from the construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11).</p> <p>Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. We have also produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which details the traffic planning and HGV management during construction, as well as the associated impacts on noise as a result of construction traffic. Both documents will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.</p>	N
Safety			
23	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned that children in the local area would be put at risk from construction.	<p>Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and has been designed with safety at the forefront. The principal of putting safety at the forefront of the proposals is secured via a series of management plans submitted in support of the DCO Application Document References 6.4.2.4 – 6.5.2.15).</p>	N
24	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around	Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	the fire risk associated with construction.	<p>Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.</p>	
Socioeconomics			
25	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that construction would lead to closure of public rights of way and impact enjoyment of roads by horse riders, walkers, cyclists etc.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N
26	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the impact of construction on horses and riders.		N
27	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the impact of construction on local businesses.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding impact on local businesses as a result of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the impact on socioeconomic receptors, which includes local businesses within the local area. The assessment itself and the findings of it can be found in ES Chapter 9 Land use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9), which finds that there would be retained access during all stages of the proposed development, and an increase in revenue during the construction period.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
28	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the impact of construction on house prices.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to changes to property values as a result of the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would affect the value of local properties.	N
Traffic and Transport			
29	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the safety of increased traffic from construction.	The assessment significance and impact assessment of the proposed development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	N
30	Those who responded to the consultation were concerned that construction traffic would restrict access for emergency services.	An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8), which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. Additionally, it outlines how access will be retained at all times, and any temporary closures or diversions will be agreed with the relevant Local Planning Authority and emergency services where appropriate. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
31	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the impact of construction and construction traffic on Mill Lane.	The Proposed Development will be accessed using the adopted highway, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) shows the routes that construction vehicles will be advised to use. The advised routes avoid roads with weight limit restrictions and avoid roads through residential areas, where possible. An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). The assessment significance and impact assessment of the Proposed Development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
32	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the impact of construction and construction traffic on the local schools.	The assessment significance and impact assessment of the proposed development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	N
33	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around disturbance from construction workers travelling to site.	An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8), which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
34	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the roads and villages could not adequately accommodate construction traffic.		N
35	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that construction traffic would impact and damage roads.		N
36	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that construction traffic would make parking for residents difficult.	The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
37	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the impact of traffic on local events such as weddings/funerals and events run by the riding stables.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
38	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that traffic figures were inaccurate.	Traffic Assessments have been undertaken using information gathered from Traffic Surveys undertaken between 15-21 March 2023 and information available on proposed developments in the vicinity alongside relevant guidelines. Detail of the Traffic Assessment undertaken is outlined in ES Chapter Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). The Chapter has been compiled in accordance with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines on the Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement, published in 2023.	N
39	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that there had not been adequate traffic surveying.		N
40	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that alternative roads are used for access such as already constructed roads on landowners land or current farm roads.	The Proposed Development will be accessed using the adopted highway, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) shows the routes that construction vehicles will be advised to use. The advised routes avoid roads with weight limit restrictions and avoid roads through residential areas, where possible. The Outline CTMP includes the requirement to ensure wheel washing facilities are provided and drivers will be required to check that their vehicle is free of dirt, stones and dust prior to departing from the site.	N
41	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that alternative routes are used for construction, that temporary signage is used for HGVs, road surfaces should be renewed, and speed limits should be reduced.	The Proposed Development will be accessed using the adopted highway, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) shows the routes that construction vehicles will be advised to use. The advised routes avoid roads with weight limit restrictions and avoid roads through residential areas, where possible. The Outline CTMP includes the requirement to ensure wheel washing facilities are provided and drivers will be required to check that their vehicle is free of dirt, stones and dust prior to departing from the site. The Outline CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
42	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the depot for construction materials should be located at a site that would minimise traffic through villages.	The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		Compounds are proposed for each Panel Area, rather than one larger compound that would serve all Panel Areas. Individual compounds for each Panel Area would reduce the number of associated construction trips.	

Appendix 6.1(7f) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 7f and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 7f and the Applicant’s response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development uses important agricultural land and suggests that the development should instead be placed on brownfield land.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government’s Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p> <p>Additionally, solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK’s food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain’s farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.</p>	
Assessment of Alternatives			
2	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern with the Proposed Development being a solar array, suggesting the alternative of wind turbines.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated, further supporting the growth of renewable energy production in the UK.</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p>	N
Biodiversity			
3	<p>Those who responded to the consultation express concern that the Proposed Development adversely affects wildlife in the area.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.</p> <p>To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.</p> <p>The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units.</p> <p>More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).</p>	
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
4	Those who responded to the consultation express concern over the impact of the Proposed Development on Bishopton Conservation Village.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village.	N
5	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern over the Proposed Development and its approach to the conservation of heritage assets.	<p>Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton. To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.</p> <p>To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>supporting structures and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.</p>	
Cumulative Effects			
6	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development alongside other renewable energy projects in the locality.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly relating to the cumulative and in-combination effect of this Proposed Development with other developments also proposed in the local area.</p> <p>As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13), which takes into account and assesses the combined and cumulative impact on other proposed, in-planning or in-construction developments, and seeks to conclude the overall effect of these, should they all be built. The list of developments included in the assessment has been agreed in consultation with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		It is important to note that projects which are already in operation are not included specifically in this assessment, as they have been considered part of the 'baseline' information. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13).	
Decommissioning			
7	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the land will not be reinstated to agricultural use following decommissioning.	<p>Following operation, the Proposed Development would require decommissioning. The process of decommissioning would involve the removal of all solar infrastructure, including the solar PV modules, cabling and on-site supporting equipment, from the site to be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and processes at that time. Any requirements to leave certain infrastructure, for example access tracks, would be discussed and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process.</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
Engineering Design			
8	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development, and its proximity to residential properties.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development. Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>Solar energy production at this scale is supported by National Policy Statement EN-3 which identifies solar energy production as Critical National Infrastructure. The scale of the proposed development is defined by the capacity available on the National Grid. The Applicant has an agreement with Northern Power Grid to supply 180MW of electricity from solar power to the Norton Substation. The area of land proposed, which was reduced following consultation, is required to produce the generating capacity.</p>	
General			
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed opposition for the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
10	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development is inappropriate for the area.	<p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>The Applicant has prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	
Human Health			
11	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern with the Proposed Development regarding the impact on mental health and wellbeing.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
Landscape and Visual			
12	Those who responded to the consultation expressing concern regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on the landscape and visual character/amenity of the site area.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.</p> <p>The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Noise and Vibration			
13	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development would cause unacceptable noise pollution.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development, particularly with regards to the construction phase.</p> <p>As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development, which finds that there would be short-term, temporary and localised impacts arising from noise pollution during the construction stage of the Proposed Development. There would be no significant effects on local communities resulting from the operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11).</p> <p>Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. We have also produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which details the traffic planning and HGV management during construction, as well as the associated impacts on noise as a result of construction traffic. Both documents will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.</p>	N
Planning and Consents			
14	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the consultation is not adequate and that the Proposed Development will occur regardless.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	
Safety			
15	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development carries a risk of fire.	<p>Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
Socioeconomics			
16	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development would impact local property prices.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to changes to property values as a result of the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would affect the value of local properties.	N
Traffic and Transport			
17	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on increased traffic and the impact of congestion.	<p>The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12).</p> <p>Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	

Appendix 6.1(8) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 8 and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 8 and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that alternative locations that do not utilise agricultural land should be selected for the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p>	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the solar panels are proposed on productive agricultural land which reduced food production.		N
3	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the Proposed Development converting greenbelt and agricultural land into industrial land.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed</p>	N
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the decommissioning of associated infrastructure		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	and the future impacts of this on agricultural land.	<p>Development, and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	
Assessment of Alternatives			
5	Those who responded to the consultation queried why this location had been selected for the Proposed Development, and suggests an alternative location is proposed.	<p>The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3).</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
6	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that other forms of electricity generation, such as small nuclear plants or wind farms, should be considered as a viable alternative because of their lesser impacts.	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated, further supporting the growth of renewable energy production in the UK.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	
7	Those who responded to the consultation considered that solar power is not contributing to net zero sufficiently, and that it is not an efficient form of energy production in the UK.	The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3). Specifically, the north-east region has suitable levels of irradiance to gain a viable yield from current solar panel technology. For this reason, the north-east region was identified as a potential location for solar development by the Applicant.	N
Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)			
8	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns with regards to the safety of and associated fire protection provisions related to the BESS.	<p>Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and has been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
9	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the proposed BESS does not benefit the community.	The positions of the BESS have been moved following the consultation to be further from residential properties.	
Biodiversity			
10	Those that responded to the consultation stated the biodiversity net gain requirements that the Proposed Development must be in accordance with.	The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.	N
11	Those who responded to the consultation queried what the financial compensation is for the loss of wildlife as a result of the Proposed Development	<p>The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units. More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).</p> <p>Adopted and emerging National Policy Statements for Energy (including EN-1 and EN-3) are the primary planning documents against which the Proposed Development is assessed by the Secretary of State in deciding whether to grant a Development Consent Order, however local planning policy does form part of the assessment to test the compliance overall with national and local planning policy.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, a Policy Compliance Document (PCD) (Document Reference 7.1.1) has been submitted, which details the relevant planning policy which the Proposed Development will be assessed against, and a summary of how the Proposed Development is in accordance with that policy(s).</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
12	Those who responded to the consultation stated that Mill Lane is a popular place locally to observe the local wildlife.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised. As part of the Proposed Development, there is a proposed biodiversity offset from Mill Lane to provide a buffer between PV panels and popular walking route. The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units.	N
13	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the proposed mitigation is not appropriate or meaningful, and that not enough could be offered to compensate the loss.	The Proposed Development involves the replacement of arable and improved grassland with poor biodiversity with low-maintenance grassland under panels. The area around the panels and within the security fence will be replaced with either wildflower mix and legume herbal ley, with field margins sown with either wildflower mix, tussock grassland of wild bird seed mix. The Proposed Development will also include biodiversity enhancement areas that will be sown with a wildflower seed mix. The proposed development aims to minimise hedgerow loss, with only around 150 meters lost. The Proposed Development will create new hedgerows and enhance existing ones through additional underplanting by infilling gaps to improve species diversity. The enhanced hedgerows will span approximately 15,130km, while 11,730km of hedgerows will be created. The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units.	N
14	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns about the impact of the Proposed Development on local wildlife.	The design of the Panel Areas avoids impact on protected and declining species, while the proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units.	N
Cable Routes			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
15	Those who responded to the consultation suggested overhead cable routes to prevent road disruption.	Overhead cables would have a greater visual impact compared to underground cables and are generally avoided where feasible in solar development. Measures to avoid or reduce the effects of construction of the cable routes on the local road network during construction are secured through the DCO via the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.7).	N
Community Benefits			
16	Those who responded to the consultation expressed that no community benefits could mitigate the perceived impact of the Proposed Development on Bishopton Village.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p> <p>In addition to a community benefit fund of ~£1.5m available across the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ displace over 4m tonnes of CO2 from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking approximately 101,000 cars off the road for a year; ▪ Provide 7km of new and enhanced hedgerows, 59 hectares of planting and sending between panel areas, 24 hectares of community picnic areas and orchards, 3 hectares of new trees and 29 hectares of biodiversity enhancement areas; ▪ allocate two large fields in the Order Limits solely for habitat enhancement, which will be sown without fertiliser to help lower nutrients in the soil, and will be retained during the 40-year duration of the Proposed Development specifically for ground nesting birds; ▪ prove a 87.85% net gain of in area habitat Biodiversity Units (BUs) and a 108.12% net gain of hedgerow Bus; ▪ provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, enhancing the local public right of way network; 	N
17	Those who responded to the consultation provided suggestions for where the Community Benefit Fund should be allocated to, including for things such as direct to the local communities, or the improvement of local facilities.		N
18	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that community benefits will not adequately mitigate the assets lost, and therefore there is no real community benefit.		N
19	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that residents would be severely impacted which cannot be mitigated with community benefit schemes and that there are no measurable benefits.		N
20	Those who responded to the consultation stated that there should be transparency in the		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	residents knowing the amount of money available for community benefits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provide interpretation boards to be provided at points of local interest along the public right of way network; ▪ provide a community orchard in Bishopton; ▪ provide a sensory garden and car park for the Bishopton Redmarshall Primary School; and ▪ generate approximately £27m in business rates over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, alongside approximately 200 jobs during construction. 	
21	Those who responded to the consultation suggest for reduced or free electricity bills via postcode and solar panels on properties.	The Applicant is proposing a community benefit fund of £1.5 million to be paid over the life of the Proposed Development. The current structure of the energy retail market in the UK is too complex to offer this kind of benefit; however, if the complexities could be overcome, the Applicant would seek to deliver a benefit like this.	N
22	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that unused land could be offered for education purposes to access and learn about the Proposed Development.	Following the consultation, proposals for the community orchard adjacent to the school have been updated to include a sensory garden and school specific amenities. The proposals for the amenity area in Panel Area E have been updated to include interpretation boards and art which include a recognition of the fields use as an airfield in World War 1.	N
23	Those who responded to the consultation expressed opposition and described the Proposed Development community benefits as tokenistic or 'bribes.'	The Applicant propose community benefit funds in order for communities hosting energy infrastructure may benefit. They aren't intended to influence any views expressed during the planning process.	N
24	Those who responded to the consultation queried the value of the proposed picnic bench and orchard.	The Applicant proposes community amenities as part of the design in order for communities hosting energy infrastructure may benefit. It is recognised not all enhancements would be used by anyone.	N
25	Those who responded to the consultation question how the loss, upset and disappointment can be compensated.	The Applicant understands the impact on local communities and seeks to provide enhancements within the design of the project and through community benefit funds. Compensation is not payable.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Consultation			
26	Those who responded to the consultation asked if further consultation would take place or suggested that further consultation is undertaken.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.	N
27	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the consultation and communication with local residents has been inadequate.	<p>As part of the preparation for the consultation, the Applicant engaged with Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council about the approach to consultation, including the location of events, the information provided and the ability to make the documents accessible as much as practicable. This was done through meetings, but also through the development of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This document was prepared in consultation with the three local authorities, and the Applicant sought to carry out the consultation in accordance with that document; this is evidenced in Appendix 4.7 of the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.2).</p> <p>One of the aims of the consultation was to make sure that the information presented was accessible and digestible so that those with an interest in the Proposed Development were able to provide their feedback to the proposals; this was presented in the Consultation Booklet and the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR. However, the full PEIR was also made available for review, which contained a detailed account of the assessments, possible impacts and proposed mitigation measures for each topic and aspect of the proposals.</p>	N
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
28	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the Proposed Development would cause damage to the heritage village.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton.</p> <p>To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.</p> <p>To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of supporting structures, and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.</p>	
29	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the Proposed Development would cause impact heritage assets such as the Motte and Bailey castle and the WW2 landing strip.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to the potential impact on the Motte and Bailey.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Document Reference 6.2.8), which</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.</p> <p>ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Document Reference 6.2.8) confirms that there will be no physical impact to the monument, a design principal which was established at the outset of the Proposed Development. The First World War landing strip is unlikely to have left any archaeological footprint for a number of reasons: 1 - it was a satellite ground so was used when fighters needed to land (low fuel etc) but could not reach their home station; 2 - the fighters were light and did not require any large runway infrastructure to operate; 3 - as a satellite station, there is no evidence there were any associated structures. However, should this prove to have been the case, the archaeological footprint would be limited to postholes for wooden structures. Depending on their longevity, the material used to fill those and a range of environmental factors these could be impossible to identify. In recognition of the presence of this asset, and additional anomalies from the geophysical survey, this area will be monitored during the construction process to ensure any remains which could be present are sufficiently recorded</p>	N
30	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that benefits offered for the Proposed Development are insufficient to compensate for impacts on cultural heritage.	Mitigation proposals have been produced in line with all relevant legislation, national and local planning policy and within industry standard practice. These have been presented to statutory consultees throughout the process who have agreed in general with the approach proposed. Mitigation going forward will be guided by the Archaeological Management Strategy which has a range of	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		measures which can be applied in a variety of scenarios should significant, unexpected, archaeological remains be encountered.	
Cumulative Effects			
31	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around cumulative impacts between the Proposed Development and other developments in the area.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly relating to the cumulative and in-combination effect of this Proposed Development with other developments also proposed in the local area.	N
32	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around community benefits not being adequate when considering the cumulative impacts between the Proposed Development and other developments in the area.	As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13), which takes into account and assesses the combined and cumulative impact on other proposed, in-planning or in-construction developments, and seeks to conclude the overall effect of these, should they all be built. The list of developments included in the assessment has been agreed in consultation with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.	N
33	Those who responded to the consultation suggested locating the Proposed Development in an area not within a 5-mile radius of other solar developments.	It is important to note that projects which are already in operation are not included specifically in this assessment, as they have been considered part of the 'baseline' information. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13).	Y
Decommissioning			
34	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the reusing and recycling of solar panels and batteries.	Up to 99% of materials in a solar PV module are recyclable, with organisations around the UK specialising in solar panel recycling in line with the WEEE Regulations. Additionally, an Assessment of Likely Waste Arisings (Document Reference 6.4.2.3) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, and provides further information on the removal of materials following the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Engineering Design			
35	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the scale and size of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development. Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares. Solar energy production at this scale is supported by National Policy Statement EN-3 which identifies solar energy production as Critical National Infrastructure. The scale of the proposed development is defined by the capacity available on the National Grid. The Applicant has an agreement with Northern Power Grid to supply 180MW of electricity from solar power to the Norton Substation. The area of land proposed, which was reduced following consultation, is required to produce the generating capacity.	Y
36	Those who responded to the consultation suggested for reconsideration of Panel Areas A, C, D, E and F to improve the community benefits.		N
37	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that Panel Areas E and F should be placed further from Mill Lane.	Following the consultation, a panel area has been removed from Mill Lane and the panel area remaining has been moved back from the boundary with Mill Lane. The construction routes have been changed to avoid going through Bishopton Village or use Mill Lane.	Y
38	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the Proposed Development should be distributed with a minimum distance of 10 miles between each Panel Area.	The site selection for a solar farm is led by availability of capacity on the National Grid and the availability of land through agreement. It is very unlikely that enough solar farm sites would be found 3 miles away from any residential properties to meet the need for solar power as outline in the Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.2).	Y
39	Those who responded to the consultation suggest removing Panel Areas E and F.	Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton.	Y
General			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
40	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concern regarding the impact of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
41	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the information provided is not a realistic proposal.		N
42	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the only benefit is to not build the Proposed Development.		N
43	Those who responded to the consultation object to the Proposed Development as it is severely impacting people's lives for profit.		The Applicant is proposing the solar farm and battery storage in response to the Critical National Priority for solar energy as outlined in the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy, and the Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.2).
Human Health			
44	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern of health and safety risk associated with the Proposed Development, including risk to school children, equestrian activities, elderly residents etc.	Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront. Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery and Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.	N
45	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that loss of countryside and places to walk and exercise will impact their health and wellbeing.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns over the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the mental health of local communities.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>The Proposed Development has been designed in such a way that encourages continuous connectivity between local communities by providing new safe and accessible Public Rights of Way (PRoW). To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has also prepared a series of Outline Management Plans (Document Reference 6.4.2.5 - 6.4.2.15) which provide information on how the Proposed Development will be constructed, operated and decommissioned with the local community in mind.</p> <p>Additionally, during construction the Applicant will have a Public Liaison Officer to provide ongoing communications with stakeholders and members of the public, and who any specific concerns can be address to during the construction of the Proposed Development.</p>	
46	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that overall physical and mental health of residents' will be affected.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
47	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that residents and local businesses would be affected by stress and anxiety caused by the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
Hydrology and Flood Risk			
48	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed	A Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy (Document Reference 6.4.10.1) has been prepared for the Proposed Development which demonstrates that it would not impact flood risk and that it would not interrupt overland flow routes.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	Development would interfere with existing drainage networks.	Existing watercourses and drains will not be modified. The proposed layout has maximised the use of existing watercourse crossings and minimised the number of new ones. Additionally, the Applicant is engaging with the gas pipeline and other utility owners to ensure that the cable route does not impede the utilities.	
Landscape and Visual			
49	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns with regards to the impact on the landscape resulting from the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in the landscape setting.	N
50	Those who responded to the consultation object to the Proposed Development as it would change the visual amenity and character of the local area.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity and landscape character are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.	N
51	Those who responded to the consultation drew attention to the fact that that views for landowners are not being impacted by the Proposed Development.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
52	Those who responded to the consultation raised concern around the lack of and inadequacy of benefits to offset the adverse visual impact of the Proposed Development.		N
53	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that views of residents were not heard regarding landscape and visual impacts of the Proposed Development.	The concerns expressed by residents and their ideas in relation to design were heard by the design team, who were present at all phases of the public consultation. A range of views were expressed and a number of specific issues were followed up by the team, by way of design changes and/or site visits to further understand issues and inform the assessment of effects set out within ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) and the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (Document Reference 6.4.7.6).	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		Enhancements to access also reflected responses to specific comments made by local residents.	
54	Those who responded to the consultation suggested the Proposed Development be placed further from communities to prevent adverse visual impacts.	After site selection, during the early stages of design, the extent of the panel areas and the design was modified to mitigate effects on settlements. Specifically, this involved setting development within Panel Area D back from Great Stainton to retain views out to the east above the solar panels, and to remove panels from a slope to the south which faces towards the village; the omission of panels from the closest and more visible edges of panels areas E and F near Bishopton and the inclusion of recreational areas and planting in those locations; and the omission of panels from fields closer to and more visible from Brafferton, to make best use of terrain and existing hedge lines to reduce visibility of Panel Area A.	N
55	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the proximity of the Proposed Development to residential properties, and the visual impact on residents.	This was carefully considered throughout the design of the solar farm with amendments made to the set back of panels and perimeter planting to mitigate effects on properties which would have the closest and most open views of the Proposed Development. A number of individual properties were visited as part of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (Document Reference 6.4.7.6) and concerns discussed with residents. The detailed findings of the RVAA set out effects on properties within 100m of the Proposed Development.	N
56	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the adequacy of the screening.	<p>During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	
57	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the length of time it will take the screening to establish.	Across the study area identified in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7), the existing hedgerows and hedgerow trees are generally in relatively good condition. Much of the mitigation of the Proposed Development would be provided by allowing existing hedges to become taller. This would achieve design heights (typically 1-1.5m above existing heights) in a short timeframe. In relation to new plantings, there is nothing about the soils or climate and no locally prevalent plant pests or diseases that would give rise to particular problems with establishment. The likely time for planting to establish is considered in reporting operation stage effects in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).	N
Lighting			
58	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding light pollution arising from the Proposed Development impacting the rural setting.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including concerns regarding light pollution arising from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared and submitted an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) which provides details on the construction practices and methods that will be used, referencing the working hours and associated lighting which will be required to enable a safe working area. This is accompanied by a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which outlines the potential impact of lighting on local wildlife and proposes a series of mitigation measures where required.</p>	N
Planning and Consents			
59	Those who responded to the consultation suggests that solar projects should be	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	prioritised on roofs, new builds, brownfield sites and/or commercial sites to reduce the environmental impact of solar developments.	As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	
60	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that this proposal is being pushed through at pace by the Government under the Green agenda.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
Safety			
61	Those who responded to the consultation suggested for the Applicant to work with the community to ensure continued safety, particularly near the school.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised with regards to the ongoing safety of residents. Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>The Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.5 Major Accidents and Disasters – Battery safety elements and fire risk, and utilities safety (Document Reference 6.4.2.5) and ES</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery and Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Additionally, during construction the Applicant will have a Public Liaison Officer to provide ongoing communications with stakeholders and members of the public, and who any specific concerns can be addressed to.</p>	
Socioeconomics			
62	Those who responded to the consultation suggested for RWE to use the local shops for food and drink during construction.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the response and thanks respondents for the suggestion.</p> <p>As outlined in ES Chapter 9 Land Use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9), it is anticipated that the Proposed Development would generate approximately £27m in business rates over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, alongside approximately 200 jobs during construction.</p>	N
63	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the Applicant should improve Public Right of Way (PRoW).	<p>The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.</p>	N
64	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns relating to the design of the Proposed Development in terms of connectivity of proposed routes and access of amenities.		N
Traffic and Transport			
65	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of negative traffic related impacts on the village and its connectivity/ accessibility.	<p>The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
66	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the existing road network being unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and construction traffic.	(Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
67	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of existing transport infrastructure not being able to support an increase in traffic associated with the Proposed Development.		N
68	Those who responded to the consultation queried the mitigation planned for increased traffic associated with the substation.		N
69	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the impacts of traffic on residents during construction.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). It would take approximately 12-18 months to construct the Proposed Development all at once, or 18-24 months to undertake the construction of each Panel Area in phases following the granting of the DCO application. The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12).	N
70	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the safety implications of increased traffic and large vehicles, especially on pedestrians, school children, cyclists and horse riders.	<p>Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and has been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		(Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	
71	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of loss of parking amenity in the village	The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
72	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact of increased emissions from vehicles on residents' and school children's health.		N
73	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the increase of pollution arising from construction vehicles.		N

Appendix 6.1(9) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 9 and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 9 and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the use of agricultural land for the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p>	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the solar panels are proposed on productive agricultural land which reduced food production.		N
3	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the Proposed Development converting greenbelt and agricultural land into industrial land.		N
4	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that alternative locations that do not utilise agricultural land should be selected for the Proposed Development.		N
5	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the decommissioning of associated infrastructure and the		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	future impacts of this on agricultural land.	<p>is to be used by the Proposed Development, and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	
6	Those who responded to the consultation suggested for further soil testing to minimise loss of good quality agricultural land.	The Proposed Development has been surveyed in detail at a density of one soil profile observation per hectare, as recommended by Natural England. The survey has identified the areas of best and most versatile agricultural land on site, which extends to 7% of the agricultural land on site. Further information can be found in ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classification and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1).	N
Assessment of Alternatives			
7	Those who responded to the consultation queried why this location had been selected for the Proposed Development, and suggests an alternative location is proposed.	<p>The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3).</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
8	Those who responded to the consultation stated that Natural England (NE) have requested for alternative locations to be assessed and reasoning for its proposed location.	The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3). Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with Natural England during the pre-application stage for the Proposed Development.	N
9	Those who responded to the consultation considered that solar power is not contributing to net zero sufficiently, and that it is not an efficient form of energy production in the UK.	The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3). Specifically, the north-east region has suitable levels of irradiance to gain a viable yield from current solar panel technology. For this reason, the north-east region was identified as a potential location for solar development by the Applicant.	N
10	Those who responded to the consultation considered that solar power produces more energy in the summer months when demand for electricity is lower, so queried why solar was selected.	The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
11	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that other forms of electricity generation, such as small nuclear plants or wind farms, should be considered as a viable alternative because of their lesser impacts.		N
12	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the selected location for the		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	Proposed Development will not be efficient in producing solar power.		
Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)			
13	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns with regards to the safety of and associated fire protection provisions related to the BESS.	<p>Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery and Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
14	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the health impacts of BESS on young children.	There are no expected effects from BESS on young children. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
Biodiversity			
15	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns about the impact of decommissioning on the local wildlife and their habitats.	The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.	N
16	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns with regards to the responsibility of the	To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	<p>ongoing management and maintenance of the proposed biodiversity mitigation.</p>	<p>hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.</p> <p>The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units. More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).</p>	
17	<p>Those who responded to the consultation support the established biodiversity and enhancement areas being left as established post-decommissioning.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. Following operation, the Proposed Development would require decommissioning. The process of decommissioning would involve the removal of all solar infrastructure, including the solar PV modules, cabling and on-site supporting equipment, from the site to be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and processes at that time. Any requirements to leave certain infrastructure, for example access tracks, would be discussed and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process.</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
18	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns with regards to the impact on livestock who will graze under the solar panels due to ingestion of cleaning supplies.	There has been only been one case of sheep being killed as a result of anti-vandal paint used on a solar farm, and therefore it is not anticipated that the Proposed Development would pose a safety risk to livestock.	N
19	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the ecology surveys such as breeding birds were inadequate and some European Protected Species (i.e., great crested newt) were not undertaken.	Great Crested Newt (GCN) surveys do not need to be undertaken, as the Proposed Development will make use of the District Licence Scheme for GCN. Breeding bird surveys have been carried out in line with published guidance and were more than adequate to inform the ecological baseline.	N
Cable Routes			
20	Those who responded to the consultation queried the use of the underground cables after the decommissioning stage of the Proposed Development.	An Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The Outline DEMP establishes that only the 132kV cables from the Proposed Development to the National Grid substation at Norton will remain in situ following decommissioning of the Proposed Development, unless any legislation at the time requires otherwise.	N
Climate Change			
21	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the efficiency of solar power.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated, further supporting the growth of renewable energy production in the UK.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
22	Those who responded to the consultation queries the environmental impact of industrialising the countryside as a means to address the climate emergency.	The Applicant is proposing the solar farm and battery storage in response to the Critical National Priority for solar energy as outlined in the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy, and the Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.2).	N
23	Those who responded to the consultation queried the commitment to a carbon footprint comparison after 25 years.	It is also expected that the carbon cost of manufacturing solar panels will be paid back within the first 5 years of the Proposed Development's operation.	N
Community Benefits			
24	Those who responded to the consultation suggested for revenue to be shared within the local community through the community benefit scheme to be used towards energy efficiency and education.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p> <p>In addition to a community benefit fund of ~£1.5m available across the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ displace over 4m tonnes of CO2 from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking approximately 101,000 cars off the road for a year; ▪ Provide 7km of new and enhanced hedgerows, 59 hectares of planting and sowing between panel areas, 24 hectares of community picnic areas and orchards, 3 hectares of new trees and 29 hectares of biodiversity enhancement areas; ▪ allocate two large fields in the Order Limits solely for habitat enhancement, which will be sown without fertiliser to help lower nutrients in the soil, and will be retained during the 40-year duration of the Proposed Development specifically for ground nesting birds; 	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ prove a 87.85% net gain of in area habitat Biodiversity Units (BUs) and a 108.12% net gain of hedgerow Bus; ▪ provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, enhancing the local public right of way network; ▪ provide interpretation boards to be provided at points of local interest along the public right of way network; ▪ provide a community orchard in Bishopton; ▪ provide a sensory garden and car park for the Bishopton Redmarshall Primary School; and ▪ generate approximately £27m in business rates over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, alongside approximately 200 jobs during construction. 	
Construction			
25	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the methodology of the construction phase has not be thoroughly considered.	An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) have been produced for this ES with details presented in ES Appendix 2.6 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.6). The CEMP will ensure that construction activities are carried out in an environmentally responsible manner, minimising adverse effects on the surrounding environment and complying with relevant environmental regulations. The CEMP will be secured as a requirement of the DCO. Similarly to the CEMP, the following Management Plans have also been produced to support the DCO Application, which seek to assess and ensure minimised effects during the construction period:	N
26	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concern regarding the impact of the construction period on the local communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.2 - Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study (Document Reference 6.4.2.2) 	N
27	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding disruption and disturbance during construction period, and the length of this period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.3 - Assessment of Likely Waste Arisings (Document Reference 6.4.2.3) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.4 - Construction Dust Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.4) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.5 - Major Accidents and Disasters Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.5) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.7 - Outline Decommissioning EMP (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) 	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.8 - Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.9 - Outline Pollution and Spillage Response Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.9) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.10 - Outline Materials Management Plan (MMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.10) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.11 - Outline Site Waste Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.11) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.12 - Outline Soil Resources Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.12) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.13 - Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan (oBFSMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.13) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.14 - Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.14) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.15 - Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) 	
Consultation			
28	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that sufficient details about the Proposed Development have not been disclosed.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.</p> <p>As part of the preparation for the consultation, the Applicant engaged with Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council about the approach to consultation, including the location of events, the information provided and the ability to make the documents accessible as much as practicable. This was done through meetings, but also through the development of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This document was prepared in consultation with the three local authorities, and the Applicant sought to carry out the consultation in accordance with that document; this is evidenced in Appendix 4.7 of the Consultation Report Appendices (Document Reference 5.2).</p>	N
29	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that many local residents do not have access to the internet, therefore not providing paper copies of consultation documents is unacceptable.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
30	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objection to the consultation methodology carried out by RWE.	One of the aims of the consultation was to make sure that the information presented was accessible and digestible so that those with an interest in the Proposed Development were able to provide their feedback to the proposals; this was presented in the Consultation Booklet and the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR. However, the full PEIR was also made available for review, which contained a detailed account of the assessments, possible impacts and proposed mitigation measures for each topic and aspect of the proposals.	N
31	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the consultation and communication with local residents has been inadequate.		N
32	Those who responded to the consultation suggested for a survey analysing the communities effected within the early stage of proposals.		N
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
33	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would adversely impact heritage.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village. Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton. To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.	N
34	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the Proposed Development would cause damage to Bishopton Conservation Area.	To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of supporting structures and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.	N

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		To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.	
Cumulative Effects			
35	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns around the cumulative impact between the Proposed Development and other developments in the area.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly relating to the cumulative and in-combination effect of this Proposed Development with other developments also proposed in the local area. As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13), which takes into account and assesses the combined and cumulative impact on other proposed, in-planning or in-construction developments, and seeks to conclude the overall effect of these, should they all be built. The list of developments included in the assessment has been agreed in consultation with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.	N
36	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that there are already wind farms in the area.	It is important to note that projects which are already in operation are not included specifically in this assessment, as they have been considered part of the 'baseline' information. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13).	N
37	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the cumulative visual effect	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly relating to the in-combination effects from the different elements of the Proposed Development.	N

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	of fencing, CCTV and signage as part of the Proposed Development.	As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13), which takes into account and assesses the in-combination effects from the Proposed Development. Additionally, all elements of the Proposed Development are considered in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).	
Decommissioning			
38	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the land would not be able to recover and support agriculture after decommissioning.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. Following operation, the Proposed Development would require decommissioning. The process of decommissioning would involve the removal of all solar infrastructure, including the solar PV modules, cabling and on-site supporting equipment, from the site to be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and processes at that time. Any requirements to leave certain infrastructure, for example access tracks, would be discussed and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process.	N
39	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the land would be classed as brownfield land after decommissioning which may be used for industrial purposes and/or housing.	The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.	N
40	Those who responded to the consultation object to the land being used for properties after decommissioning.	The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.	N
41	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the quality of land and the impact of this on future generations.	Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	N
42	Those who responded to the consultation queries whether it can		N

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	be guaranteed that the land would not be developed after decommissioning.		
43	Those who responded to the consultation queried whether new solar panels would replace the old panels after decommissioning.		N
44	Those who responded to the consultation state that RWE cannot guarantee a detailed decommissioning plan and its impacts, as this has not yet happened.		N
45	Those who responded to the consultation state that RWE have not provided sufficient decommissioning information such as cost proposals, handling hazardous materials and possible candidates capable of decommissioning.		N
46	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns regarding the disruption and damage during decommissioning.		N
47	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the timeline of decommissioning, citing that many residents may not be in the local area at the time of decommissioning and		N

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	therefore may not be able to hold the Applicant to account.		
48	Those who responded to the consultation objected the Proposed Development and therefore consider that decommissioning is unnecessary.		N
49	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the recyclability of materials and environmental impact during the decommission stage.	Up to 99% of materials in a solar PV module are recyclable, with organisations around the UK specialising in solar panel recycling in line with the WEEE Regulations. Additionally, an Assessment of Likely Waste Arisings (Document Reference 6.4.2.3) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application and provides further information on the removal of materials following the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	N
50	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the soil health and contamination after decommissioning.	It is widely recognised (including by Natural England) that retaining the land in permanent pasture rather than in arable or temporary grass use will be beneficial to soil health during and following the lifetime of the project, particularly in respect of soil biota, soil carbon and soil structures. The Applicant has submitted an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) where further information can be found.	N
51	Those who responded to the consultation queried who would be responsible for the decommissioning and maintenance of the Proposed Development if RWE is no longer in business at that time.	RWE is 125 years old and one of the most established companies in Europe, it is very unlikely it would not be operational for the duration of the project. A decommissioning fund is paid into from a certain point within the project lifecycle to ensure it can be paid for.	N
52	Those who responded to the consultation queried how the footings are going to be removed from the land so the area can be used again.	All infrastructure on site is designed to be removable during decommissioning; for example, access tracks are compacted gravel based and above ground.	N

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53	Those who responded to the consultation queried whether the hedges would be removed during decommissioning.	Hedges would not be removed during decommissioning. The use of the land following this will be a matter for the landowner, subject to relevant environmental regulations at the time.	N
EIA Approach and Methodology			
54	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the PEIR is superficial, insufficient and evidence is not robust.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation.</p> <p>As part of the planning application, an Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared which seeks to assess the impact on particular topics during the construction stage of the Proposed Development. ES Chapter 14 Summary (Document Reference 6.2.14) provides an overview of the assessed effects during construction on each of those topics, including traffic and transport, and socioeconomics, including public rights of way.</p> <p>Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages.</p>	N
55	Those who responded to the consultation stated that surveys have been undertaken in fields and surveyors did not disclose any information on these activities.	The Applicant engaged with the relevant landowners in advance of carrying out surveys in the local area. Additionally, the findings of the surveys can be found in the relevant ES Chapter (Document Reference 6.2), submitted in support of the DCO Application.	N
56	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern with regards to the increase of dust and/or dirt generation from the Proposed Development.	The Proposed Development will be accessed using the adopted highway, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) shows the routes that construction vehicles will be advised to use. The advised routes avoid roads with weight limit restrictions and avoid roads through residential areas, where possible. The Outline CTMP includes the requirement to ensure wheel washing facilities are provided and drivers will be required to check that their vehicle is free of dirt, stones and dust prior to departing from the site. Further information can also be	N

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		found in ES Appendix 2.4 Construction Dust Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.4).	
Engineering Design			
57	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the location Proposed Development due to the close proximity to residential areas and surrounding services especially the school.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
58	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the concrete structure to mount to solar panels.	Pad foundations may be used in areas of archaeological mitigation which will be confirmed prior to the construction of the project. It is not expected that these would present any different effects in terms of the ecological enhancements or drainage when compared to piled foundations. The Applicant is continuing to engage with the Environment Agency on this matter.	N
Food Security			
59	Those who responded to the consultation expressed the need for a national review of the policies in relation to food production and importation, stating an objection to solar development on productive arable land.	Solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain's farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality,	N

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		and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.	
General			
60	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general opposition to the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
61	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the proposed development and stated it is a waste of money.		N
62	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concern regarding disruption to the local communities from operation and servicing of the Proposed Development.	The DCO application for the Proposed Development includes an Environmental Statement (ES), which assesses impacts of the Proposed Development on topics such as (but not limited to) landscape, biodiversity, traffic and transport and cultural heritage. Along with the assessment of these impacts, the ES also identifies any required and appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures. The DCO Application also comprises a Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
63	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the lack of consideration for livelihoods and quality of life.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
64	Those who responded to the consultation expressed financial concerns.	There is no available evidence to suggest that solar farms affect house prices during its operation.	N
65	Those who responded to the consultation expressed the concern	The Applicant acknowledges the concern raised with regards to pollution arising from the Proposed Development. The Application is supported by topic specific assessments	N

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	that the proposed development may cause pollution.	which consider the potential impact on pollution (such as noise and traffic-generating activities) resulting from the Proposed Development. Please see ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11) and ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12) for further information.	
Glint and Glare			
66	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that residents may be affected by glint and glare as a result of the Proposed Development.	Where any moderate or high impacts are predicted as a result of the Proposed Development, with the absence of existing relevant factors that reduce the impact to low or none, suitable mitigative measures are recommended in ES Appendix 2.2 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study (Document Reference 6.4.2.2).	N
Human Health			
67	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern of health and safety risk associated with the Proposed Development, including risk to school children, equestrian activities, elderly residents etc.	Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront. The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
68	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that overall physical health of residents' will be affected.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	Y
69	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the health and safety risks		N

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	for young children as a result of the Proposed Development.		
70	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development could catch fire and smoke will pose health risks to those nearby.	<p>Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
Hydrology and Flood Risk			
71	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns with regards to the Proposed Development's impact on drainage, citing concerns that the local communities will become flooded.	A Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water Drainage Strategy has been prepared for the Proposed Development which demonstrates that it would not impact flood risk on or off site and how surface water would be managed on site to maintain the existing hydrological regime. We have liaised with the Lead Local Flood Authorities and Environment Agency on these matters to identify any concerns and improve our assessment.	N
72	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the ongoing maintenance of the proposed drainage mitigation measures.	The proposed surface water drainage strategy does not include engineered drainage features and would manage surface water at source primarily through landscaping. Therefore, maintenance activities associated with drainage are limited. A maintenance plan has been produced and a responsible party would be agreed post consent.	N
Landscape and Visual			
73	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general		N

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	concerns with regards to the impact on the landscape, including its character and visual amenity resulting from the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in the landscape setting.	
74	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would result in the local area feeling industrialised.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity and landscape character are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.	N
75	Those who responded to the consultation raised concern around the lack of benefits to offset the adverse visual impact of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
76	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the long-term visual impact of the Proposed Development.		N
77	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the adequacy of the screening.	<p>During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been</p>	N

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		shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	
78	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the length of time it will take the screening to establish.	Across the study area identified in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7), the existing hedgerows and hedgerow trees are generally in relatively good condition. Much of the mitigation of the Proposed Development would be provided by allowing existing hedges to become taller. This would achieve design heights (typically 1-1.5m above existing heights) in a short timeframe. In relation to new plantings, there is nothing about the soils or climate and no locally prevalent plant pests or diseases that would give rise to particular problems with establishment. The likely time for planting to establish is considered in reporting operation stage effects in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).	N
79	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that until screening is fully established, a short term solution is required.		N
80	Those who responded to the consultation stated that the information within the regarding 100m consideration zone for visual impact in the PEIR is incorrect. For example, one garden within this zone is not shown on the plan.	This was noted and corrected in ES Appendix 7.6 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.7.6).	N
Lighting			
81	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding light pollution arising from the Proposed Development impacting the rural setting.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including concerns regarding light pollution arising from the Proposed Development. To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared and submitted an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) which provides details on the construction practices and methods that will be used, referencing the working hours and associated lighting which will be required to	N

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		enable a safe working area. This is accompanied by a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which outlines the potential impact of lighting on local wildlife, and proposes a series of mitigation measures where required.	
Noise and Vibration			
82	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of increased noise pollution resulting from the Proposed Development, and subsequent disruption to local communities.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development, which finds that there would be no significant effects on local communities resulting from the construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11).	N
83	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of noise and vibration impacts resulting from increased traffic and large vehicles associated with the construction of the Proposed Development.	Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. We have also produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which details the traffic planning and HGV management during construction, as well as the associated impacts on noise as a result of construction traffic. Both documents will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
84	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the proximity of the BESS to sensitive noise receptors and any associated impact this would have.	Noise from the Proposed Development has been considered in detail within ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11). The chapter follows national guidance on the assessment of industrial noise and concluded that the proposed development would have a negligible impact on all receptors. The Proposed Development will be inaudible most of time, so there will be no health risks associated with noise from the Proposed Development.	N
85	Those who responded to the consultation questioned the accuracy of the noise test or requested further clarification on regulating noise levels.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
86	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the noise impact on the landscape and character of the area.	Noise from the Proposed Development has been considered in detail within ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11). The chapter follows national guidance on the assessment of industrial noise and concluded that the proposed development would have a negligible impact on all receptors. The Proposed Development will be inaudible most of time, so there will be no impact on landscape and character of the area due to noise from the Proposed Development.	N
Planning and Consents			
87	Those who responded to the consultation suggests that solar projects should be prioritised on roofs, new builds, brownfield sites and/or commercial sites to reduce the environmental impact of solar developments.	As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	N
Safety			
88	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the perceived high fire risk posed by the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised with regards to the ongoing safety of residents.</p> <p>Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>The Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.5 Major Accidents and Disasters – Battery safety elements and fire risk, and utilities safety (Document Reference 6.4.2.5) and ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery and Fire Safety</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.	
89	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding a potential increase in criminal activity.	The Applicant has consulted with the local police force and no concerns have been raised to date. CCTV and deer fencing will secure the site and ensure that any activity is intercepted.	N
90	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the radiation emitted from solar panels and any associated impacts to local residents.	There is no evidence that there are any perceptible impacts of electromagnetic radiation from any of the infrastructure resulting from the Proposed Development, or other solar projects.	N
Socioeconomic			
91	Those who responded to the consultation express concerns that the Proposed Development would cause a depreciation in local property values.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to changes to property values as a result of the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would affect the value of local properties.	N
Traffic and Transport			
92	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact of increased emissions from vehicles on residents' and school children's health.	The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
93	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the impacts of traffic on residents during construction.		N

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94	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of existing transport infrastructure not being able to support an increase in traffic associated with the Proposed Development.		N
95	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the character of the area and country roads will change to accommodate increase traffic and large vehicles.		N
96	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the existing road network being unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and construction traffic.	The existing road network is currently used by HGVs, with this being shown in the results from traffic surveys undertaken between 15-21 March 2023. Baseline flows were assessed and HGVs were identified as part of the current mix of vehicles that use the existing road network. The prepared Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) presents proposed access routes for HGVs, taking into account weight restrictions, the nature of the roads and nearby villages.	N
97	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the safety implications of increased traffic and large vehicles, especially on pedestrians, school children, cyclists and horse riders.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
98	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of damage to roads and queried RWE's	The Proposed Development will be accessed using the adopted highway, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) shows the routes that construction vehicles will be advised to use. The advised routes avoid roads with weight limit restrictions and avoid roads through residential areas, where possible. The Outline CTMP includes the requirement to	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	responsibility to repair roads if damaged during construction.	ensure wheel washing facilities are provided and drivers will be required to check that their vehicle is free of dirt, stones and dust prior to departing from the site.	
99	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns specifically relating to the safety and loss of Mill Lane, due to it being a narrow road with no footpath.	The Proposed Development will be accessed using the adopted highway, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) shows the routes that construction vehicles will be advised to use. The advised routes avoid roads with weight limit restrictions and avoid roads through residential areas, where possible. An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). The assessment significance and impact assessment of the Proposed Development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	N
100	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of an increase in traffic, congestion and disruption to residents.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
101	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the PEIR is misleading regarding increased traffic risk.	Traffic Assessments have been undertaken using information gathered from Traffic Surveys undertaken between 15-21 March 2023 and information available on proposed developments in the vicinity alongside relevant guidelines. Detail of the Traffic Assessment undertaken is outlined in ES Chapter Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12).	N
102	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that decommissioning will result in increased traffic.	It is anticipated that the effects of decommissioning on traffic and transport are similar to the effects assessed and reported on in ES Chapter Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12) and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and which will be updated at the appropriate time.	

Appendix 6.1(10) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 10 and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 10 and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the solar panels are proposed on productive agricultural land which may result in reduced food production.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV). As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security. Additionally, solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain's farmers to reduce	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that alternative locations that do not utilise agricultural land should be selected for the Proposed Development.		N
3	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the use of agricultural land for the Proposed Development.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.</p>	
Assessment of Alternatives			
4	<p>Those who responded to the consultation suggested generally that an alternative location for the Proposed Development should be found.</p>	<p>The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3).</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
5	<p>Those who responded to the consultation suggested that other forms of electricity generation, such as small nuclear plants or wind farms, should be considered as a viable alternative because of their lesser impacts.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated, further supporting the growth of renewable energy production in the UK.</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p>	
Biodiversity			
6	<p>Those who responded to the consultation raised queries about the impact on the wildlife and local habitats that have been created after the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. Following operation, the Proposed Development would require decommissioning. The process of decommissioning would involve the removal of all solar infrastructure, including the solar PV modules, cabling and on-site supporting equipment, from the site to be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and processes at that time. Any requirements to leave certain infrastructure, for example access tracks, would be discussed and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process.</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
7	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the Proposed Development would have an adverse impact on local wildlife and their habitats.	The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.	N
8	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the impact on local wildlife has not been carefully or properly considered.	To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.	N
9	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that local communities will no longer be able to access and enjoy the local wildlife.		N
10	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that new wildlife ponds are included as part of the Proposed Development.	<p>The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units.</p> <p>More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).</p>	
11	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the Proposed Development would have a negative impact on larger animals such as deer.	The deer fence is intended to be designed in a manner that would accommodate badger access points. These access points will also facilitate the movement of small-sized animals, including but not limited to hares and foxes, across the Panel Areas. Fencing itself will also be on the inside of existing field boundaries with an appropriate buffer so that large mammal species such as deer can still move across the landscape in the buffer zone between the security fence and	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		existing field boundaries – the buffer zone will be managed to encourage wildlife.	
12	Those who responded to the consultation queried how badgers will be located across the site.	As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment carried out in support of the Proposed Development, a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.1) was carried out which helped to identify the locations of badgers across the site. Should the Proposed Development be granted development consent, a series of pre-construction surveys will also be carried out, to check the locations have not changed.	N
Cable Routes			
13	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the disruption to local traffic and road network, resulting from the digging of cable routes.	The Applicant has expressed a preference within the DCO application for off-road cable routes, in part due to the reduced potential impact and disruption to the local road network of this option compared to the on-road cable routes. Should an on-road cable route be delivered as part of the Proposed Development, impacts to the local road network would be managed through the measures secured via the DCO in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.7).	N
Community Benefits			
14	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns surrounding the community benefit fund, stating that a wind farm in the local area provided a more acceptable community benefit fund.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation. The Applicant is providing a community benefit fund of ~£1.5m available across the lifecycle of the Proposed Development.	N
Consultation			
15	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the consultation and communication with local residents has been inadequate.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
16	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the consultation period was too short and that residents should be allowed more time to read and review the consultation material.	As part of the preparation for the consultation, the Applicant engaged with Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council about the approach to consultation, including the location of events, the information provided and the ability to make the documents accessible as much as practicable. This was done through meetings, but also through the development of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This document was prepared in consultation with the three local authorities, and the Applicant sought to carry out the consultation in accordance with that document; this is evidenced in Appendix 4.7 of the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.2).	N
17	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that many local residents do not have access to the internet, therefore not providing paper copies of consultation documents is unacceptable.		N
18	Those who responded to the consultation expressed their opposition to hard copies of the consultation documents being displayed in Norton.		N
19	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that sufficient details about the Proposed Development have not been disclosed.		N
20	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that it is unacceptable to charge for paper copies of the consultation materials.	In accordance with Regulation 4(g) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) (APFP) Regulations 2009, the Applicant outlined that there would be a charge for providing a paper copy of the PEIR only, but that the other consultation materials such as the non-technical summary, consultation booklet and feedback questionnaire were free of charge.	N
21	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the consultation booklet does not mention that substation equipment is 15m in height.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As part of the preparation for the consultation, the Applicant engaged with Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council about the approach to consultation, including the location of events, the information provided and the ability to make the documents accessible as much as practicable. This was done through meetings, but also through the development of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This document was prepared in	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>consultation with the three local authorities, and the Applicant sought to carry out the consultation in accordance with that document; this is evidenced in Appendix 4.7 of the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.2).</p> <p>As part of the statutory consultation, a consultation booklet was produced which summarised the details of the Proposed Development. It is not possible to therefore include all information and details, however this information was made available within the other documents provided, including the Non-Technical Summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.</p>	
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
22	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would impact Bishopton Conservation Village.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village.</p> <p>Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton. To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.</p> <p>To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of supporting structures and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.	
Cumulative Effects			
23	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the cumulative impact between the Proposed Development and other nearby developments.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly relating to the cumulative and in-combination effect of this Proposed Development with other developments also proposed in the local area.	N
24	Those who responded to the consultation suggested the cumulative impact assessment should include analysis of other proposed and consented wind and solar developments in the area.	As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13), which takes into account and assesses the combined and cumulative impact on other proposed, in-planning or in-construction developments, and seeks to conclude the overall effect of these, should they all be built. The list of developments included in the assessment has been agreed in consultation with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.	N
25	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around cumulative impacts between Panel Areas E and F.	It is important to note that projects which are already in operation are not included specifically in this assessment, as they have been considered part of the 'baseline' information. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13).	N
EIA Methodology and Approach			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
26	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the PEIR is incomplete and request further review.	The PEIR is provided at the time of statutory consultation to provide a preliminary report of the assessments undertaken at that time, which have informed early stages of the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by an Environmental Statement (Document Reference 6.2), which has been updated following statutory consultation and the PEIR, and has taken into account any further assessments carried out, and feedback received to the statutory consultation. Both documents have been completed by competent experts, as evidenced in ES Appendix 1.1 Competent Expert Evidence (Document Reference 6.4.1.1), and are supported by Non-Technical Summaries (Document Reference 6.1.1).	N
27	Those who responded to the consultation expressed confusion regarding the PEIR.		N
28	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the PEIR has been carried out in an 'underhand' manner or to 'spin' results.		N
29	Those who responded to the consultation suggest that because the PEIR referred to the site as a whole, it did not provide a clear description of the ecological impact of the Proposed Development.		N
Engineering Design			
30	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern at the size and scale of the proposed development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development. Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>Solar energy production at this scale is supported by National Policy Statement EN-3 which identifies solar energy production as Critical National Infrastructure. The scale of the proposed development is defined by the capacity available on the National Grid. The Applicant has an agreement with Northern Power Grid to supply 180MW of electricity from solar power to the Norton Substation. The area of land proposed, which was reduced following consultation, is required to produce the generating capacity.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
31	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the site layout has not taken residents' views into account.	Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.	N
32	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern about the proximity of the Proposed Development to local villages.	The Applicant has prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
General			
33	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general support for the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to reach the UK's net zero targets, and the Proposed Development's role in reaching that target.	N
34	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general opposition to the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
35	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concern regarding the impact of the Proposed Development.		N
36	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of adverse impact on the wider environment.		N
37	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the lack of consideration for livelihoods and quality of life.		N
38	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that, if given the chance, more people would object to the Proposed Development.		N
Human Health			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
39	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that human health and safety has not been assessed as part of the application.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
Hydrology and Flood Risk			
40	Those who responded to the consultation stated that the proposed drainage measures must be appropriately maintained.	The proposed surface water drainage strategy does not include engineered drainage features and would manage surface water at source primarily through landscaping. Therefore, maintenance activities associated with drainage are limited. A Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy (Document Reference 6.4.10.1) has been submitted as part of the DCO application, and should the Proposed Development be granted development consent, a responsible party will be agreed to implement the Strategy.	N
Landscape and Visual			
41	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns with regards to the impact on the landscape resulting from the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.	N
42	Those who responded to the consultation object to the Proposed Development as it would negatively impact the landscape and change the visual amenity and character of the local area.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	
43	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the adequacy of the screening.</p>	<p>During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
44	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the proximity of the Proposed Development to residential properties, and the visual impact on residents.</p>	<p>This was carefully considered throughout the design of the solar farm with amendments made to the set back of panels and perimeter planting to mitigate effects on properties which would have the closest and most open views of the Proposed Development. A number of individual properties were visited as part of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (Document Reference 6.4.7.6) and concerns discussed with residents. The detailed findings of the RVAA set out effects on properties within 100m of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
Noise and Vibration			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
45	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of noise and vibration impacts resulting from increased traffic and large vehicles associated with the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development, particularly with regards to the construction phase.	N
46	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact of both noise and vibration resulting from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development, which finds that there would be short-term, temporary and localised impacts arising from noise pollution during the construction stage of the Proposed Development. There would be no significant effects on local communities resulting from the operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11). Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. We have also produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which details the traffic planning and HGV management during construction, as well as the associated impacts on noise as a result of construction traffic. Both documents will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
47	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the noise and vibration impacts on horses due to the proximity of infrastructure from horse stables and horse-riding routes.	There are no specific noise guidelines associated with horses, however noise from the Proposed Development does not have any impulsive noise associated with it, so alarm to horses is unlikely. In addition, the Proposed Development will not notably increase ambient noise levels, so it is unlikely that horses would notice noise from the proposed development.	N
Planning and Consents			
48	Those who responded to the consultation suggests that solar projects should be prioritised on roofs,	As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	new builds, brownfield sites and/or commercial sites to reduce the environmental impact of solar developments.	Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	
49	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that this proposal is being pushed through at pace by the Government under the Green agenda.		N
Safety			
50	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding a potential increase in criminal activity and the delay in reviewing CCTV footage.	The Applicant has consulted with the local police force and no concerns have been raised to date. CCTV and deer fencing will secure the site and ensure that any activity is intercepted.	N
Socioeconomics			
51	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the adverse impact to local businesses.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding impact on local businesses as a result of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the impact on socioeconomic receptors, which includes local businesses within the local area. The assessment itself and the findings of it can be found in ES Chapter 9 Land use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9), which finds that there would be retained access during all stages of the proposed development, and an increase in revenue during the construction period.</p>	N
52	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impacts to Public Rights of Way (PRoW) which are unappealing.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction. Additionally, the Applicant is proposing to provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, further enhancing the local public right of way network.	
Traffic and Transport			
53	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the existing road network being unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and construction traffic.	The existing road network is currently used by HGVs, with this being shown in the results from traffic surveys undertaken between 15-21 March 2023. Baseline flows were assessed and HGVs were identified as part of the current mix of vehicles that use the existing road network. The prepared Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) presents proposed access routes for HGVs, taking into account weight restrictions, the nature of the roads and nearby villages.	N
54	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the safety implications of increased traffic and large vehicles, especially on pedestrians, school children, cyclists and horse riders.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
55	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of an increase in traffic, congestion and disruption to residents.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	
56	Those who responded to the consultation expressed queries regarding the accuracy of traffic assessments.	Traffic Assessments have been undertaken using information gathered from Traffic Surveys undertaken between 15-21 March 2023 and information available on proposed developments in the vicinity alongside relevant guidelines. Detail of the Traffic Assessment undertaken is outlined in ES Chapter Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12).	N
57	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns specifically relating to the safety and loss of Mill Lane, due to it being a narrow road with no footpath.	The Proposed Development will be accessed using the adopted highway, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) shows the routes that construction vehicles will be advised to use. The advised routes avoid roads with weight limit restrictions and avoid roads through residential areas, where possible. An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). The assessment significance and impact assessment of the Proposed Development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	N

Appendix 6.1(11) Summary of the matters raised by section 47 consultees in response question 11 and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 47 consultees in response to Question 11 and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the use of agricultural land for the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate</p>	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the solar panels are proposed on productive agricultural land which reduced food production.		N
3	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the use of agricultural land for the Proposed Development, instead suggesting that other areas such as brownfield land, new housing developments, roof tops of existing buildings are utilised.		N
4	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that alternative locations that do not utilise agricultural land should be selected for the Proposed Development.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p> <p>Additionally, solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain's farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.</p>	
5	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the decommissioning of associated infrastructure and the future impacts of this on agricultural land.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. Following operation, the Proposed Development would require decommissioning. The process of decommissioning would involve the removal of all solar infrastructure, including the solar PV modules, cabling and on-site supporting equipment, from the site to be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and processes at that time. Any requirements to leave certain infrastructure, for example access tracks, would be discussed	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process.</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	
6	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the grading of agricultural land as 3B is incorrect.	The Proposed Development has been surveyed in detail in accordance with the established Agricultural Land Classification guidelines and carried out by experienced soil surveyors. All data has been checked and the gradings are correct.	N
Assessment of Alternatives			
7	Those who responded to the consultation suggests that an alternative location is found	ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3) sets out how the location and layout of the	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	given the presence of other renewable energy sites in the locality.	Proposed Development, including panel areas, was determined as part of the design process. Fundamentally, the location of the Proposed Development has been determined by the location of an agreed grid connection at Norton substation, with panel area siting subsequently identified through a multi-stage process of understanding environmental and planning constraints, technical feasibility and availability of land via voluntary agreement.	
8	Those who responded to the consultation queried why this location had been selected for the Proposed Development, and suggests an alternative location is proposed.		N
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development is located in an area where the character of the countryside will be affected.		N
10	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that other forms of electricity generation, such as small nuclear plants or wind farms, should be considered as a viable alternative because of their lesser impacts.	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated, further supporting the growth of renewable energy production in the UK.	N
11	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the location identified for the Proposed Development, instead suggesting that other areas such as brownfield land, new housing developments, roof tops of existing buildings are utilised.	As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	
12	Those who responded to the consultation stated that the location of the Proposed Development has been chosen to make it cheaper to connect to the National Grid.	The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3). Specifically, the north-east region has suitable levels of irradiance to gain a viable yield from current solar panel technology. For this reason, the north-east region was identified as a potential location for solar development by the Applicant.	N
13	Those who responded to the consultation suggested the Proposed Development should not be at the detriment of communities, even if this would result in a loss of efficiency.		N
14	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern with the location of the Proposed Development, stating that the area is unsuitable due to perceived inefficiency of solar power there.	The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
15	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that the Proposed Development should be distributed across the borough.		N
Biodiversity			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
16	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns about the impact of the Proposed Development on local wildlife and habitats.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.</p> <p>To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.</p> <p>The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units. More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).</p>	N
17	Those who responded to the consultation object to the Proposed Development citing	An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) have been produced for this ES with details	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	concerns about the impact of the Proposed Development on local wildlife and habitats.	presented in ES Appendix 2.6 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.6). The CEMP will ensure that construction activities are carried out in an environmentally responsible manner, minimising adverse effects on the surrounding environment and complying with relevant environmental regulations. The CEMP will be secured as a requirement of the DCO.	
18	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the impact on local wildlife has not been carefully or properly considered.	The repurposing of biodiversity areas, particularly in Panel Area F, illustrates a detailed plan for enhancing the availability of open ground for nesting birds. This includes the sowing of low maintenance grass-rich sward, specifically benefiting species such as curlew and lapwing. The inclusion of embedded design measures in the DCO, along with the detailed Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) and Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.14), highlights a commitment to careful consideration for local wildlife.	N
Climate Change			
19	Those who responded to the consultation considered that solar power is not contributing to net zero sufficiently, and that it is not an efficient energy production in form of the UK.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated, further supporting the growth of renewable energy production in the UK.	
20	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the carbon balance and approach in importing materials.	An assessment of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), including the assumptions that solar PV modules and PV framework will be delivered via sea and Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) from China, whereas the rest of the materials are likely to be sourced more locally, is available in ES Chapter 5 Climate Change (Document Reference 6.2.5). It is also expected that the carbon cost of manufacturing solar panels will be paid back within the first 5 years of the Proposed Development's operation.	N
Community Benefits			
21	Those who responded to the consultation expressed that no consideration has been given to local residents, including the demographic of the area.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
22	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the local community is being unfairly affected for the benefit of wider communities across the UK. They suggest that		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	a more direct link to the local community and providing community benefits would allow for local support.	In addition to a community benefit fund of ~£1.5m available across the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would also:	
23	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that residents will be severely impacted without gaining any measurable benefits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ displace over 4m tonnes of CO2 from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking approximately 101,000 cars off the road for a year; ▪ Provide 7km of new and enhanced hedgerows, 59 hectares of planting and sending between panel areas, 24 hectares of community picnic areas and orchards, 3 hectares of new trees and 29 hectares of biodiversity enhancement areas; ▪ allocate two large fields in the Order Limits solely for habitat enhancement, which will be sown without fertiliser to help lower nutrients in the soil, and will be retained during the 40-year duration of the Proposed Development specifically for ground nesting birds; ▪ prove a 87.85% net gain of in area habitat Biodiversity Units (BUs) and a 108.12% net gain of hedgerow Bus; ▪ provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, enhancing the local public right of way network; ▪ provide interpretation boards to be provided at points of local interest along the public right of way network; ▪ provide a community orchard in Bishopton; 	N

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provide a sensory garden and car park for the Bishopton Redmarshall Primary School; and ▪ generate approximately £27m in business rates over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, alongside approximately 200 jobs during construction. 	
Construction			
24	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding access to their properties during construction.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding the anticipated disruption during the construction stage. Access to properties will be maintained at all times during the construction process, as outlined within ES Chapter 9 Land Use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9).	N
Consultation			
25	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the consultation and communication with local residents has been inadequate.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.	N
26	Those who responded to the consultation asked if further consultation would take place or suggested that further consultation is undertaken.	As part of the preparation for the consultation, the Applicant engaged with Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council about the approach to consultation, including the location of events, the information provided and the ability to make the documents accessible as much as practicable. This was done through meetings, but also through the development of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This document was prepared in consultation with the three local	N
27	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that it is unacceptable to charge for paper copies of the consultation materials.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
28	Those who responded to the consultation expressed their opposition to hard copies of the consultation documents being displayed in Norton.	authorities, and the Applicant sought to carry out the consultation in accordance with that document; this is evidenced in Appendix 4.7 of the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.2).	N
29	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the behaviour of RWE has led to mistrust.	The Applicant has sought to engage and consult with the community throughout the development process. The updates to the proposed development in response to the matters raised in the statutory consultation have meant the proposed development is smaller and with further mitigation measures than originally proposed.	N
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
30	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would impact Bishopton Conservation Area.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village.	N
31	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development would adversely impact heritage.	<p>Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton.</p> <p>To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of supporting structures, and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.</p>	
Cumulative Effects			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
32	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns around cumulative impacts between the Proposed Development and other developments in the area, particularly with regards to visual, ecological and archaeological impacts.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly relating to the cumulative and in-combination effect of this Proposed Development with other developments also proposed in the local area.	N
33	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the lack of assessment of the cumulative impacts.	As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13), which takes into account and assesses the combined and cumulative impact on other proposed, in-planning or in-construction developments, and seeks to conclude the overall affect of these, should they all be built. The list of developments included in the assessment has been agreed in consultation with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. It is important to note that projects which are already in operation are not included specifically in this assessment, as they have been considered part of the 'baseline' information. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13).	N
34	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the number of solar farms being considered for development.		N
35	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that maps provided did not illustrate all other developments, queries if this was done deliberately to mislead.		N
Decommissioning			
36	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern around the recycling of the	Up to 99% of materials in a solar PV module are recyclable, with organisations around the UK specialising in solar panel	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	panels upon decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	recycling in line with the WEEE Regulations. Additionally, an Assessment of Likely Waste Arisings (Document Reference 6.4.2.3) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application and provides further information on the removal of materials following the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	
Engineering Design			
37	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concern regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development. Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>Solar energy production at this scale is supported by National Policy Statement EN-3 which identifies solar energy production as Critical National Infrastructure. The scale of the proposed development is defined by the capacity available on the National Grid. The Applicant has an agreement with Northern Power Grid to supply 180MW of electricity from solar power to the Norton Substation. The area of land proposed, which was reduced following consultation, is required to produce the generating capacity.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
38	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern about the proximity of the Proposed Development to residential areas and local community facilities.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development.	N
39	Those who responded to the consultation commented that Panel Areas E and F do not have community support.	<p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>The Applicant has prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
40	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns about the Proposed Development, which would be alleviated if Panel Area E and F were eliminated.	Byers Gill Solar has a contractual agreement with National Grid to generate 180MW of electricity. This requires the amount of land proposed to generate the electricity. Solar energy generation is also considered Critical National Priority according to the NPS EN-3, meaning it is appropriate to ensure the available grid capacity is met. The generation of 180MW would not be possible with the removal of panel areas E and F.	Y

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
41	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development is larger than previous solar farms and the substation is further away from the solar panels and may not be able to connect to the National Grid.	The Proposed Development has been sited and designed to connect to the National Grid in line with the Applicants Grid Connection Agreement with Northern Power Grid.	N
General			
42	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to reach the UK's net zero targets, and the Proposed Development's role in reaching that target.	N
43	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general support for solar power and renewable energy technologies.		N
44	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concern regarding the impact of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO	N
45	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objection to the general location of the Proposed Development.		N
46	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general opposition to the Proposed Development.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
47	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development is not as 'green' or sustainable as stated.	Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
48	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of adverse impact on the environment.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
49	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that sufficient details about the Proposed Development have not been disclosed.		N
50	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that Panel F may disturb mobile phone signal which would disrupt the nature of their business.	The Proposed Development would not have any impact on mobile telephone, landline telephone or broadband signal. The Applicant has consulted with utilities including telecoms that are in proximity to the proposed development to ensure that any proposals do not affect it.	N
51	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact to Mill Lane.	Following the consultation, a panel area has been removed from Mill Lane and the panel area remaining has been moved back from the boundary with Mill Lane. The construction	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		routes have been changed to avoid going through Bishopton Village or use Mill Lane.	
52	Those who responded to the consultation considered that solar power produces more energy in the summer months when demand for electricity is lower, so queried why solar was selected.	As set out in the Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1) the Proposed Development would respond to the identified need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated via on-site batteries, allowing flexibility in its supply to the national grid.	N
53	Those who responded to the consultation queried why RWE benefits from situated the Proposed Development in the site area.	The Applicant has sought to engage and consult with the community throughout the development process, as evidenced in the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.1). The updates to the Proposed Development in response to the matters raised in the statutory consultation have meant the proposed development is smaller and with further mitigation measures than originally proposed.	N
54	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that a profit motive is being place before the environmental and social needs of the area.		N
Human Health			
55	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern of health and safety risk associated with the Proposed Development, including risk to school children, equestrian activities, elderly residents etc.	Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.</p>	
56	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that human health and safety has not been assessed as part of the application.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns over the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the mental health of local communities.</p>	N
57	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that overall physical health and wellbeing of residents' will be affected.</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).</p>	N
58	<p>Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that there may be unknown health risks associated with living in close proximity to a solar farm.</p>	<p>Additionally, during construction the Applicant will have a Public Liaison Officer to provide ongoing communications</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		with stakeholders and members of the public, and who any specific concerns can be address to during the construction of the Proposed Development.	
59	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that loss of countryside and places to walk and exercise will impact their health and wellbeing.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N
Hydrology and Flood Risk			
60	Those who responded to the consultation stated that the Proposed Development sits within a water catchment area, and queries whether or not this is considered.	The Hydrology and Flood Risk Chapter has included an assessment of groundwater and the associated principal aquifer and source protection zones. We have liaised with the Environment Agency regarding groundwater to improve our assessment of baseline conditions. We have considered the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on the water supply and how these will be addressed through design and mitigation.	N
61	Those who responded to the consultation queried whether or not Hartlepool Water had	The Hydrology and Flood Risk Chapter has included an assessment of groundwater and the associated principal aquifer and source protection zones. We have liaised with	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	been consulted, as a party who extracts water from the local area.	the Environment Agency regarding groundwater to improve our assessment of baseline conditions. We have considered the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on the water supply and how these will be addressed through design and mitigation.	
Landscape and Visual			
62	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development would cause the area to become industrialised.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.	N
63	Those who responded to the consultation expressed general concerns with regards to the impact on the landscape resulting from the Proposed Development.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.	N
64	Those who responded to the consultation object to the Proposed Development as it would negatively impact the landscape and change the visual amenity and character of the local area and surrounding villages.	The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
65	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that Panel Area F be placed further from the road and that areas used should not be on land that rises higher than the village.	Due to the low-lying position of Bishopton compared to the surrounding landscape, this would not be feasible. In practice the elevation does not specifically give rise to increased landscape and visual effects, in specifically in the case of Panel Area E provides some mitigation of effects as illustrated by viewpoint 23. The landscape and visual effects arising from the proposed Development are considered in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).	N
66	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns around the visual impact of the Proposed Development on Mill Lane.	The design of this area of Panel Area A was considerably altered between statutory consultation and the information submitted as part of the DCO Application. Following statutory consultation, the Applicant has located any infrastructure markedly further back from Mill Lane and a reduction in the proposed panel height. These changes, along with proposed mitigation of growing the existing hedge to the north side of Mill Lane will result in effective mitigation in a short timescale as illustrated by the Photomontage for viewpoint 26 (Document Reference 6.3.7.9).	N
67	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with regards to the proximity of the Proposed Development to residential properties, and the visual impact on residents.	This was carefully considered throughout the design of the solar farm with amendments made to the set back of panels and perimeter planting to mitigate effects on properties which would have the closest and most open views of the Proposed Development. A number of individual properties were visited as part of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (Document Reference 6.4.7.6) and	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		concerns discussed with residents. The detailed findings of the RVAA set out effects on properties within 100m of the Proposed Development.	
68	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the lack of screening where horses are kept.	During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.	N
Noise and Vibration			
69	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of increased noise pollution resulting from the Proposed Development, and subsequent disruption to local communities.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development, particularly with regards to the construction phase.</p> <p>As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development, which finds that there would be short-term, temporary and localised impacts arising from noise pollution during the construction stage of the Proposed Development. There would be no significant effects on local communities resulting from the operation or decommissioning of the Proposed</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>Development. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11).</p> <p>Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. We have also produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which details the traffic planning and HGV management during construction, as well as the associated impacts on noise as a result of construction traffic. Both documents will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.</p>	
Planning and Consents			
70	Those who responded to the consultation suggests that solar projects should be prioritised on roofs, new builds, brownfield sites and/or commercial sites to reduce the environmental impact of solar developments.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	
71	Those who responded to the consultation consider that the Proposed Development has not been prepared in accordance with local policy.	<p>Adopted and emerging National Policy Statements for Energy (including EN-1 and EN-3) are the primary planning documents against which the Proposed Development is assessed by the Secretary of State in deciding whether to grant a Development Consent Order, however local planning policy does form part of the assessment to test the compliance overall with national and local planning policy.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, a Policy Compliance Document (PCD) (Document Reference 7.1.1) has been submitted, which details the relevant planning policy which the Proposed Development will be assessed against, and a summary of how the Proposed Development is in accordance with that policy(s).</p>	N
Safety			
72	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding safety during construction and operation.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised with regards to the ongoing safety of residents.	N
73	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding fire risk.	Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
74	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding toxic fumes emitted in fire events resulting from the Proposed Development.	Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront. The Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.5 Major Accidents and Disasters – Battery safety elements and fire risk, and utilities safety (Document Reference 6.4.2.5) and ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Battery and Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.	N
75	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding safety during construction and operation.		N
76	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the Proposed Development could catch fire and smoke will pose health risks to those nearby.		N
77	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding safety during construction and operation.		N
78	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding a potential increase in criminal activity.	The Applicant has consulted with the local police force and no concerns have been raised to date. CCTV and deer fencing will secure the site and ensure that any activity is intercepted.	N
79	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the Proposed Development due to the invasion of privacy and security fences.	The CCTV used on the site is aimed only toward the panel areas and would not be capable of looking into private property.	N
Socioeconomic			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
80	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the visual impact from the Proposed Development would negatively impact business and tourism.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	N
81	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the impact of the Proposed Development on local businesses has not been considered adequately.		N
82	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the villages would become undesirable; reduced residents may result in school closure and a lack of new people.		N
83	Those who responded to the consultation suggested for RWE to improve accessibility for the community.		N
84	Those who responded to the consultation raised concerns that the visual impact from the Proposed Development would negatively impact property values.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to changes to property values as a result of the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would affect the value of local properties.	N
85	Those who responded to the consultation expressed financial concerns.	There is no available evidence to suggest that solar farms affect house prices during its operation.	N
86	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that residents are already experiencing stress due to the fear of losing their property due to the Proposed Development.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Traffic and Transport			
87	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the safety implications of increased traffic and large vehicles, especially on pedestrians, school children, cyclists and horse riders.	The assessment significance and impact assessment of the proposed development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	N
88	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of an increase in traffic, congestion and disruption to residents.	An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
89	Those who responded to the consultation expressed queries regarding the accuracy of traffic assessments.	Detail of the Traffic Assessment undertaken is outlined in ES Chapter Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Traffic Assessments have been undertaken using information gathered from Traffic Surveys undertaken between 15-21 March 2023 and information available on proposed developments in the vicinity alongside relevant guidelines.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
90	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of the impacts of traffic on residents during construction.	An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
91	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns of damage to roads and queried RWE's responsibility to repair roads if damaged during construction.	The Proposed Development will be accessed using the adopted highway, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) shows the routes that construction vehicles will be advised to use. The advised routes avoid roads with weight limit restrictions and avoid roads through residential areas, where possible. The Outline CTMP includes the requirement to ensure wheel washing facilities are provided and drivers will be required to check that their vehicle is free of dirt, stones and dust prior to departing from the site.	N
92	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns specifically relating to the safety and loss of Mill Lane, due to it being a narrow road with no footpath.	The Proposed Development will be accessed using the adopted highway, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) shows the routes that construction vehicles will be advised to use. The advised routes avoid roads with weight limit	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		restrictions and avoid roads through residential areas, where possible. An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). The assessment significance and impact assessment of the Proposed Development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	
93	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact of increased emissions from vehicles on residents' and school children's health.	The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8), which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
94	Those who responded to the consultation expressed the concern that the proposed development may increase emissions.		N
95	Those who responded to the consultation query whether there is only one access point to enter and exit the Proposed Development.	Each Panel Area will have at least 1 access/exit point. Details of access points will be available in the proposed Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8).	N

Appendix 6.2 Summary of the matters raised by section 42(1)(a) prescribed consultees and section 42(1)(b) local authorities in response to the 2023 statutory consultation and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 42(1)(a) prescribed consultees and section 42(1)(b) local authorities and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land				
1	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concern about the lack of information regarding how the site will be returned to agricultural use following decommissioning and who will be responsible for this.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development, and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application,</p>	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
			which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	
2	Durham County Council	Durham County Council noted the importance of protecting agricultural land for food production pertaining to the availability of healthy, fresh food for the local population.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p>	N
3	Natural England	Natural England agrees that the temporary nature of the Proposed Development is unlikely to lead to a significant permanent	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>loss of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land, provided the Proposed Development is of a high standard and there is appropriate soil management. The respondent notes that some components of the development could permanently affect agricultural land, and that the ES should consider these areas and whether the potential impacts would be significant. If this area is less than 20ha, Natural England would not consider this a significant loss, and further guidance can be found within the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Construction Code of Practice.</p>	<p>Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development, and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>Additionally, the Applicant is continuing to engage with Natural England regarding the impact on BMV land.</p>	
Air Quality				
4	Durham County Council	<p>Durham County Council noted that the Proposed Development has the potential to generate dust and expects the detail for the management of this in a dust management plan, noting that the scoping out of air quality from the EIA is considered acceptable as a result of the Outline EMP including a construction dust assessment and mitigation measures following Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) guidance.</p>	<p>In support of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared a Construction Dust Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.4), which concludes that in parallel with the proposed mitigation measures, there is likely to be a negligible effect resulting from dust-generating activities during the construction of the Proposed Development. Additionally, a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) has been prepared and submitted in support of the DCO. Both documents will be secured via requirement of the DCO, should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.</p>	N
Assessment of Alternatives				

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
5	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concern that solar power is only generated in the summer when there is less demand for energy. Respondent expresses a preference for wind turbines.	As set out in the Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1) the Proposed Development would respond to the identified need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated via on-site batteries, allowing flexibility in its supply to the national grid.	N
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)				
6	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concerns that the location of the Battery Energy Storage System has been chosen for cost purposes rather than suitability.	The Proposed Development uses a co-located layout for the battery energy storage systems in order to maximise efficiency. This also avoids a compound layout for the BESS in a central area of the Proposed Development.	N
7	Environment Agency	The Environment Agency notes that a permit is not currently required for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) but that an amendment to the Environmental Permitting Regulations is being considered which may require a permit. It is therefore recommended to design, build and operate the BESS to the best current standards or higher.	The Applicant notes the recommendation from the Environment Agency, and the BESS for the Proposed Development will be designed, built and operated in accordance with the relevant standards, and in accordance with the parameters secured via the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 7.2).	N
8	Environment Agency	The Environment Agency notes that batteries may harm the environment if their chemical contents escapes the casing, and that batteries which no longer work will need to be removed from site and dealt with in compliance with the Environment	The Proposed Development will be operated in line with all relevant legislation.	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		Protection Act 1990 and the Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009. The respondent notes that there may be additional requirements for storage and transport.		
Biodiversity				
9	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concern that the Proposed Development would have a negative impact on biodiversity and wildlife through loss of habitat, interference with rainfall and drainage, and contact with the infrastructure leading to injury or death.	The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.	N
10	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council expressed concerns that the Proposed Development will negatively impact biodiversity due to the removal of habitat space and shadows cast by the panels. The respondent raised concerns that proposed mitigation measures are inadequate.	To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.	N
11	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council suggests that agricultural use of the Site Area would increase biodiversity and states that research suggests solar farms have a negative impact on biodiversity.	The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units. More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
			Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).	
12	Darlington Borough Council	<p>Darlington Borough Council noted that some effects will remain significant despite the mitigation proposed at Panel Areas C and D near to Great Stainton, various broadleaf woodlands, and Panel Areas E and F near to Bishopton.</p> <p>The Council suggested that these Panel Areas are reconsidered and either reconfigured or removed.</p>	<p>During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A. Additionally, in response to the feedback received during the statutory consultation, the size of the Proposed Development has reduced from 530 hectares to 490 hectares, including the reduction of Panel Area F in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton.</p>	Y
13	Durham County Council	<p>The Council noted that the land can be brought back into arable production and that if grass is managed appropriately there can be biodiversity net gain.</p>	<p>The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units.</p> <p>More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).</p>	N
14	Environment Agency	<p>The Environment Agency are satisfied with approach in PEIR to biodiversity and the</p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that the assessment of potential impacts on protected species arising from the Proposed</p>	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		conclusions, and from a geomorphological perspective, we consider that the provided WFD assessment is appropriate. Recommends a 10m minimum buffer from watercourses.	Development is included within ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6).	
15	Environment Agency	The respondent notes that some precautionary mitigation in PEIR Appendix 6.1 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report is not included in PEIR Chapter 6 and would like to ensure that recommendations and actions are taken forward.	The Applicant confirms that ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) has been updated in line with the recommendations made within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.1).	N
16	Environment Agency	The respondent notes that further assessments are not required from a biodiversity and geomorphology perspective but that updated surveys should be completed if the information becomes out of date.	The Applicant notes the recommendation from the Environment Agency.	N
17	Natural England	Natural England supports the commitment to include a Habitat Regulations Assessment with the Environmental Statement (ES) and agrees that Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area, Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar Site and Thrislington Special Area of Conservation should be included. The respondent suggests assessing whether the Proposed Development would have a significant effect on a European Site, and then proceeding to the Appropriate Assessment stage.	The Applicant notes the position of Natural England and their agreement on the provision of a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) (Document Reference 6.4.6.5).	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
18	Natural England	Natural England agrees that there could be indirect impacts during construction and decommissioning on Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI) that are hydrologically connected to the site and that the Construction Environmental Management Plan provided with the ES is likely to be sufficient to avoid these impacts. The respondent agrees with the list of SSSIs identified within the buffer zone.	The Applicant notes the position of Natural England. An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) and Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) have been prepared and submitted in support of the DCO Application, which outlines the potential affects and associated mitigation measures during the construction and decommissioning stages of the Proposed Development.	N
19	Natural England	Natural England notes that the ES should assess the impact of the Proposed Development on protected species, and that there is standing advice for this. The respondent notes that a protected species licence may be required and notes the process for this for District Level Licencing for Great Crested Newts.	The Applicant confirms that the assessment of potential impacts on protected species arising from the Proposed Development is included within ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6).	N
20	Natural England	Natural England supports the commitment for significant net gains for biodiversity, in particular those for breeding waters and the creation of lowland meadow habitat. The respondent suggests using the Biodiversity Net Gain Metric 4.0 to quantify the improvements.	The Applicant confirms that the Biodiversity Net Gain Metric 4.0 was used to quantify the biodiversity enhancements provided as part of the Proposed Development.	N
Cable Routes				
21	Bishopton Parish Council	The respondent raised concerns that the proposed cable routes will have transport impacts on the local roads network and	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction period, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		that resident's vehicles movements and parking within the village will be disrupted.	6.2.12). Additionally, RWE has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed.	
22	Environment Agency	The Environment Agency (EA) states that there are some areas in relation to the cable route options that cross Flood Zone 2 and 3. The respondent raised concern that the FRA did not confirm if there would be underground cables or if any ground raising would occur within Flood Zone 2 or 3. The EA request that RWE confirm this and also whether there will be any increase in flood risk.	The Applicant confirms that there is a cable crossing within Flood Zone 2 and 3. The Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy (Document Reference 6.4.10.1) has been updated for the submission of the DCO Application, which confirms that there will be no associated issues regarding ground raising. The Applicant and the Environment Agency are continuing to engage on this matter.	N
23	Redmarshall Parish Council	Redmarshall Parish Council request that RWE work with other companies constructing solar schemes in the local area to schedule cable laying at the same time to minimise disruption to residents.	The Applicant recognises the number of works taking place in the local area and will seek to co-ordinate these where possible.	N
Climate Change				
24	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concern regarding the disposal of the materials used for solar farms.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding the disposal of materials used for the Proposed Development. Up to 99% of materials in a solar PV module are recyclable, with organisations around the UK specialising in solar panel recycling in line with the WEEE Regulations.	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
			Additionally, an Assessment of Likely Waste Arisings (Document Reference 6.4.2.3) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, and provides further information on the removal of materials following the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	
25	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council states that solar farms are not environmentally friendly.	Up to 99% of materials in a solar PV module are recyclable, with organisations around the UK specialising in solar panel recycling in line with the WEEE Regulations. Additionally, an Assessment of Likely Waste Arisings (Document Reference 6.4.2.3) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, and provides further information on the removal of materials following the decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Additionally, it is expected that the carbon cost of manufacturing solar panels will be paid back within the first 5 years of its operation.	N
Community Benefits				
26	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concerns around the lack of benefits for residents in proximity to the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind. In addition to a community benefit fund of ~£1.5m available across the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would also:	N
27	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council objects to the amount of community benefits proposed in comparison to the impact of the Proposed Development on local people's lives.		N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ displace over 4m tonnes of CO2 from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking approximately 101,000 cars off the road for a year; ▪ Provide 7km of new and enhanced hedgerows, 59 hectares of planting and sowing between panel areas, 24 hectares of community picnic areas and orchards, 3 hectares of new trees and 29 hectares of biodiversity enhancement areas; ▪ allocate two large fields in the Order Limits solely for habitat enhancement, which will be sown without fertiliser to help lower nutrients in the soil, and will be retained during the 40-year duration of the Proposed Development specifically for ground nesting birds; ▪ prove a 87.85% net gain of in area habitat Biodiversity Units (BUs) and a 108.12% net gain of hedgerow Bus; ▪ provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, enhancing the local public right of way network; ▪ provide interpretation boards to be provided at points of local interest along the public right of way network; ▪ provide a community orchard in Bishopton; ▪ provide a sensory garden and car park for the Bishopton Redmarshall Primary School; and ▪ generate approximately £27m in business rates over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, alongside approximately 200 jobs during construction. 	
28	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concern that there is no local benefit from the Proposed Development as local people will not receive the energy generated and	The energy generated by the Proposed Development will be supplied to the National Grid.	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		Darlington Borough Council will not be able to use the energy to meet its carbon targets.		
29	Redmarshall Parish Council	Redmarshall Parish Council requests that residents of Redmarshall Parish are able to access community benefits, and suggest that they should be able to apply to the community benefits fund.	This is being taken under consideration by the Applicant.	N
30	Stillington and Whitton Parish Council	Stillington and Whitton Parish Council suggests that the community benefits fund should be managed by an independent organisation, have a straightforward application process, have funds available for revenue and capital projects and community funds paid to successful applicants in advance of projects so smaller groups and organisations can benefit.	The Applicant manages community benefit funds through an agreement with Parish Council's with a third party used to manage the funds.	N
Construction				
31	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council expressed concerns around the use of Mill Lane for access to Panel Area F. The respondent suggested the construction compound should be revised as access is poor and restricted.	The Proposed Development will be accessed using the adopted highway, and the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) shows the routes that construction vehicles will be advised to use. The advised routes avoid roads with weight limit restrictions and avoid roads through residential areas, where possible. An assessment of the impact of increased HGV flows is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). The assessment significance and impact assessment of the Proposed Development on Pedestrian, Horse Riding and	N

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			Cyclist amenity and Accidents & Safety is detailed in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). All impacts are deemed to be Negligible and Not Significant.	
32	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council stated that they expect the Construction Environmental Management Plan to provide more detailed information on noise control measures, mitigation, predicted noise levels and comparison with ABC threshold values/ 5db (A) change methods in BS5228, programming of construction works, responsibilities, contact information and information on any monitoring.	The Applicant has submitted an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) in support of the DCO Application, which seeks to outline the management and mitigation measures to take place during construction to limit the effects of the construction period of the Proposed Development, should it be granted development consent. Additionally, the Applicant has submitted ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11) which outlines the anticipated noise and vibration levels during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages of the Proposed Development.	N
33	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council noted that the proposed working hours are outside of those usually permitted which are 08.00-18.00 Monday to Friday, 08.00-14.00 Saturday with no activities on Sunday or Bank/Public Holidays. Works should be undertaken during the usually permitted hours but if not, the works should be inaudible at noise sensitive receptors or below a fixed level.	ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (Document Reference 6.2.2) confirms that the construction working hours for the Proposed Development will be 08.00-18.00 Monday to Friday, 08.00-14.00 Saturday with no activities on Sunday or Bank/Public Holidays.	N
34	Durham County Council	Durham County Council stated that a Construction Management Plan will be required and include measures for control and monitoring dust, dirt, noise and	The Applicant has submitted an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) in support of the DCO Application, which seeks to outline the management and mitigation	N

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		vibration. This will include emissions of PM10 and PM2.5, and visible dust emissions.	measures to take place during construction to limit the effects of the construction period of the Proposed Development, should it be granted development consent. Additionally, the Applicant has submitted a Construction Dust Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.4) and an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) Document Reference 6.4.2.8).	
35	Durham County Council	Durham County Council stated that there will need to be measures to prevent mud and other materials migrating onto the highway.	The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) includes the requirement to ensure wheel washing facilities are provided and drivers will be required to check that their vehicle is free of dirt, stones and dust prior to departing from the site.	N
36	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council requested a site-specific Construction Management Plan for each Panel Area and notes what this should include.	The Applicant has submitted an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) in support of the DCO Application, which seeks to outline the management and mitigation measures to take place during construction to limit the effects of the construction period of the Proposed Development, should it be granted development consent. One has not been submitted per Panel Area, but for the whole Order Limits.	N
37	Environment Agency	The Environment Agency requests clarification for the maximum depth of construction works for the panel piles, where archaeological protection is required, the cable trenches, the substation and Norton Substation, access tracks and the concrete plinths for the Battery Energy Storage System. Requests confirmation as	The Applicant has engaged with the Environment Agency on this matter which has since been resolved following the production of ES Chapter 10 Hydrology and Flood Risk (Document Reference 6.2.10).	N

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		to whether the Proposed Development will be below groundwater levels at any time of the year. Suggests providing a cross section of the PV panel with mounting measurements, geology and groundwater level to show the risk to groundwater.		
Consultation				
38	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concerns that the PEIR documents were not accessible for local residents due to their age and the location of the documents online.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As part of the preparation for the consultation, the Applicant engaged with Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council about the approach to consultation, including the location of events, the information provided and the ability to make the documents accessible as much as practicable. This was done through meetings, but also through the development of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This document was prepared in consultation with the three local authorities, and the Applicant sought to carry out the consultation in accordance with that document; this is evidenced in Appendix 4.7 of the Consultation Report Appendices (Document Reference 5.2).	N
39	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concerns that the information in the PEIR and Consultation Booklet, and discussed at the consultation events are different.		N
40	Historic England	Historic England suggests contacting the Conservation Officers of Darlington Brough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council and	The Applicant can confirm that the Applicant has also engaged with the County Archaeologist during the pre-application stage of the Proposed Development and is committed to continued engagement throughout the Examination.	N

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		the archaeological staff at Tees Archaeology for further information.		
Cultural Heritage				
41	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concerns that the provided heritage statements are misleading. The respondent requests for more accurate detail.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village.	N
42	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council expressed concern that the character of the affected heritage assets will be negatively affected.	<p>Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton.</p> <p>To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.</p> <p>To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of supporting structures and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An</p>	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
			Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.	
43	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council stated that the Proposed Development has the potential to impact designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting from immediate and further distances.	To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.	N
44	Durham County Council	Durham County Council stated that a Heritage Impact Assessment will be required and that the search area for the survey should be agreed with the Design and Conservation Team.		N
45	Durham County Council	Durham County Council stated that solar development can impact archaeology and that the design and layout should be informed by consultation with the Historic Environment Record.		N
46	Durham County Council	Durham County Council noted that there are designated heritage assets nearby to the Proposed Development and that the County Durham Plan Policy 44 states that proposals should sustain the significance of designated	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources	N

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		and non-designated assets, including their setting. The Council stated that great weight is given, in accordance with the NPPF, to the conservation of an asset, regardless of the level of potential harm.	such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	
47	Historic England	Historic England notes that the Proposed Development could have an impact upon designated heritage assets and their settings, and sets out the expectations for the Environmental Statement (ES). Historic England notes the expectation of the ES to consider impacts on non-designated heritage assets.	The Applicant confirms that ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Document Reference 6.2.8) considers both designated and non-designated heritage assets.	N
Cumulative Effects				
48	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concern that sequential testing has not been carried out, including the impact of a further site in the local area.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly relating to the cumulative and in-combination effect of this Proposed Development with other developments also proposed in the local area.</p> <p>As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13), which takes into account and assesses the combined and cumulative impact on other proposed, in-planning or in-construction developments, and seeks to conclude the overall effect of these, should they all be built. The list of developments included in the assessment</p>	N

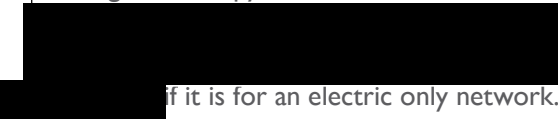
Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
			<p>has been agreed in consultation with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.</p> <p>It is important to note that projects which are already in operation are not included specifically in this assessment, as they have been considered part of the 'baseline' information. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13).</p> <p>The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	
49	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council expressed concerns regarding the cumulative landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development and whether these have been properly addressed, in particular regarding the Battery Energy Storage System.	The solar battery storage would be set amongst the solar panels and would be of a similar scale. All elements of the Proposed Development are considered in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).	N
50	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council noted that the Landscape and Visual Assessment should consider the cumulative effects of committed and proposed solar farms in the area, with impacts post mitigation.		N

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51	Darlington Borough Council	Council expressed concerns that the viewpoint analysis has not considered the impact from some important visual receptors identified in the ZTV studies, or the cumulative effects of proposed and committed solar farms nearby, and this could be considered significant.		N
Decommissioning				
52	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council requested the decommissioning plan seek to limit ground or soil disturbance to minimise the loss of CO2 stored in the ground, and reduce leakage through operations.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. Following operation, the Proposed Development would require decommissioning. The process of decommissioning would involve the removal of all solar infrastructure, including the solar PV modules, cabling and on-site supporting equipment, from the site to be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and processes at that time. Any requirements to leave certain infrastructure, for example access tracks, would be discussed and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process.	N
53	Environment Agency	The Environment Agency notes that the decommissioning, removal or sealing of subsurface structures should be determined when producing the Construction Environment Management Plan for those in particularly sensitive areas and those creating a preferential pollutant pathway close to a public water supply.	<p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p>	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
			Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	
EIA Approach and Methodology				
54	Historic England	Historic England state they are content with the methodology for the purposes of the EIA but notes the difference been significance of effect and effect on significance.	The Applicant notes the position of Historic England regarding the approach and methodology taken to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).	N
55	Historic England	Historic England welcome and support the methodology of the Historic Environment Settings Assessment but states that no comment will be made until the ES has been prepared.	The Applicant notes the position of Historic England regarding the approach and methodology taken to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Both parties are committed to continued engagement during the Examination stage.	N
56	Historic England	Historic England notes the considerations for assessments for solar developments.	The Applicant notes the position of Historic England regarding the approach and methodology taken to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).	N
57	Environment Agency	The Environment Agency notes that the PEIR contains an adequate assessment of groundwater flood risk but that there is no assessment of change in recharge/subsurface flow paths, due to the size of the development, cumulative impacts with other similar developments that may be given permission and the lack of groundwater level data. An improved	The Applicant and the Environment Agency have continued to engage on this topic during the drafting of the Principal Areas of Disagreement Statement (PADS) (Document Reference 7.6) and as such, this matter is now agreed. The Applicant is continuing to engage with the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFCA) on this matter).	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>qualitative or semi quantitative discussion of the change to the baseline water balance pre, during and post development should be provided, even if it is a null impact from the development. Greenfield infiltration rates should be maintained to mitigate an increase in groundwater flood risk and pollutant mobilisation. If maintaining this spatial greenfield infiltration rate (i.e. rate over baseline spatial area (calculated at mm/m²) should be applied to point source of infiltration component) impacts the current design, then it may need to be changed to include attenuation ponds.</p>		
Engineering Design				
58	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council object to the size of the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development. Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>Solar energy production at this scale is supported by National Policy Statement EN-3 which identifies solar energy production as Critical National Infrastructure. The scale of the proposed development is defined by the capacity available on the National Grid. The Applicant has an agreement with Northern Power Grid to supply 180MW of</p>	N

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			electricity from solar power to the Norton Substation. The area of land proposed, which was reduced following consultation, is required to produce the generating capacity.	
59	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concerns around the size of the Proposed Development and its impact on nearby residential properties.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
60	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council expressed concerns that the site layout will adversely affect property values and desirability to prospective buyers. The respondent raised concerns that some homeowners may be faced with negative equity.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in relation to changes to property values as a result of the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would affect the value of local properties.	N
General				

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
61	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council states that the Proposed Development is not supported by the local community.	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated, further supporting the growth of renewable energy production in the UK.	N
62	GTC Pipelines Limited	GTC Pipelines Limited confirmed that the Proposed Development may affect GTC assets. The respondent suggests that for GTC owned assets the guidelines for safe digging practices including just hand excavation, and HSG47 should be followed at all times. The respondent states that once it is confirmed if the Proposed Development will have an impact on the GTC network, the C2/C3 diversion request along with a copy of the letter/email should  if it is for an electric only network. The respondent also states an outline of proposed works and a highlighted GTC drawing with the area in question should be submitted.	<p>The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.</p> <p>The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.</p>	N
63	Hartlepool Borough Council	Hartlepool Borough Council stated that the Council has no objection to the Proposed Development.	The Applicant notes the response from Hartlepool Borough Council.	N
64	Network Rail	Network Rail states that any rights for power or other lines under, over or	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		alongside the railway line will require appropriate asset protection measures deemed necessary by Network Rail.	(Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	
65	Network Rail	Network Rail notes that they would be protected from any compulsory purchase powers, but that Network Rail is willing to discuss the inclusion of any Network Rail land subject to there being no impact on the operational railway. Asset protection measures for construction and maintenance of the Proposed Development would need to be agreed through legal and commercial agreements. There are standard provisions which need to be included within the Development Consent Order, and the respondent provided details of who should be contacted to discuss further.	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	N
66	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) expressed interest in further consultation while the impact of the Proposed Development on assets is further assessed, citing that they have high voltage electricity overhead transmission lines and substations within or in close proximity to the site boundary.	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	N
67	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	NGET stated that where works will occur in close proximity to NGET's apparatus and land, appropriate protection and further discussion on the impact to its apparatus and rights should take place. Additionally,	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		NGET states National Grid's Overhead Line/s is protected by a Deed of Easement/Wayleave Agreement which provides full right of access to retain, maintain, repair and inspect the Proposed Development.		
68	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	NGET states statutory electrical safety clearances must be maintained at all times. NGET states that any proposed buildings must not be closer than 5.3m to the lowest conductor. National Grid recommends that no permanent structures are built directly beneath overhead lines. These distances are set out in EN 43 – 8 Technical Specification for “overhead line clearances Issue 3 (2004).	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	N
69	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	NGET states the relevant guidance in relation to working safely near to existing overhead lines is contained within the Health and Safety Executive's (www.hse.gov.uk) Guidance Note GS 6 “Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Lines” and all relevant site staff should make sure that they are both aware of and understand this guidance.	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	N
70	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	NGET states plant, machinery, equipment, buildings or scaffolding should not encroach within 5.3 metres of any of their high voltage conductors when those conductors are under their worse conditions of	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		maximum “sag” and “swing” and overhead line profile (maximum “sag” and “swing”) drawings should be obtained.		
71	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	NGET states that if a landscaping scheme is proposed as part of the proposal, they request that only slow and low growing species of trees and shrubs are planted beneath and adjacent to the existing overhead line to reduce the risk of growth to a height which compromises statutory safety clearances.	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	N
72	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	NGET states that drilling or excavation works should not be undertaken if they have the potential to disturb or adversely affect the foundations or “pillars of support” of any existing tower.	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	N
73	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	NGET states that NGETs high voltage underground cables are protected by a Deed of Grant; Easement; Wayleave Agreement or the provisions of the New Roads and Street Works Act. Any such proposals should be discussed and agreed with National Grid prior to any works taking place.	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	N
74	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	NGET states that ground levels above their cables must not be altered in any way. Any alterations to the depth of our cables will subsequently alter the rating of the circuit and can compromise the reliability, efficiency and safety of their electricity	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	N

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		network and requires consultation with National Grid prior to any such changes in both level and construction being implemented.		
75	National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	NGET states that if any changes in ground levels are proposed either beneath or in close proximity to their existing overhead lines, then this would serve to reduce the safety clearances for such overhead lines. Safe clearances for existing overhead lines must be maintained in all circumstances.	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	N
76	Network Rail	Network Rail notes that some railway assets could be impacted by construction traffic, such as railway bridges and level crossings, and that further consultation will be required regarding this, as the current information provided is insufficiently detailed. The respondent assumes that a condition of the Development Consent Order would require detailed specifications of the proposed scheme, construction in proximity to the railway and traffic management plans to be provided and agreed in writing before development can commence.	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	N
77	Northern Gas Networks Limited	Northern Gas Networks (NGN) Limited objected to the Proposed Development due to impacts on Northern Gas Networks (NGN) assets including a 300mm steel Intermediate Pressure (IP) Pipeline (7 bar)	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	N

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		<p>passing north south through the site area just to the east of Brafferton and a 350 Steel IP pipeline passing through the site in Redmarshall Road at grid ref 438243,521210. The respondent suggested a private asset protection deed and an electricity pipeline crossing deed that will cover cable crossings, plant crossing points, cathodic protection and any other items of concern. Furthermore, the respondent states that the pipes in the site area are all in private land and are covered by easements that are 50 feet wide centred of the pipe and that the deed confirms that no permanent apparatus is to placed in the said strips of land.</p>		
78	Northumberland County Council	Northumberland County Council stated that the Council has no objection to the Proposed Development.	The Applicant notes the response from Northumberland County Council.	N
79	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council stated that the Proposed Development will not have an appreciable impact with the Council's area and so has no comments at this stage.	The Applicant notes the response from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.	N
80	Yorkshire Water, Wales and West Utilities Ltd	Yorkshire Water and Wales and West Utilities Ltd had no comments on the Proposed Development as it is located outside of the area covered by the consultees.	The Applicant notes the response from Yorkshire Water and Wales and West Utilities Ltd.	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Glint and Glare				
81	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council request further explanation for the selection of less than 60 minutes for solar reflection experienced on any given day.	The guidance document explains why applying a strictly scientific approach to determining threshold limits is difficult, and how they were determined, in particular 6.14: Shadow flicker guidance states that effects for more than 30 minutes per day, over 30 hours of the year, is significant and requires mitigation. Considering the information presented within Section 6.5 and the above, it is deemed appropriate to consider the effects of glint and glare less significant than shadow flicker. Therefore, the duration beyond which mitigation should be required for glint and glare is longer than for shadow flicker.	N
82	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council stated that Appendix 2.2 shows the location of glint and glare mitigation, but does not contain further information on the type of screening. States that a height reflective of upper floor dwellings should be modelled.	In accordance with the methodology used for ES Appendix 2.2 Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study (Document Reference 6.4.2.2), for dwellings, a recommended additional height of 1.8 metres above ground level has been added to account for eye level on the ground floor, with additional floors being assessed as required. Additional heights were be considered where a receptor is higher than a first floor. Modelling is recommended for ground floor receptors because it is typically the most occupied during daylight hours. Additionally, the results for first and ground floor typically do not differ significantly, therefore modelling output for both is not really necessary, it is considered sufficient to consider modelling output for one and visibility for both.	N
Human Health				

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
83	Bishopton Parish Council	The respondent expressed concern that these Panel Areas will have a detrimental effect on peoples health.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns over the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the mental health of local communities.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).</p> <p>Additionally, during construction the Applicant will have a Public Liaison Officer to provide ongoing communications with stakeholders and members of the public, and who any specific concerns can be address to during the construction of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
84	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concern regarding the health impacts of solar farms on local people and the lack of mention of this within the PEIR.		N
85	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concerns that there is no known research on the effects of living in proximity to a solar farm. The respondent suggests that the Proposed Development should not be built until there is the aforementioned research.		N
86	Durham County Council	Durham County Council noted that a risks to population health and wellbeing of local communities would normally be assessed in a Health Impact Assessment or Environmental Impact Assessment and would welcome the opportunity to comment on one of these once complete. The Council request that the assessments are undertaken by experts or would require justification should these documents not be deemed necessary.		N
Hydrology and Flood Risk				
87	Durham County Council	Durham County Council noted the requirement to submit a Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water Drainage Strategy when submitting a planning	The DCO application is supported by ES Chapter 10 Hydrological and Flood Risk (Document Reference 6.2.10), with is further supported by ES Appendix 10.1 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy (Document	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		application, and stated the information that should be included within the Surface water management proposal.	Reference 6.4.10.1) and ES Appendix 10.2 Water Framework Directive Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.10.2).	
88	Environment Agency	The Environment Agency notes that two of the Panel Areas are at risk of flooding and recommends a 10m buffer is applied for biodiversity purposes.	The Applicant and the Environment Agency have continued to engage on this topic during the drafting of the Principal Areas of Disagreement Statement (PADS) (Document Reference 7.6) and as such, this matter is now agreed. The Applicant and the Environment Agency have agreed that an 8m buffer has been applied, and will be secured via requirement of the DCO, and in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.6).	N
89	Environment Agency	The Environment Agency notes that the definition of the Source Protection Zone (SPZ) 2 could be improved by being defined as the time necessary for any chemical pollutant to be attenuated in the groundwater to ensure any groundwater abstracted can meet Drinking Water Standards (DWS's) set for potable water without requiring treatment. The Environment Agency notes that the dilution of chemicals from potential pollution entering controlled waters does not address the load inputted in the water environment, and the development should not add to the chemical load in controlled waters.	The Applicant has engaged with the Environment Agency on this matter which has since been resolved following the production of ES Chapter 10 Hydrology and Flood Risk (Document Reference 6.2.10).	N
90	Environment Agency	The Environment Agency notes the expectation to see a Construction Surface		N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		Water Management Plan and what should be included.		
91	Essex and Suffolk Water/ Northumbrian Water	Essex and Suffolk Water/ Northumbrian Water request that the Proposed Development is designed around their assets and ensured that no structures will be constructed over them.	The Applicant has engaged with this statutory undertaker as set out in the Statutory Undertaker Position Statement (Document Reference 7.7) submitted in support of the application.	N
Landscape and Visual				
92	Bishopton Parish Council	The respondent suggests that the Proposed Development should be appropriately located in areas that will not cause significant visual impact on residents.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.	N
93	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council expressed concerns around the size of the Proposed Development and the subsequent visual impact, making the area feel industrialised and altering the character of the existing landscape.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.	N
94	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concerns around the visual impact of the Proposed Development, particularly regarding the impact on visual amenity for local residents, walkers, cyclists, and horse riders.	The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
95	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concern regarding the impact of security fencing and	The proposed fencing would be deer fencing, i.e. wooden poles and a large grid wire mesh, appropriate to the rural setting. ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) considers the impact of the proposed	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		CCTV on the amenity of neighbouring properties	fencing along with other elements of the Proposed Development.	
96	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concerns around the visual impact of the Proposed Development, particularly regarding the proximity of Panel Areas E to F to Bishopton conservation area.	During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.	N
97	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concern that the proposed screening planting will take a long time to grow and will not be adequate to screen the Proposed Development.	The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
Lighting				
98	Durham County Council	Durham County Council stated that any proposed lighting will need to be the minimum necessary and that a Lighting Assessment will be required.	As outlined in ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (Document Reference 6.2.2.), it is anticipated that the Proposed Development would not be lit, however, infrared security lighting would be required around key electrical infrastructure. This lighting would be sensor triggered and therefore not continuous. Any additional lighting will be limited to the construction period with occasional lighting required for maintenance works during operation, which will not be a permanent fixture. Lighting	N
99	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council noted that external lighting and glare may impact sensitive reflectors, and that the detail of external lighting should adhere to ILP		N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		guidance notes and detail of protection of sensitive receptors should be provided.	will conform to best practice guidelines, with respect to minimising light spill into adjacent habitats and prevent disturbance to bats and other species during construction and operation. Lighting will be minimised to that required for safe site operations. Where lighting is required, it will be directed toward the middle of the working area and will utilise directional fittings to minimise outward light spill and glare, preferably at an angle greater than 20 degrees from the horizontal).	
Noise and Vibration				
100	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council express concern that the BESS storage areas would produce low level noise.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development, particularly with regards to the construction phase.	N
101	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concern regarding noise pollution from the use of fans to prevent the inverters from overheating in hot weather	As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development, which finds that there would be short-term, temporary and localised impacts arising from noise pollution during the construction stage of the Proposed Development. There would be no significant effects on local communities resulting from the operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11). The working hours for the construction of the Proposed Development are identified in ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (Document Reference 6.2.2).	N
102	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council expressed concern that the noise impacts of the Proposed Development have not been assessed, in particular regarding the motorised articulation of the panels, the Battery Energy Storage System, convertors and transformers.		N
103	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council advised that in the BS4142 noise assessment after mitigation the predicted rating level should not exceed the LA90 background level.		Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
104	Durham County Council	Durham County Council noted that detailed noise assessments and mitigation methods may be required, and construction hours should be 0800 - 1800 Mon- Fri, 0800 - 1300 Saturday, and no works on Sundays or Bank Holidays.	mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. We have also produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which details the traffic planning and HGV management during construction, as well as the associated impacts on noise as a result of construction traffic. Both documents will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	
Safety				
105	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council expressed concern regarding the fire risk of the Proposed Development and the lack of response from the Fire Brigade.	Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.	N
106	Environment Agency	The Environment Agency assumes that contaminated firewater and foam run-off will be considered in the Outline Battery Safety Management Plan. It is expected that this will be produced by the operator of the Proposed Development alongside equipment suppliers and agreed with the relevant local authorities. An assessment of risk of fire from battery safety elements should be included within the Environmental Statement.	Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.	N
Socioeconomics				

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
107	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concern regarding the supporting infrastructure negatively impacting the amenity of footpaths and bridleways.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.	N
108	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council requests further information regarding the Public Rights of Way and mitigation to be provided.	The Proposed Development has been designed in such a way that encourages continuous connectivity between local communities by providing new safe and accessible Public Rights of Way (PRoW), which are outlined in the Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.2.4.15) submitted as part of the DCO Application.	N
109	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council objects to the negative impact on amenity for users of the Public Rights of Way due to overbearing and loss of open views.		N
110	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council requests demonstration that the recreational and amenity value of the affected Public Rights of Way would be protected and that diverted routes would be as least as good as those being replaced.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) in support of the DCO Application, which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
111	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council expressed concerns that road access to and from the village will be restricted or closed during construction works which would adversely impact local businesses operating on Mill Lane and Church View.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding impact on local businesses as a result of the Proposed Development.	N
112	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council expressed concerns around the proposed community facilities due to their lack of pedestrian access	As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the impact on socioeconomic receptors, which includes local businesses within the local area. The assessment itself and the findings of it can be found in ES Chapter 9 Land use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9), which finds that there would be retained access during all stages of the proposed development, and an increase in revenue during the construction period.	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
113	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council supports the diversion of PRowWs to the edge of a field and fenced if it currently crosses the field, but requests hedgerows to be planted alongside fencing to preserve the countryside feel. The Council stated that the mitigation of effects to footpaths must be delivered, particularly the additional permissive routes.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRowW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction. During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.	N
114	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council stated that some facilities have not been assessed as part of PEIR Chapter 9 and provided a list for inclusion.	The Applicant notes the omissions from the PEIR Chapter, and has reflected the assessment of the receptors provided in ES Chapter 9 Land Use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9).	N
115	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council requests that, should the off-road cable route go ahead, it may be necessary to close some PRowW for a period of time and so a PRowW Management Plan should be produced to manage this. States that the mitigation measures and additional permissive paths	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRowW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		must be provided to compensate the loss of rural footpaths.	local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.	
116	Durham County Council	Durham County Council noted that County Durham Policy 26 requires PRow to remain open and usable during and post construction. The Council noted that PRow 11, 13 and 23 connect into the site and that the wider PRow network should be maintained during and post construction.		N
Traffic and Transport				
117	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concerns that the route goes through the villages and include narrow roads, sharp bends and restrictive weight limits. The respondent raised concerns that routes are already overburdened and unsuitable for construction traffic and HGV's.	The existing road network is currently used by HGVs, with this being shown in the results from traffic surveys undertaken between 15-21 March 2023. Baseline flows were assessed and HGVs were identified as part of the current mix of vehicles that use the existing road network. The prepared Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) presents proposed access routes for HGVs, taking into account weight restrictions, the nature of the roads and nearby villages.	N
118	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council raised concerns that roads already in a poor state will worsen due to HGV traffic. The respondent is concerned that roads will not be repaired following construction.		N
119	Bishopton Parish Council	The respondent expressed concerns that proposed volumes of construction traffic will limit access for local residents.	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline	N
120	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council objected to the negative impact on amenity for walkers,		N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		cyclists and horse riders should local routes be used for construction traffic.	Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	
121	Bishopton Parish Council	Bishopton Parish Council objects to the negative impact on the local village of construction traffic.		N
122	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council raises concern that the site layout conflicts with the proposed strategic northern bypass/relief road and requests that this is considered within the design.	The Applicant is continuing to engage with the Tees Valley Combined Authority (the promoters for the Northern Bypass) and its interaction with the Proposed Development. At this time, no design changes have been made to the Proposed Development as a direct result of the interaction with the potential routing for the Northern Bypass.	Y
123	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council noted that there is not information regarding the location of each site access, and that detailed design and evidence will be required to demonstrate safe visibility is achievable.	The existing road network is currently used by HGVs, with this being shown in the results from traffic surveys undertaken between 15-21 March 2023. Baseline flows were assessed and HGVs were identified as part of the current mix of vehicles that use the existing road network. The prepared Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) presents proposed access routes for HGVs, taking into account weight restrictions, the nature of the roads and nearby villages. Additionally, the proposed construction access points are shown on the Street Works, Rights of Way and Access Plans (Document Reference 2.3).	N
124	Durham County Council	The Council requests a Construction Traffic Management Plan which considers routes and access for HGVs, traffic management measures for the construction	The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12).	N

Row ID	Consultee	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		traffic, and measures to prevent mud/dirty/dust getting onto the road surfaces.	Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The Outline CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	

Appendix 6.3 Summary of the matters raised by section 42(1)(d) PILs in response to the 2023 statutory consultation and the Applicants response

Matters raised by section 42(1)(a)(d) prescribed consultees and the Applicant's response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the solar panels are proposed on productive agricultural land which reduces food production.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).	N
2	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that alternative locations that do not utilise agricultural land should be selected for the Proposed Development.		N
3	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the loss of agricultural land.	As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	N
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the solar panels are proposed on Grade 3 agricultural land.		N
5	Those who responded to the consultation supported the Proposed Development due to the financial interest for landowners.	Additionally, solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK's food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain's farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.	
Assessment of Alternatives			
6	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the location of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3). The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
7	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that alternative locations should be selected for the Proposed Development.		N
8	Those who responded to the consultation suggested for a brownfield site to be used.		N
9	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that Panel Area E and F should be relocated.		N
10	Those who responded to the consultation suggested for solar panels to be installed on waste land, residential and industrial buildings.		N
11	Those who responded to the consultation suggests that wind turbines would be more appropriate.	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets. Byers Gill Solar would generate enough electricity to power up to 70,000 homes and store excess energy generated, further supporting the growth of renewable energy production in the UK. As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government's Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.	
Biodiversity			
12	Those who responded to the consultation support the compatibility of the Proposed Development with ELMS scheme and the benefits of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).	The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar.	N
13	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the adverse impact on wildlife.	To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.	N
14	Those who responded to the consultation stated that the proposals are inadequate.		N
15	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the disruption to wildlife.	The proposed new habitat creation and enhancement we would provide is expected to have long-term, beneficial impacts on the area, with a significant net gain in biodiversity of 87.85% in habitat biodiversity units and a 108.12% net gain in hedgerow biodiversity units. More information on our assessment of the impacts on biodiversity can be found in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) and ES Appendix 6.6 Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.6).	N
16	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding habitat fragmentation caused by the fencing.	The deer fence is intended to be designed in a manner that would accommodate badger access points. These access points will also facilitate the movement of small-sized animals across the Panel Areas, including but not limited to badgers, hares, and foxes. Fencing itself will also be on the inside of existing field boundaries with an appropriate buffer so that large mammal species such as deer can still move across	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		the landscape in the buffer zone between the security fence and existing field boundaries – the buffer zone will be managed to encourage wildlife.	
17	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the construction noise on wildlife.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges that Byers Gill Solar is located in an ecologically rich area, surrounded by internationally and nationally important sites and many protected and declining species. There are expected to be no direct impacts from Byers Gill Solar on these sites, woodlands and hedgerows from the operation of Byers Gill Solar. To make sure that no direct impacts are felt, we have designed the Panel Areas to avoid impact on the protected and declining species; retain the majority of hedgerows and woodland; a very small number trees are to be felled; provide additional planting not only to create buffers, but also to provide enhanced ecological habitats; and reserved land solely for new habitat creation.</p> <p>Additionally, ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11) outlines the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development, which concludes that they would be negligible and not significant.</p>	N
18	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding habitats and decommissioning.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. Following operation, the Proposed Development would require decommissioning. The process of decommissioning would involve the removal of all solar infrastructure, including the solar PV modules, cabling and on-site supporting equipment, from the site to be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and processes at that time. Any requirements to leave certain infrastructure, for example access tracks, would be discussed and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process.</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	
Cable Routes			
19	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the size of the cable routes.	<p>The DCO application includes cable route options rather than one single defined route to provide sufficient flexibility to ensure that the Proposed Development is deliverable. The Applicant has stated a clear preference in the DCO application for off-road cable routes wherever possible. These are depicted in ES Figure 2.13 (Document Reference 6.3.2.13). Cable route options have been developed taking into account factors such as environmental constraints, technical feasibility and cost. In addition, specific consideration for on-road routes has included the layout and routing of the existing road network, whilst off-road routes have been developed with regard to the need for voluntary land agreement.</p>	N
20	Those who responded to the consultation suggested for the cable routes to not cross roads.		N
Community Benefits			
21	Those who responded to the consultation stated the community benefits will not compensate for the negative impacts of the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised in response to the consultation. The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<p>In addition to a community benefit fund of ~£1.5m available across the lifecycle of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ displace over 4m tonnes of CO2 from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking approximately 101,000 cars off the road for a year; ▪ Provide 7km of new and enhanced hedgerows, 59 hectares of planting and sending between panel areas, 24 hectares of community picnic areas and orchards, 3 hectares of new trees and 29 hectares of biodiversity enhancement areas; ▪ allocate two large fields in the Order Limits solely for habitat enhancement, which will be sown without fertiliser to help lower nutrients in the soil, and will be retained during the 40-year duration of the Proposed Development specifically for ground nesting birds; ▪ prove a 87.85% net gain of in area habitat Biodiversity Units (BUs) and a 108.12% net gain of hedgerow Bus; ▪ provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, enhancing the local public right of way network; ▪ provide interpretation boards to be provided at points of local interest along the public right of way network; ▪ provide a community orchard in Bishopton; ▪ provide a sensory garden and car park for the Bishopton Redmarshall Primary School; and ▪ generate approximately £27m in business rates over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, alongside approximately 200 jobs during construction. 	
Construction			
22	Those who responded to the consultation requested for construction working hours to be limited.	The working hours for the construction of the Proposed Development are outlined within ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (6.2.2).	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
23	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impacts of construction, for example impacts to equestrian facilities.	An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) have been produced for this ES with details presented in ES Appendix 2.6 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.6). The CEMP will ensure that construction activities are carried out in an environmentally responsible manner, minimising adverse effects on the surrounding environment and complying with relevant environmental regulations. The CEMP will be secured as a requirement of the DCO.	N
24	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of construction.	<p>Similarly to the CEMP, the following Management Plans have also been produced to support the DCO Application, which seek to assess and ensure minimised effects during the construction period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.2 - Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study (Document Reference 6.4.2.2) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.3 - Assessment of Likely Waste Arisings (Document Reference 6.4.2.3) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.4 - Construction Dust Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.4) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.5 - Major Accidents and Disasters Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.5) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.7 - Outline Decommissioning EMP (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.8 - Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.9 - Outline Pollution and Spillage Response Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.9) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.10 - Outline Materials Management Plan (MMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.10) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.11 - Outline Site Waste Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.11) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.12 - Outline Soil Resources Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.12) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.13 - Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan (oBFSMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.13) 	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.14 - Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.14) ▪ Environmental Statement - Appendix 2.15 - Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) 	
Consultation			
25	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that the consultation was inadequate.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation.	N
26	Those who responded to the consultation stated that landowners were not notified prior to the Bishopton consultation and therefore have not seen the PEIR.	As part of the preparation for the consultation, the Applicant engaged with Darlington Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Durham County Council about the approach to consultation, including the location of events, the information provided and the ability to make the documents accessible as much as practicable. This was done through meetings, but also through the development of a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This document was prepared in consultation with the three local authorities, and the Applicant sought to carry out the consultation in accordance with that document; this is evidenced in Appendix 4.7 of the Consultation Report Appendices (Document Reference 5.2).	N
27	Those who responded to the consultation stated that the PEIR would take a long time to read and digest the information.		N
28	Those who responded to the consultation objected to RWE charging residents for a paper version of the PEIR.		N
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology			
29	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact to the Conservation Area in Bishopton.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, in particular in relation to Bishopton Conservation Village.	N
30	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the Proposed Development is in close proximity to heritage sites.	Following the consultation, Panel Area F was reduced in size and moved further from properties to the north of Bishopton.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
31	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that there is a lack of regard for existing heritage assets.	To protect this important local asset, the Applicant is proposing that improvements to existing hedgerows and planting of new ones are put in place, which also has the added benefit of improving ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.	N
32	Those who responded to the consultation stated that Durham County Council (DCC) described some of the High House Farm buildings as 'non-designated heritage assets' in the Whinfield Solar report. This should be protected.	<p>To make sure the archaeological record remains undisturbed, the Applicant and its contractor will carefully consider the placement of supporting structures and take further measures to protect any remains which may be underground. Any new remains discovered during the construction of Byers Gill Solar would be investigated and recorded in collaboration with Historic England and the County Archaeologist.</p> <p>To support the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology, which assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on local and designated heritage assets. An Outline Archaeological Strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Document Reference 6.4.8.4) has also been prepared to support the DCO Application, which outlines and secures the proposed mitigation measures for any impacts which have been unavoidable to design out through the development of the Proposed Development. These documents have been prepared in consultation with Historic England and the County Archaeologist, and the contractor will continue to update it should the Proposed Development be granted development consent.</p>	N
33	Those who responded to the consultation stated that there is a potential archaeological Romano-British remains plus a Roman road.	The Applicant has engaged with Historic England and the County Archaeologist during the pre-application stage for the Proposed Development, and has worked with the parties to identify the receptors for inclusion within ES Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Document Reference 6.2.8).	N
Cumulative Effects			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
34	Those who responded to the consultation stated the cumulative effects from Whinfield Solar and Byers Gill will sandwich High House Farm.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly relating to the cumulative and in-combination effect of this Proposed Development with other developments also proposed in the local area.</p> <p>As part of the DCO Application, the Applicant has prepared ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13), which takes into account and assesses the combined and cumulative impact on other proposed, in-planning or in-construction developments, and seeks to conclude the overall effect of these, should they all be built. The list of developments included in the assessment has been agreed in consultation with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.</p> <p>It is important to note that projects which are already in operation are not included specifically in this assessment, as they have been considered part of the 'baseline' information. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13).</p>	N
Decommissioning			
35	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding any guarantee that the land will be agricultural after decommissioning.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development, and confirms that only 6.1% of the total	N
36	Those who responded to the consultation expressed the importance of considering the long-term impacts of the land, beyond 40 years.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
37	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impacts of decommissioning.	<p>site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>The planning consent granted to the proposed development is temporary. There would be no change to the planning status of the land once the solar farm is decommissioned.</p> <p>The land used for the Proposed Development would be returned to its original use with areas of established mitigation left in situ where possible and in agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Additionally, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application, which sets out the general principles to be followed in the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
38	Those who responded to the consultation supports solar energy, on the condition that materials are recycled, because it is less damaging to the environment.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. Up to 99% of materials in a solar PV module are recyclable, with organisations around the UK specialising in solar panel recycling in line with the WEEE Regulations. Additionally, an Assessment of Likely Waste Arisings (Document Reference 6.4.2.3) has been prepared in support of the DCO Application and provides further information on the removal of materials following the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	N
Engineering Design			
39	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the size of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development.	N
40	Those who responded to the consultation object to solar panels adjacent to their property.	Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
41	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the close proximity of the Proposed Development to residential properties and local amenities.	<p>received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p> <p>The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.</p>	N
General			
42	Those who responded to the consultation support the use of renewable energy.	The Applicant acknowledges the need for a range of renewable energy projects in order to secure the UK's energy security, and in order to reach our net zero targets.	N
43	Those who responded to the consultation supports the use of renewable energy but objects to the size of the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, and notes the concerns regarding the size and scale of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Through ongoing engagement with landowners and as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation, the overall size of the Proposed Development has now been reduced from 563 hectares to 490 hectares.</p>	N
44	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the need for	N
45	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding Panel Area A.		N
46	Those who responded to the consultation support the Proposed Development as this provides renewable energy for those that cannot personally purchase solar panels.		N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
47	Those who responded to the consultation queried whether the UK Governments preferred strategy for solar is on greenfield land as this was stated in the consultation.	the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
48	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern for the insufficient consideration of the impacts on the community.	The DCO application for the Proposed Development includes an Environmental Statement (ES), which assesses impacts of the Proposed Development on topics such as (but not limited to) landscape, biodiversity, traffic and transport and cultural heritage. Along with the assessment of these impacts, the ES also identifies any required and appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures.	N
49	Those who responded to the consultation requests for more further consideration for residents.	The DCO Application also comprises a Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	N
50	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of the Proposed Development on adjacent villages.	The Applicant has also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
51	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact to Bishopton and Mill Lane.		N
52	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding a need for more maintenance overtime.		N
53	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact to Mill Lane.	Following the consultation, a panel area has been removed from Mill Lane and the panel area remaining has been moved back from the boundary with Mill Lane. The construction routes have been changed to avoid going through Bishopton Village or use Mill Lane.	N
54	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact on horses.	There are no specific noise guidelines associated with horses, however noise from the Proposed Development does not have any impulsive noise associated with it, so alarm to horses is unlikely. In addition, the Proposed Development will not notably increase ambient noise levels, so	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		it is unlikely that horses would notice noise from the proposed development.	
55	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding pollution.	The Applicant acknowledges the concern raised with regards to pollution arising from the Proposed Development. The Application is supported by topic specific assessments which consider the potential impact on pollution (such as noise and traffic-generating activities) resulting from the Proposed Development. Please see ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11) and ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12) for further information.	N
Human Health			
56	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the negative impact to wellbeing.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. As identified within the Scoping Opinion (Document Reference 4.2), a dedicated assessment on Human Health has not been scoped into the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. However, potential impacts on Human Health are assessed, where relevant, in individual topic chapters and supporting appendices, such as the Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Document Reference 2.5) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document Reference 2.14).	N
Landscape and Visual			
57	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the adequacy of the screening.	During the early stages of the design of the panel areas, careful consideration was given to the likely effectiveness of planting to mitigate effects, and the areas where screening would be ineffective and where a reduction in panel extent would be a more effective form of mitigation were identified. This resulted in changes to the layout across the development but very specifically at the northeast edges of Panel Areas E and F, to the south of Great Stainton, and at the northern and eastern edges of Panel Area A.	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	
58	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the adverse appearance and character upon the rural area.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity.	N
59	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the countryside is being industrialised.	The DCO Application is supported by ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) which provides an assessment of the impacts and associated mitigation required as a result of the Proposed Development, so that the effects on visual amenity are avoided or reduced wherever practicable.	N
60	Those who responded to the consultation speculates the location of solar panels not near landowners due to the adverse visual impacts.	The Applicant also prepared and submitted a Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	N
61	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the visual impact from security fencing.		N
62	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the proximity of panels to respondent's land and requests for offset from field boundaries and evergreen planting.		N
63	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the impact on the landscape at Bishopton.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, particularly with regards to the change in visual amenity in Bishopton. The Applicant acknowledges that ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) reports a significant effect on landscape and	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		visual receptors in Bishopton. ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7) and the Design Approach Document (DAD) (Document Reference 7.2) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	
64	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns with the proposed landscape and visual mitigation, specifically in relation to the length of time it will take the screening to establish.	Across the study area identified in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7), the existing hedgerows and hedgerow trees are generally in relatively good condition. Much of the mitigation of the Proposed Development would be provided by allowing existing hedges to become taller. This would achieve design heights (typically 1-1.5m above existing heights) in a short timeframe. In relation to new plantings, there is nothing about the soils or climate and no locally prevalent plant pests or diseases that would give rise to particular problems with establishment. The likely time for planting to establish is considered in reporting operation stage effects in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7).	N
Noise and Vibration			
65	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding noise pollution.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development, particularly with regards to the construction phase.	N
66	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the noise of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).	As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development, which finds that there would be short-term, temporary and localised impacts arising from noise pollution during the construction stage of the Proposed Development.	N
67	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the tranquillity for walkers.	There would be no significant effects on local communities resulting from the operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Further	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
68	Those who responded to the consultation objected to the noise and negative impact on businesses.	<p>information can be found in ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11).</p> <p>Additionally, a Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.7) has been produced, which outlines our proposed mitigation for impacts felt during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. We have also produced an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which details the traffic planning and HGV management during construction, as well as the associated impacts on noise as a result of construction traffic. Both documents will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.</p>	N
69	Those who responded to the consultation requested for the noise and vibration test to be expanded to 300m from roads used for construction.	Noise from construction traffic has been assessed and concluded that all construction traffic will increase noise levels by less than 1dB at any receptors. This change would not be discernible to the human ear and the impact is therefore concluded to be insignificant. Further information can be found in ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11).	N
Safety			
70	Those who responded to the consultation expressed fire concerns from BESS.	<p>Safety for local communities, construction workers and local wildlife is a key priority for the Applicant during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, and the proposed community areas have been designed with safety at the forefront.</p> <p>Additionally, the Applicant has engaged with and consulted the local Fire and Rescue service throughout the design of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is supported by ES Appendix 2.13 Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery Fire Safety Management (Document Reference 6.4.2.13), which sets out how the measures for ensuring safety is at the forefront of the Proposed Development.</p>	N
71	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding fire risk.		N
Socioeconomics			

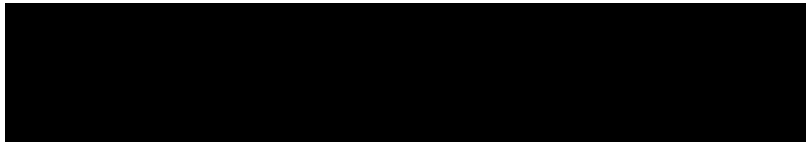
Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
72	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern that this area is selected due to the low population density.	The Applicant has carefully considered a series of alternatives to the Proposed Development, including with regards to the location of Byers Gill Solar. A detailed account of this process has been provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3).	N
73	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding decreasing property values.		N
74	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the adverse impacts to village amenities.	The Applicant acknowledges the concerns raised regarding impact on local businesses as a result of the Proposed Development.	N
75	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact to businesses during construction.	As part of the planning application, the Applicant has assessed the impact on socioeconomic receptors, which includes local businesses within the local area. The assessment itself and the findings of it can be found in ES Chapter 9 Land use and Socioeconomics (Document Reference 6.2.9), which finds that there would be retained access during all stages of the proposed development, and an increase in revenue during the construction period. The assessment concludes that there would be a minor beneficial effect on local businesses, which is not significant.	N
76	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the negative impact to livelihoods.		N
77	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the changes to PRow.		The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRow Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction.
78	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns that the rerouting of PRow will increase vulnerability to theft.	N	
79	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding walking routes.	N	
Traffic and Transport			

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
80	Those who responded to the consultation requested for detailed information on traffic mitigation.	<p>The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The Outline CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.</p>	N
81	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the suitability of roads for site traffic.		N
82	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding travel routes and access.		N
83	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the impact of road safety on schools.		N
84	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding congestion.		N
85	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the traffic at Mill Lane.		N
86	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the construction traffic and impact on residents.	<p>The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction period, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed.</p>	N
87	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concern regarding the effectiveness of lanes for the emergency services.	<p>The Applicant will seek to minimise disruption as much as possible during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages, as outlined in ES Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12). Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) which outlines</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		how the construction of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The Outline CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times. Additionally, the CTMP confirms that appropriate access for emergency services during all stages of the Proposed Development.	

Appendix 7.1 Early Adopters Programme - post-consultation engagement

From:



Attachments:

JBM Byers Gill Solar - You said, we did newsletter.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam,

Byers Gill Solar: Update following statutory consultation

Following our Statutory Consultation which was held in May-June 2023, we have continued with further design and assessment works as we look towards submitting our Development Consent Order (DCO) application in the new year. As a result of this further work, we are now shortly set to release a public update on the changes since to Proposed Development since statutory consultation and we are also carrying out a further targeted consultation. We are writing to inform you about the design changes and targeted consultation, and to provide you with an opportunity to comment. Please can we receive any comments by 11 December 2023.

Design changes since statutory consultation

As you are likely already aware from recent engagement, the feedback we received at our statutory consultation, combined with further assessments and engagement with other stakeholders has allowed us to further refine our proposals. We will shortly be publishing a newsletter detailing all of the changes that we have made. These include:

- a reduction in panel heights
- reducing the number of panels
- setting panel areas back from areas highlighted as important to the community
- removing some sections of on road cable route
- altering construction traffic access routes to some panel areas to avoid villages

These changes are explained in the attached Newsletter, which is available on our website alongside a number of videos explaining the changes. These will also be available on our new project Facebook page, which can be found at



Change to proposed construction programme

Additionally, we have reviewed our plans for the construction of the Proposed Development. At statutory consultation, we stated that we would construct the Proposed Development in approximately 12 months, in a single phase. This was the basis of the preliminary environmental assessment published at statutory consultation in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). In further developing our proposals, we have now revised our proposed construction programme to either 12-18 months in a single phase, or 18-24 months in a phased delivery. We are undertaking the environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the basis of both scenarios and the Environmental Statement (ES) with the DCO application will clearly state which construction programme scenario is the 'worst case' for each topic chapter of the ES. In some instances, this would be both scenarios as the length of construction may not be relevant to the topic and its assessment of effects, or materially change the significance of effect in either scenario. Consideration of specific topics is set out below:

Topic chapter	Construction programme assessment scenario	Notes
Chapter 5 Climate Change (Document Reference 6.2.5)	18-24 months to construct the Proposed Development.	It is considered that a longer construction programme would result in a larger generation of GHG emissions. However neither scenario would change the outcome of significance.
Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6)	Both scenarios are assessed.	Impacts would be very similar; neither construction programme is considered to be 'worst case', therefore the biodiversity assessment considers both.
Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7)	Both scenarios are assessed.	Neither construction programme is considered to be 'worst case', therefore the Landscape and Visual assessment considers both.
Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Document Reference 6.2.8)	Programme length not relevant to assessment.	All archaeological work will be undertaken pre-commencement or as monitoring during construction. This is not affected by the length of time required.
Chapter 9 Land Use and Socio Economics (Document Reference 6.2.9)	Neutral in terms of agricultural land and soils	The construction start date is the relevant parameter for the agricultural land assessment rather than the duration of construction.
Chapter 10 Hydrology and Flood Risk (Document Reference 6.2.10)	12-18 months to construct the Proposed Development.	Implementing and keeping on top of mitigations such as those related to sediment control is more demanding over a larger area and would also result in a larger amount of exposed earth at any one time.
Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11)	Both scenarios are assessed.	Neither are worse case as the periods of construction near to individual receptors would be the same
Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12)	Neither scenario is assessed.	The Traffic and Transport assessment is based on a worst case scenario on one day where all three Panel Areas are being constructed at once.

Targeted consultation with Persons with an Interest in the Land

We are due to carry out a targeted consultation with some landowners whose land is within the Order Limits of the Proposed Development. This includes:

- those with a sub-soil interest: as our proposals intend to lay cables connecting Panel Areas along some local roads, we need to identify and consult all owners of property and land fronting onto roads which may have cables laid within them. This is because UK law presumes that the owners of land or property adjacent to roads not registered to either the local Highways authority (i.e. Darlington Borough Council or Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council) or National Highways are considered to own the subsoil beneath the road. This ownership is not typically indicated on Land Registry. We are notifying the relevant sub-soil interests and seeking their views on the proposals.
- those for which the Order Limits have increased or changed in relation to their land: in some instances there is new land within the Order Limits compared to statutory consultation, or the boundary has changed (i.e. repositioned or reduced). We are notifying these landowners to advise them of this change and seek their views on the proposals.

Your feedback

If you have any comments regarding the design changes or the revised construction programme, please send your comments in reply to this email or to enquiries@byersgillsolar.com. Please send any comments by 11 December 2023.

If you have any further questions about either the targeted consultation or the design changes, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone 0800 197 0118 or email via the details above.

Kind regards

██████████ on behalf of **Byers Gill Solar**

Principal Planner

BA (Hons.) MSc MRTPI

Appendix 7.2 You said, we did - booklet

JBM
SOLAR

RWE

Byers Gill Solar

You said, we did

NOVEMBER 2023





Byers Gill Solar | You said, we did



Byers Gill Solar project update



Byers Gill Solar is located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees, and borders County Durham. If approved, the project will consist of a solar farm capable of generating 180MW of electricity, enough to power over 70,000 homes. The proposals include six panel areas, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and an on-site substation, alongside a range of supporting infrastructure.

Our public consultation for Byers Gill Solar closed on 16 June 2023, and since then we have been working hard to act on the feedback we received.

"We're writing to you today to inform you about the changes we have made to Byers Gill Solar Farm in response to the consultation we held in May and June 2023. We are aiming to submit our application to the Planning Inspectorate in January 2024

I'd like to thank everybody who took part in our consultation, whether it was online or meeting us at events. We have made sure that every comment has been read and considered by the team, and where possible, we have implemented design changes or updated how we're presenting the impacts of the project. Where we haven't been able to implement a matter raised in the consultation, our detailed Consultation Report will explain why this is when it is submitted alongside our application.

We're grateful for all the feedback we received, which has been important in developing the design of Byers Gill Solar ahead of submission in the new year.

Michael Baker, Byers Gill Solar, DCO Project Manager

Why are we proposing a solar farm?

The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security.

About JBM Solar and RWE

JBM Solar is at the heart of the UK's renewable energy revolution, helping to realise our collective goal of net zero emissions through the deployment of solar energy. Since 2012, JBM Solar has secured planning permission for more than 1GW of solar projects, the equivalent of providing energy to over 265,000 homes.

JBM Solar has recently been acquired by RWE, the UK's largest power generator and one of the largest renewables developers. This means we will be constructing and operating the Byers Gill Solar farm and BESS throughout its life.





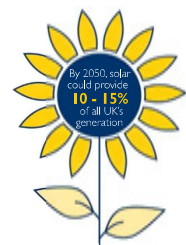
Design changes across Byers Gill Solar

In our recent statutory consultation, we sought your opinions on renewable energy and the project, as well as the more detailed site layout and design. We also looked for the community's and consultees' opinion about the landscape and environmental design, operation and decommissioning; and the initial environmental information that was included in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

The feedback to this consultation, combined with further assessments and engagement with other stakeholders allowed us to further refine all those elements of the scheme.

A number of individuals mentioned the cumulative impact on the local area, as well as the impact on residents' wellbeing, due to potential construction impacts and the disruption associated with this. The visual impact of the solar farm was also one of the topics raised. As a result of this feedback, we're now changing the height of the fixed panels to 3 meters. We have also reduced the overall size of the proposals and moved back panel areas from areas highlighted as important to the community.

We received many comments regarding the land's agricultural use, especially in the context of the current geopolitical situation. A number of individuals mentioned that they worry about fields not returning to agricultural uses post-development.



Safety was a popular topic raised, particularly around BESS. Fire safety has been given thorough consideration and the scheme would be subject to an Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery and Fire Safety Management, reflecting the latest BESS safety codes and standards. Each container would be isolated and would contain an automatic fire control system. As a response to your feedback we have also changed the locations of BESS and inverters to set them further back from properties. We are continuing to engage with the local fire service to ensure they agree with our approach.

A few individuals noted general opposition to solar energy and expressed a preference for other forms of renewable energy. It has been proven that solar is an important part of the energy mix to achieve the targets for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 as set by the Government. According to the Climate Change Committee, solar could provide 10% to 15% of all UK generation in 2050¹.

The maps of the different panel areas presented on the following pages summarise some of the improvements to the scheme we've made since the consultation.

¹Climate Change Committee. The Sixth Carbon Budget, Electricity generation - <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Section-summary-Electricity-generation.pdf>



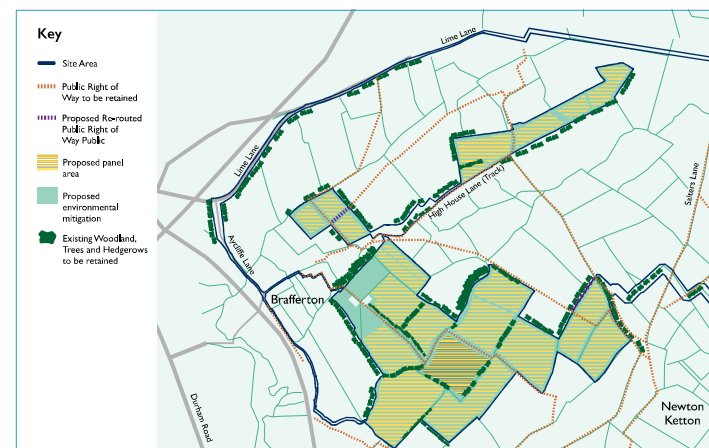
Panel areas changes, Panel Area A - Brafferton

We received a considerable number of comments about the access route south of Brafferton, so we have changed the route so it uses an existing farm track and avoids going through the village.

By changing the route we have been able to reduce the disruption and traffic impacts to Brafferton village.

We have retained the biodiversity enhancement areas which mean the panels are further from the village.

Public Rights of Way running through the solar farm will still be accessible and we have kept the same diversions proposed at the consultation to make the routes more rational.



*Indicative illustration





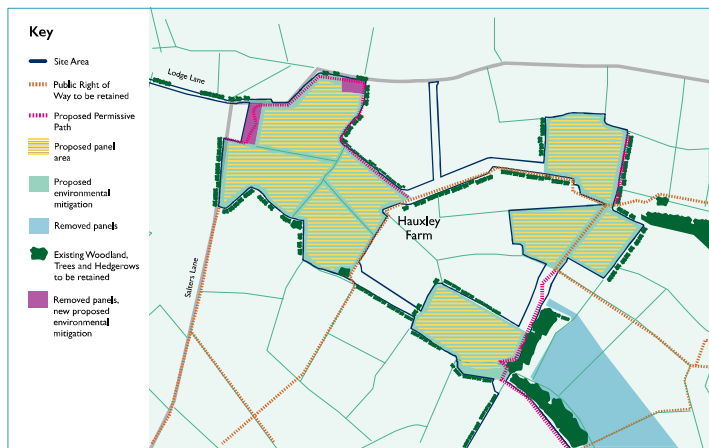
Panel areas changes, Panel Area B - Hauxley Farm

Comments were raised about the visual impacts of the proposals and the distance of the panels from nearby properties. The efficacy and suitability of the proposed mitigation measures were also mentioned.

In response, we're introducing setbacks for residents in the north-western sites of Panel Area B.

In addition, we're proposing to use the existing farm access road for construction and operation, in order to avoid using public lanes and disrupting the residents.

We have changed where the BESS are placed to help reduce both visual impact and potential noise during operation.



*Indicative illustration

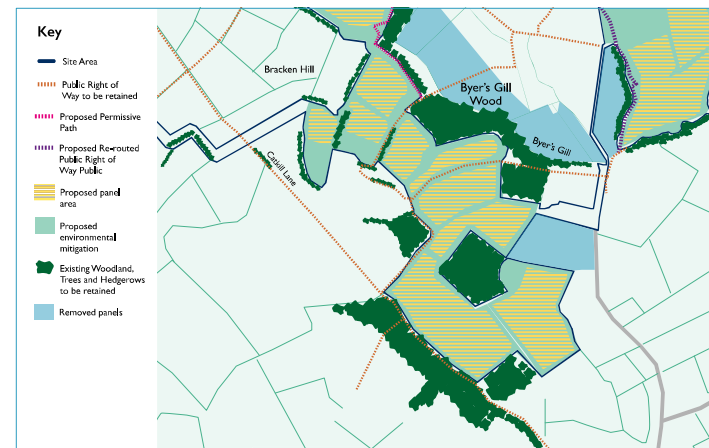


Panel areas changes, Panel Area C - Byers Gill Wood

In this panel area, we have removed a large panel area, as indicated in the light blue shading which is now no longer part of the proposed development. This came after careful consideration of feedback, and following ongoing engagement with the landowner, resulting in the panel area being removed from the proposals.

People also suggested that there should be an alternative access route to reduce the impact on near neighbours. As a result of this feedback, we're now proposing to use the existing access route.

We have retained the existing Public Rights of Way and proposed new permissive routes to allow people to keep using the area for recreation.



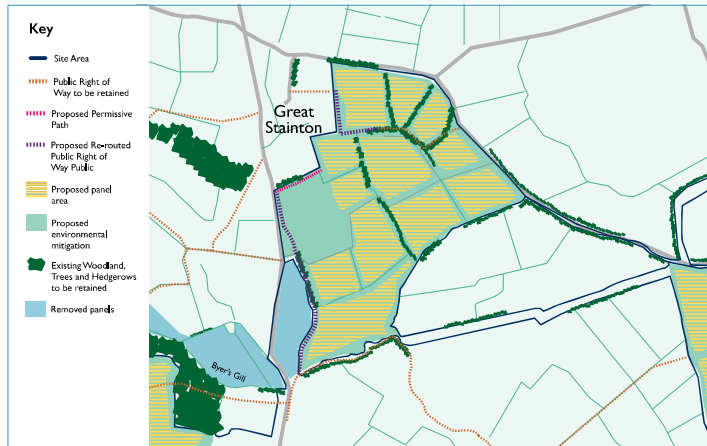
*Indicative illustration





Panel areas changes, Panel Area D - Great Stainton

We received many comments about Panel Areas D and E. We're proposing to remove a substantial panel area from Area D which will help mitigate visual impact from Great Stainton. To the south of Great Stainton, panels have been moved back from Elstob Lane in response to feedback we received on the visual impact around the village.



*Indicative illustration



Panel areas changes, Panel Area E - West of Bishopton

Since the consultation, we have also identified a new permissive path that would be created to allow access to the recreational area using the Public Rights of Way network to be accessible from Bishopton.



*Indicative illustration



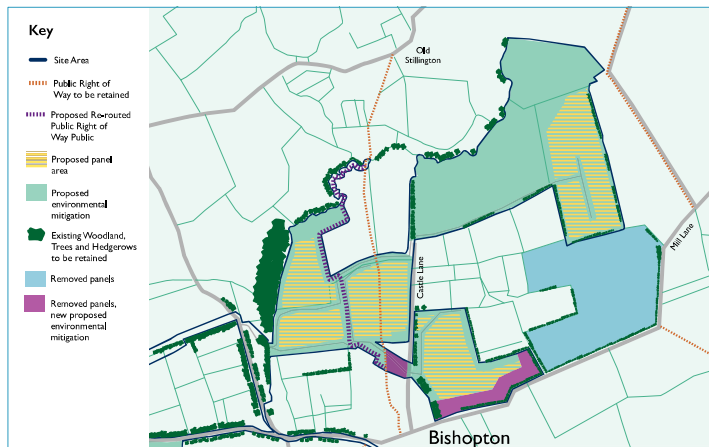


Panel areas changes, Panel area F – North of Bishopton

We understand the potential impacts of the development on Bishopton raised concerns for many, so we have taken on board all feedback to make significant changes. This includes:

- Removing a large panel area to the west of Bishopton
- Setting panels back from Mill Lane.
- Defined a new construction and operation route, avoiding Mill Lane
- Confirmed 60 acres of land that will be maintained as an appropriate habitat for curlews and other species

We are committed to a design which works to minimise the impact on the landscape and those who use it, as well as trying to provide benefits through features that can be designed into Byers Gill Solar;



"indicative illustration"



Come and talk to us

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet, summarising the feedback we received and changes made to the site design as a result.

We are committed to keeping residents updated on the project's progress. We're hosting a project update webinar and will be back in the area at Stockton Market. We have also updated our Facebook page, where you can view before and afters of the proposed development's design changes. Simply search JBM Byers Gill on Facebook on your laptop, tablet or mobile device.



We're here to talk and answer any of your questions. You can write to the project team at: **FREEPOST Byers Gill Solar** (no stamp is required) or email us at: enquiries@byersgillsolar.com.



You can sign up for our online webinar on our website <https://byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk/> on **Wednesday 29th November**



Come and talk to us at The Flea Market, Finkle St, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1AR on **Saturday 25th November**

Next steps

The size of the scheme means that Byers Gill Solar is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means that permission to construct and operate the scheme is sought through a Development Consent Order (DCO) application made to the Planning Inspectorate.

Following the submission of our application, the Planning Inspectorate will examine the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will make the decision on whether or not to grant development consent.

There are a number of ways in which you can get involved with the DCO process. You can register as an Interested Party on our page on the Planning Inspectorate's website, which can be accessed here – <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/byers-gill-solar> - or you can visit the project website, by scanning the QR code below.



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Contact us

 www.byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk

 enquiries@byersgillsolar.co.uk

 0800 197 0118

 FREEPOST Byers Gill Solar (no stamp required)

Appendix 8.1 October 2023 Briefing with Paul Howell MP

Byers Gill Solar

October 23



Agenda

1. Project update
2. Design changes
3. Publicising the changes
4. Community benefit
5. Next steps
6. AOB



An aerial photograph showing two long, parallel rows of blue solar panels installed in a green field. Several white sheep are grazing in the grass between the rows of panels. The panels are tilted at an angle, and the overall scene is bright and clear.

Project update

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- our statutory consultation concluded in June 2023, having received over 400 responses
- we have reviewed all comments received and have been updating the project's design accordingly
- numerous surveys, including ecology, landscape and arboriculture, remain ongoing
- archaeological trenching has been conducted

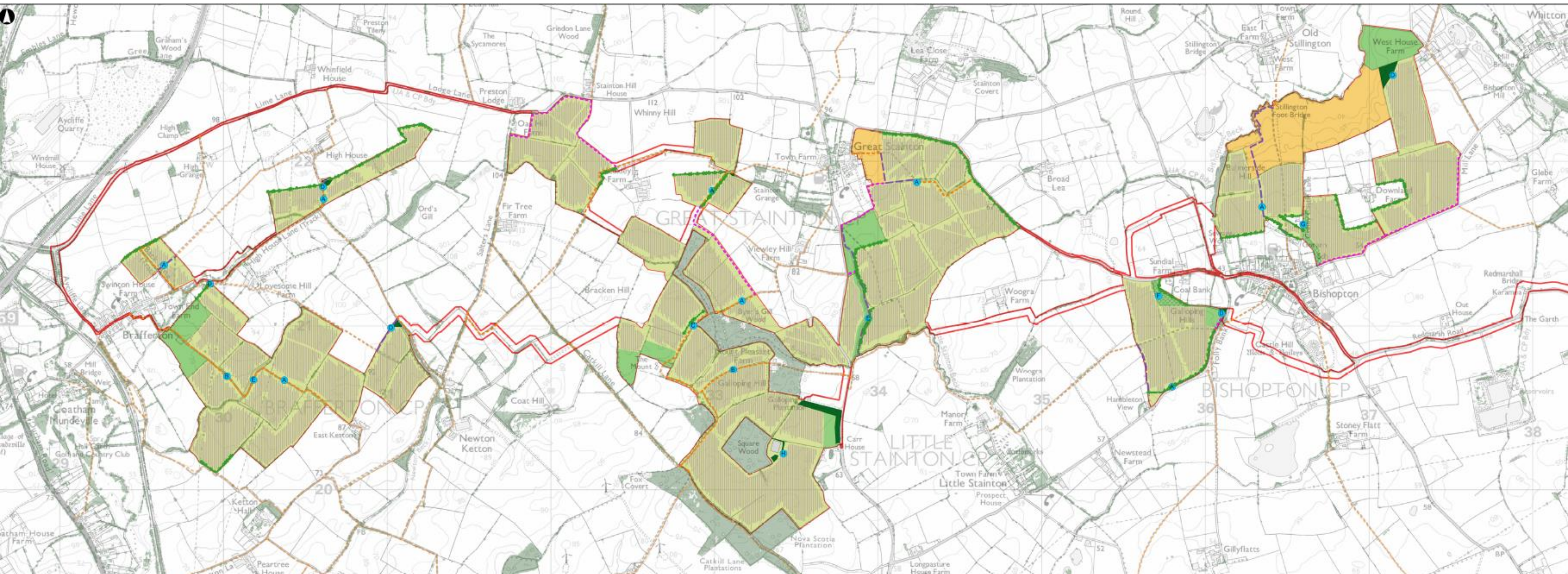
Design changes

JBM
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These include:

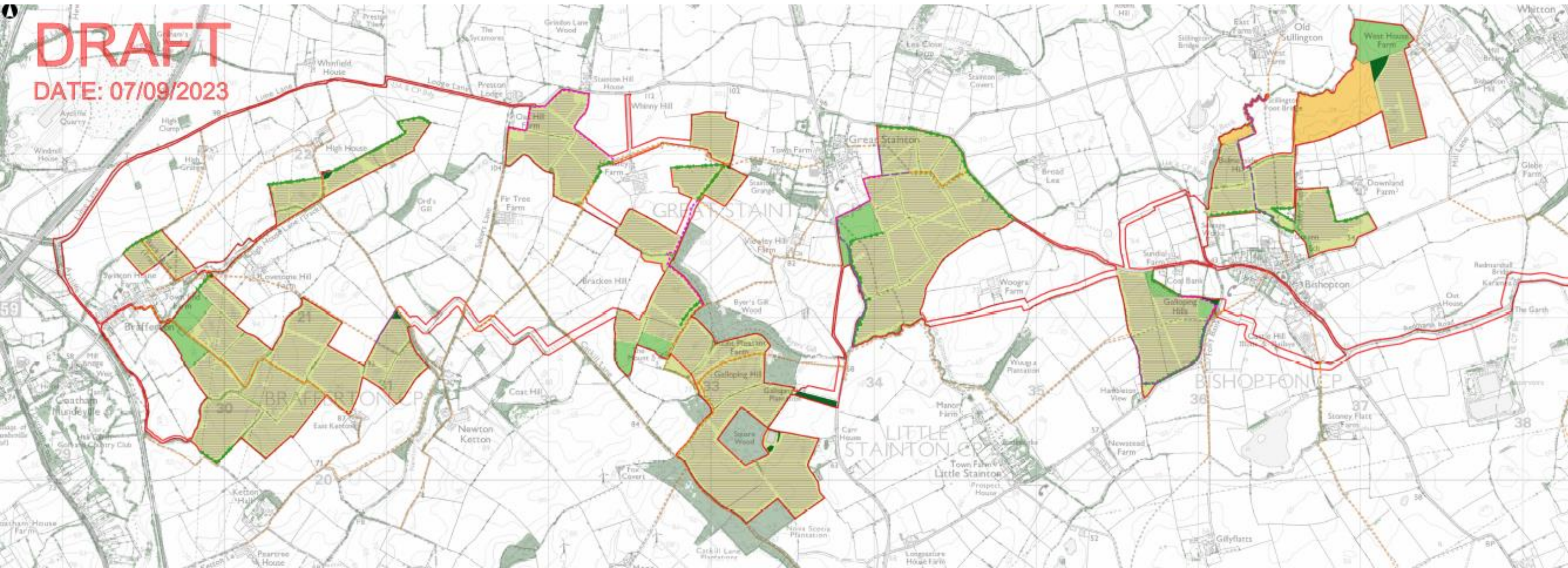
- a reduction in panel heights from 4.35 metres to 3 metres
- a reduction in the number of panels
- setting panel areas back from areas highlighted as important to the community
- altering construction traffic access routes to some panel areas to lessen potential impacts on local villages

Statutory consultation – May to June 2023



October 2023

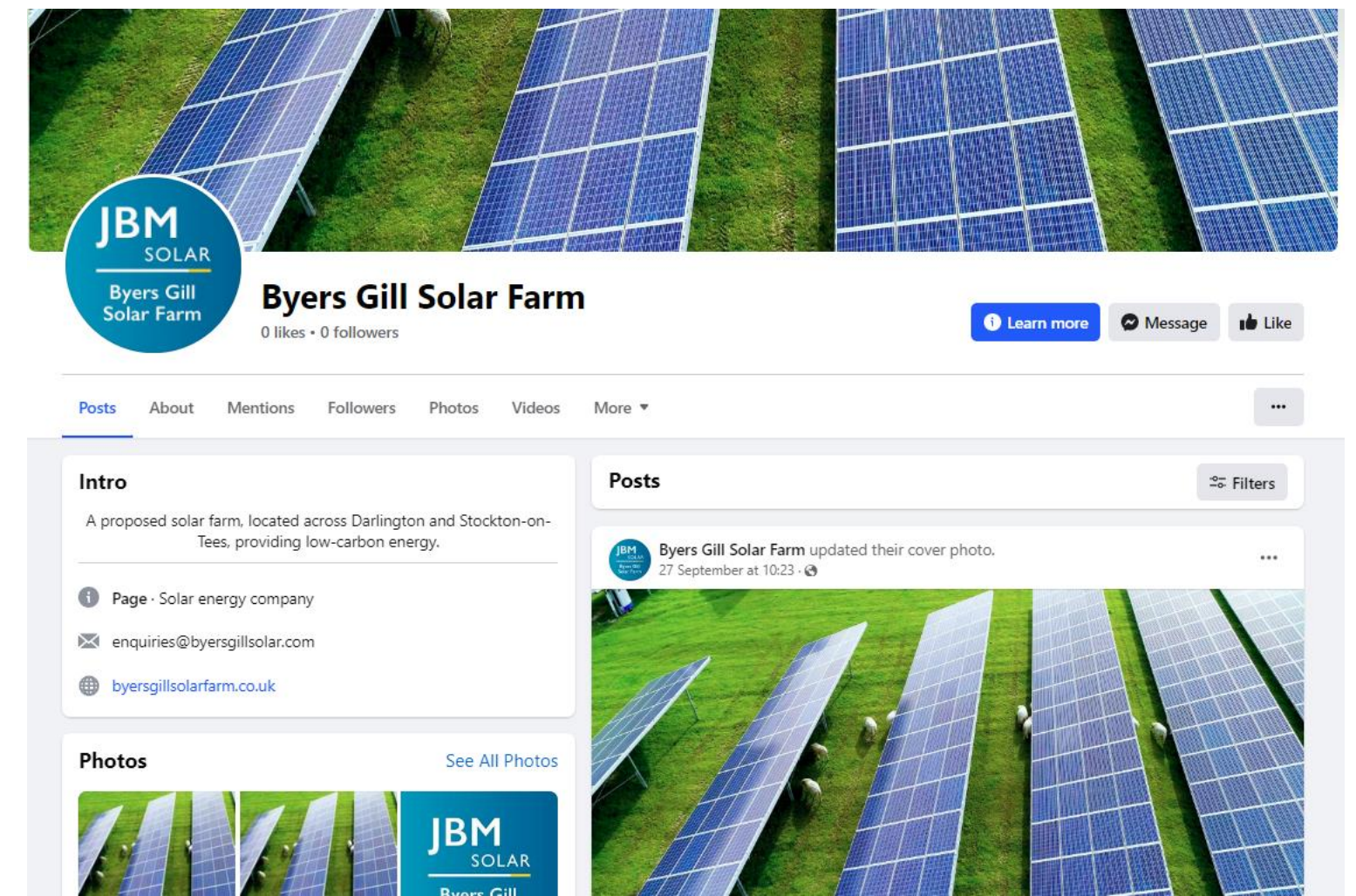
JBM SOLAR



Publicising the changes



- Stakeholder update letter
- A 'You said, we did' newsletter – sent to the primary consultation zone & published on the website
- Videos – published on the website
- A new project Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ByersGillSolar
- Meetings with host parish councils and Bishopton Villages Action Group
- Stall at Stockton-on-Tees market





Next Steps – up to Christmas

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- **Targeted consultations:**
 - 300 or so land interests related to subsoil rights
 - Statutory consultees related to increase in construction time frame
 - Darlington and Durham Fire and Rescue Service
 - Statutory Undertakers

Community benefit

- Our previous commitment was to provide a £600,000 community benefit fund, payable in a lump sum at the start of construction.
- We are now increasing this to £220 per MW over the project's 40-year lifespan. This would mean an annual payment of £39,600 for 40 years, totalling £1,584,000.
- We are set to discuss this with host parish councils in the coming weeks.

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AOB

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SOLAR



Appendix 8.2 stakeholders

Update letter for key political

09 November 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Byers Gill Solar: Targeted consultation and design updates

Following our Statutory Consultation which was held in May-June 2023, we have continued with further design and assessment works as we look towards submitting our Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

As a result of this further work, we are now shortly set to run a further, targeted consultation on the project.

As our proposals intend to lay cables connecting Panel Areas along some local roads, we need to identify and consult all owners of property and land fronting onto roads which may have cables laid within them.

This is because UK law presumes that the owners of land or property adjacent to roads not registered to either the local Highways authority (i.e. Darlington Borough Council or Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council) or National Highways are considered to own the subsoil beneath the road. This ownership is not typically indicated on Land Registry.

Please be assured that the homes or gardens of the households receiving these letters will not be affected by our proposals. I have included a copy of the letter to be sent to these households for your reference.

As the owners of the subsoil have no use or enjoyment of the subsoil land, it does not hold any market value. We are offering a nominal £50 sum to the owners of all subsoil land that the cable route would be laid through, if the project is granted consent.

If any of your constituents approach you with queries regarding this targeted consultation, please encourage them to contact us by phone on **0800 197 0118** or email at enquiries@byersgillsolar.com.

Design updates

As you may be aware, the feedback we received at our Statutory Consultation, combined with further assessments and engagement with other stakeholders has allowed us to further refine our proposals.

We will shortly be publishing a newsletter detailing all of the changes that we have made. These include:

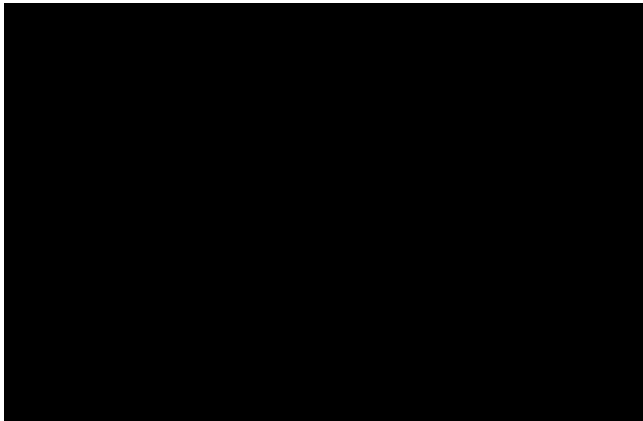
- a reduction in panel heights

- reducing the number of panels
- setting panel areas back from areas highlighted as important to the community
- removing some sections of on road cable route
- altering construction traffic access routes to some panel areas to avoid villages

The newsletter will be published on our website, alongside a number of videos explaining the changes. These will also be available on our new project Facebook page, which can be found at



If you have any further questions about either the targeted consultation or the design changes, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone **0800 197 0118** or email at enquiries@byersgillsolar.com.



Appendix 8.3 Design change update letter to parish councils



26 October 2023

Dear 

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today from JBM Solar to provide an update on our Development Consent Order (DCO) application for Byers Gill Solar.

Since our Statutory Consultation closed in June, we have been working hard on the feedback we received and seeking to accommodate change where possible. We have listened to the concerns of the Parish Council and residents in Bishopton have expressed concern about the proposed solar farm project. The Byers Gill team and I would like to come and meet with you to discuss the outcome of the consultation feedback, and how we have updated the site design in advance of preparing to submit our DCO application.

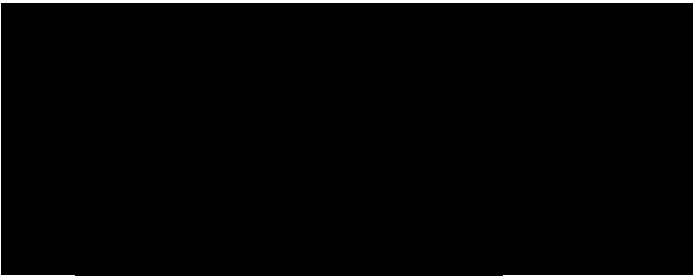
If you have a preference for us to attend a regular Parish Council meeting, then please let me know the dates and we can check availability. Alternatively, if there are any other dates that would work for you then please let me know and we can coordinate.

We would also like to discuss with you the changes we have made to our community benefits offer. In the consultation, we indicated there would be a £600,000 community fund, payable in a lump sum at the start of construction.

I can now confirm with you this will increase to £220/MW over 40 years of the project. This would mean an annual payment of £39,600 for 40 years, totaling £1,584,000. It is important to us that we have an open dialogue over the management of the community benefit fund and potential areas where we can contribute positively to the community.

Please feel free to contact me at enquiries@byersgillsolar.com or 0800 197 0118 to schedule a meeting or if you have any questions or suggestions in the meantime.

Kind regards,



JBM Solar

Appendix 8.4 Post-consultation update presentation

Byers Gill Solar – Project Updates

November 2023



Welcome

Welcome and thank you for joining our online event today

- Quick overview to using Livestorm
- Changes to design
- Questions and answers

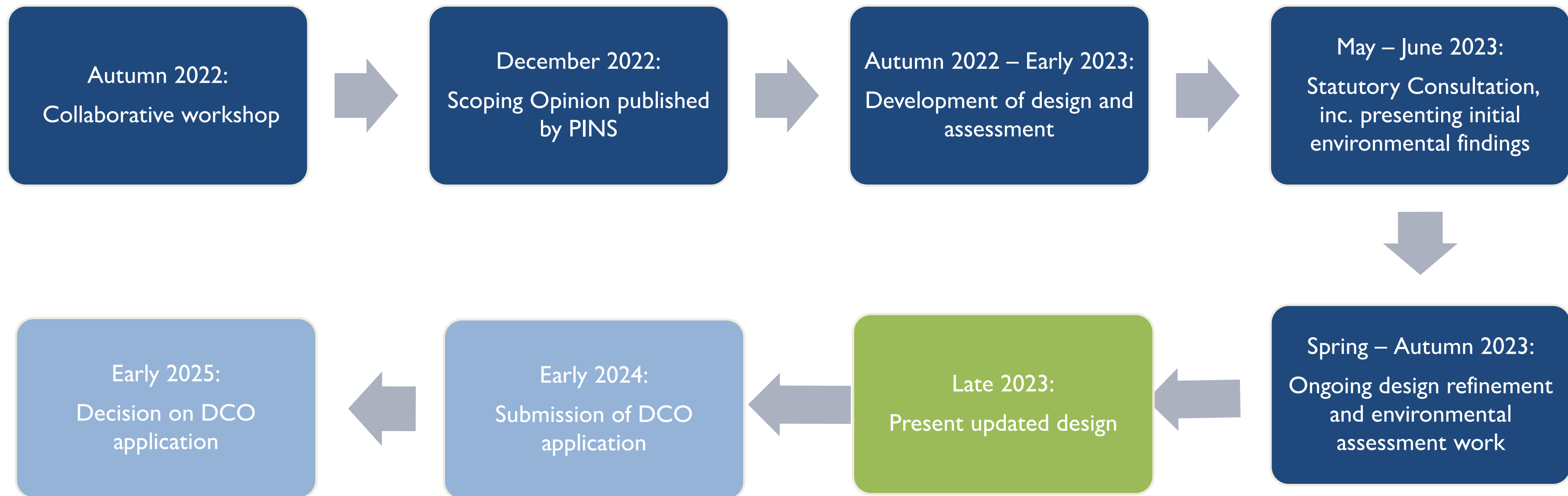
Who we are:

- **Michael Baker** – Project Manager at JBM
- **Lucia Maclachlan** - Senior Consultant at Arup
- **Imogen Fawcett** – Account Manager at Copper Consultancy



JBM
SOLAR

Project timeline & purpose of today





JBM
SOLAR

RWE

About JBM Solar/RWE

- JBM Solar is at the heart of the UK's renewable energy revolution, helping to realise our collective goal of net zero emissions through the deployment of solar energy.
- Since 2012, JBM Solar has secured planning permission for more than 1GW of solar projects, the equivalent of providing energy to over 265,000 homes.
- JBM Solar has recently been acquired by RWE, the UK's largest power generator and one of the largest renewables developers. This means we will be constructing and operating the Byers Gill Solar farm and BESS throughout its life.

The need for Solar

- The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In July Darlington Council voted to bring forward the target for carbon-neutral status forward to 2040.
- Renewable energy is needed to meet these targets.
- Large-scale solar is one of the cheapest forms of energy and would help combat the cost of the energy crisis we are facing.
- Byers Gill Solar would make a national scale contribution towards achieving net zero and lowering the cost of energy.

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Byers Gill Solar

Consulation Feedback Ques

5 May – 16 June 2023

Our proposals

In 2022, the UK Government published their Energy Security Strategy, announcing that they intend to accelerate and increase solar power capacity by up to fivefold from 14GW to 70GW by 2035. If achieved, this will mean the UK will have a 100% renewable energy grid by 2035.

Byers Gill Solar consists of a solar farm capable of generating enough energy to power over 70,000 homes, representing a significant step towards local and national goals of reaching net zero, establishing energy security and reducing our impact on the climate.

The solar farm would be spread across neighbouring sites between Darlington, Stockton-on-Tees and Durham in north-

east England and would include infrastructure needed for power and security measures.

Other key features of the site enhancement measures for biodiversity and ecological habitats and biodiversity is likely to help nature thrive on the site. These measures would ensure that the site would also be created, leading to biodiversity and ecological improvements contributing to the UK's net zero also contribute to creating a local area.

Providing your feedback

You can respond to this consultation by:

- **Completing a feedback questionnaire online, available at:** www.byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk
- **Downloading, printing and completing a feedback questionnaire, and return it to:** Freepost Byers Gill Solar (no stamp is required).
- **Writing to the project team at:** Freepost Byers Gill Solar (no stamp is required)
- **Emailing us at:** enquiries@byersgillsolar.com

A consultation booklet has also been provided to provide your feedback to this consultation. For further information such as details of the Preliminary Environmental Information Statement, please visit our consultation website, www.byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk



The consultation runs between 5 May and 16 June 2023. Please submit your feedback to us by 23:59 16 June 2023.

Statutory consultation: May to June 2023

- Our public consultation for Byers Gill Solar closed on 16 June 2023. Since then, we have been working hard to act on the feedback we received.
- We will be reporting on how feedback has influenced the site design in our Consultation Report, which will form part of our DCO application.
- We are reading and responding to each response received, if you'd like to see how we had regard to your feedback please get in touch.

In summary

In response to the feedback received at the statutory consultation, we have:

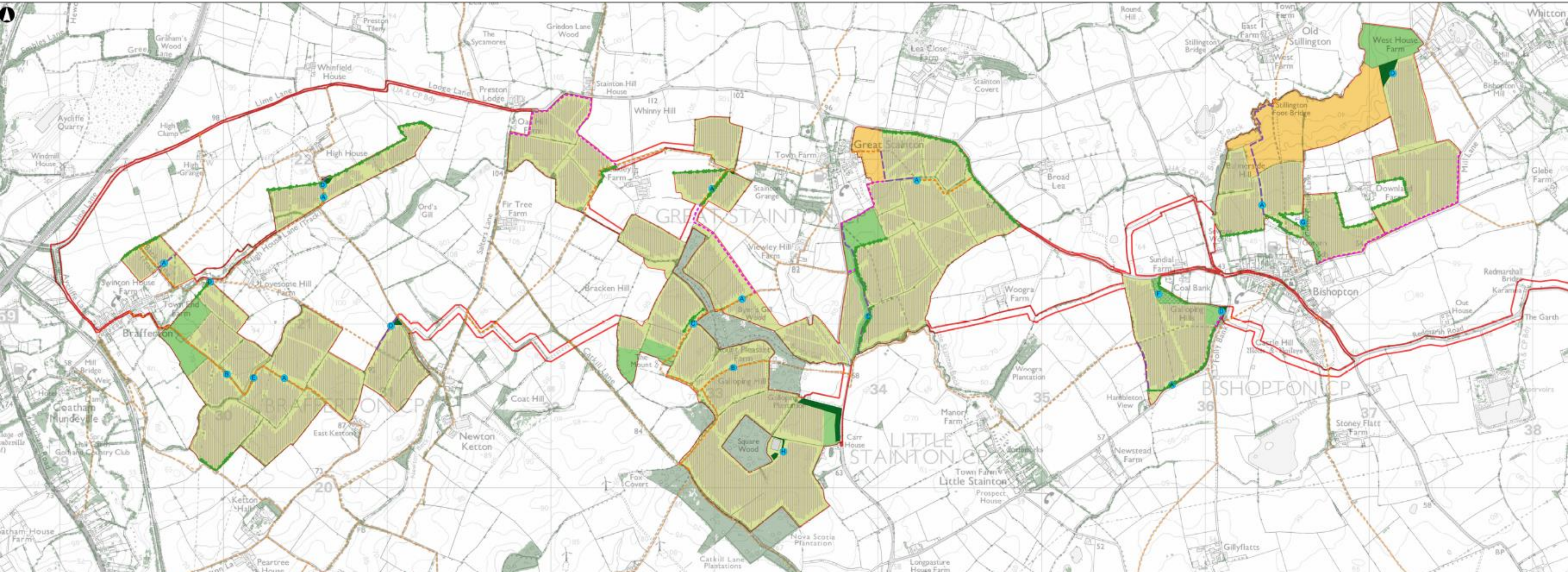
- changed the height of the fixed panels to 3 meters.
- reduced the overall size of the proposals and moved back panel areas from areas highlighted as important to the community.
- changed the locations of BESS and inverters to set them further back from properties.
- Improved construction access routes.



Statutory consultation: May to June 2023

JBM
SOLAR

RWE

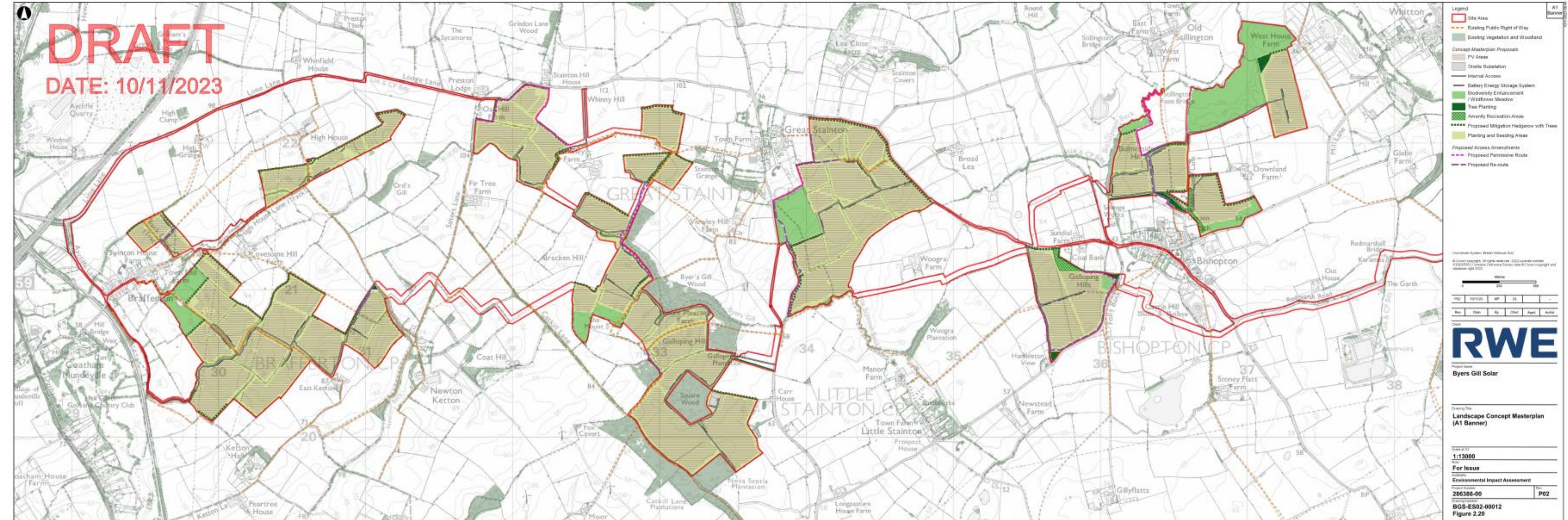


November 2023

JBM SOLAR

RWE

DRAFT
DATE: 10/11/2023

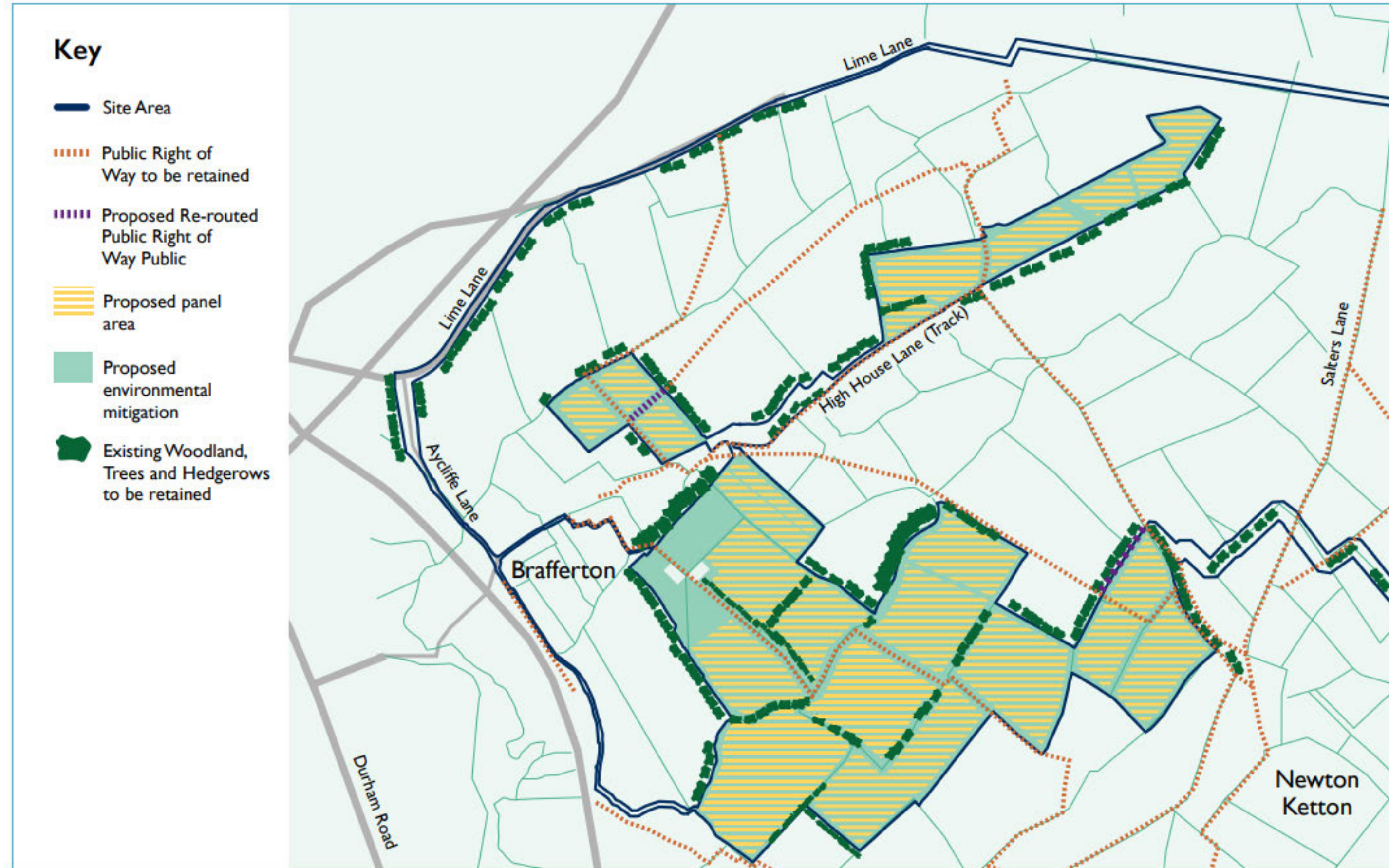


Panel Area A - Brafferton

JBM
SOLAR

RWE

- We have changed the route to use an existing farm track and avoid going through the village, reducing the disruption and traffic impacts to Brafferton.
- We have retained the biodiversity enhancement areas which means the panels are further from the village.
- Public Rights of Way running through the solar farm will still be accessible and we have kept the same diversions proposed at the consultation to make the routes more rational.



Panel area B - Hauxley Farm

JBM
SOLAR

RWE

Key

- Site Area
- Public Right of Way to be retained
- Proposed Permissive Path
- Proposed panel area
- Proposed environmental mitigation
- Removed panels
- Existing Woodland, Trees and Hedgerows to be retained
- Removed panels, new proposed environmental mitigation



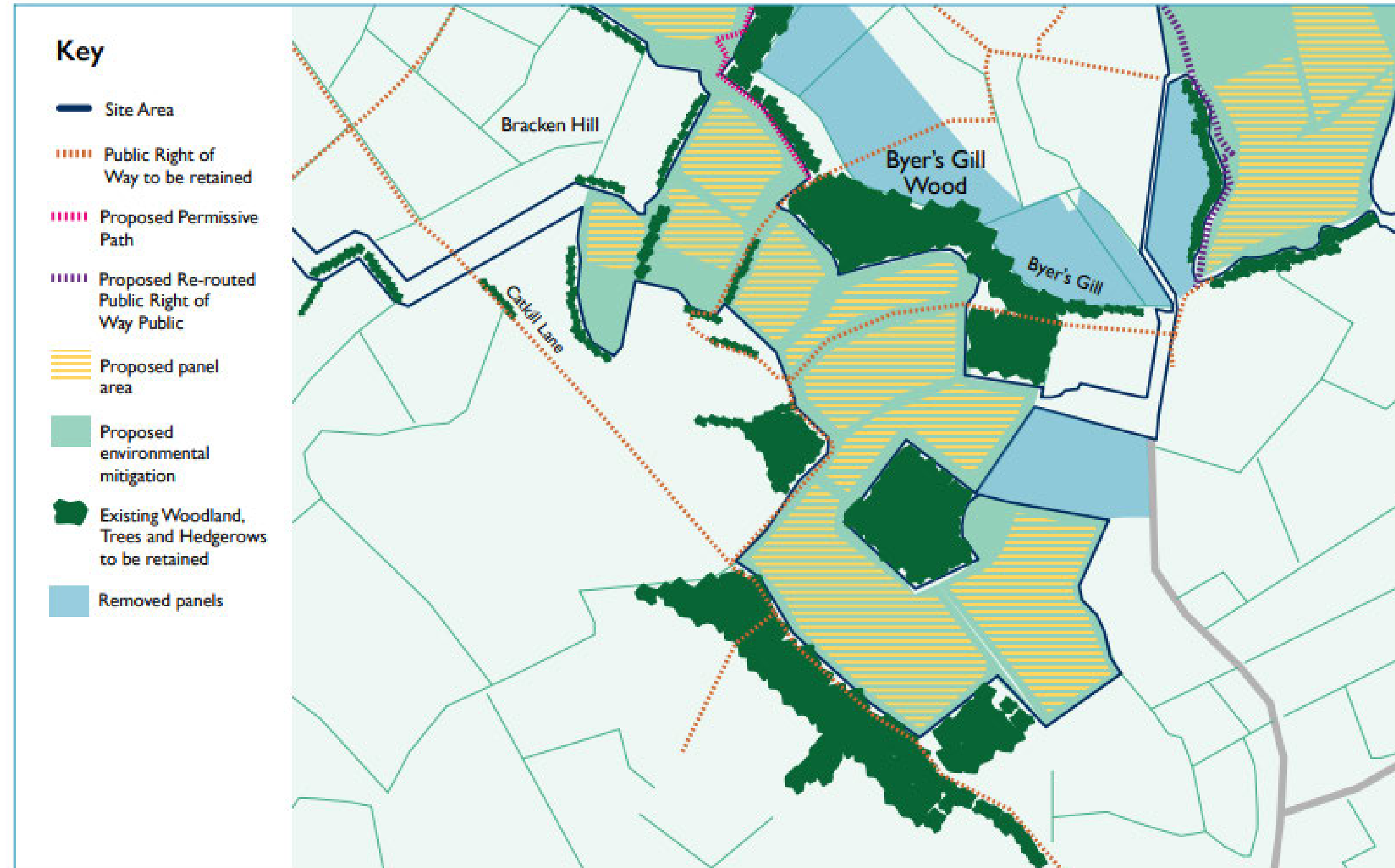
- We have introduced setbacks for residents in the north-western sites of Panel Area B.
- We will now use the existing farm access road for construction and operation, to avoid using public lanes and disrupting the residents.
- We have changed where the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are placed to help reduce both visual impact and potential noise during operation.

Panel Area C - Byers Gill Wood

JBM
SOLAR

RWE

- Following careful consideration of feedback, and following ongoing engagement with the landowner, we have removed a large panel area, as indicated in the light blue shading
- To reduce the impact on near neighbours, we're now proposing to use the existing access route.
- We have retained the existing Public Rights of Way and proposed new permissive routes to allow people to keep using the area for recreation.



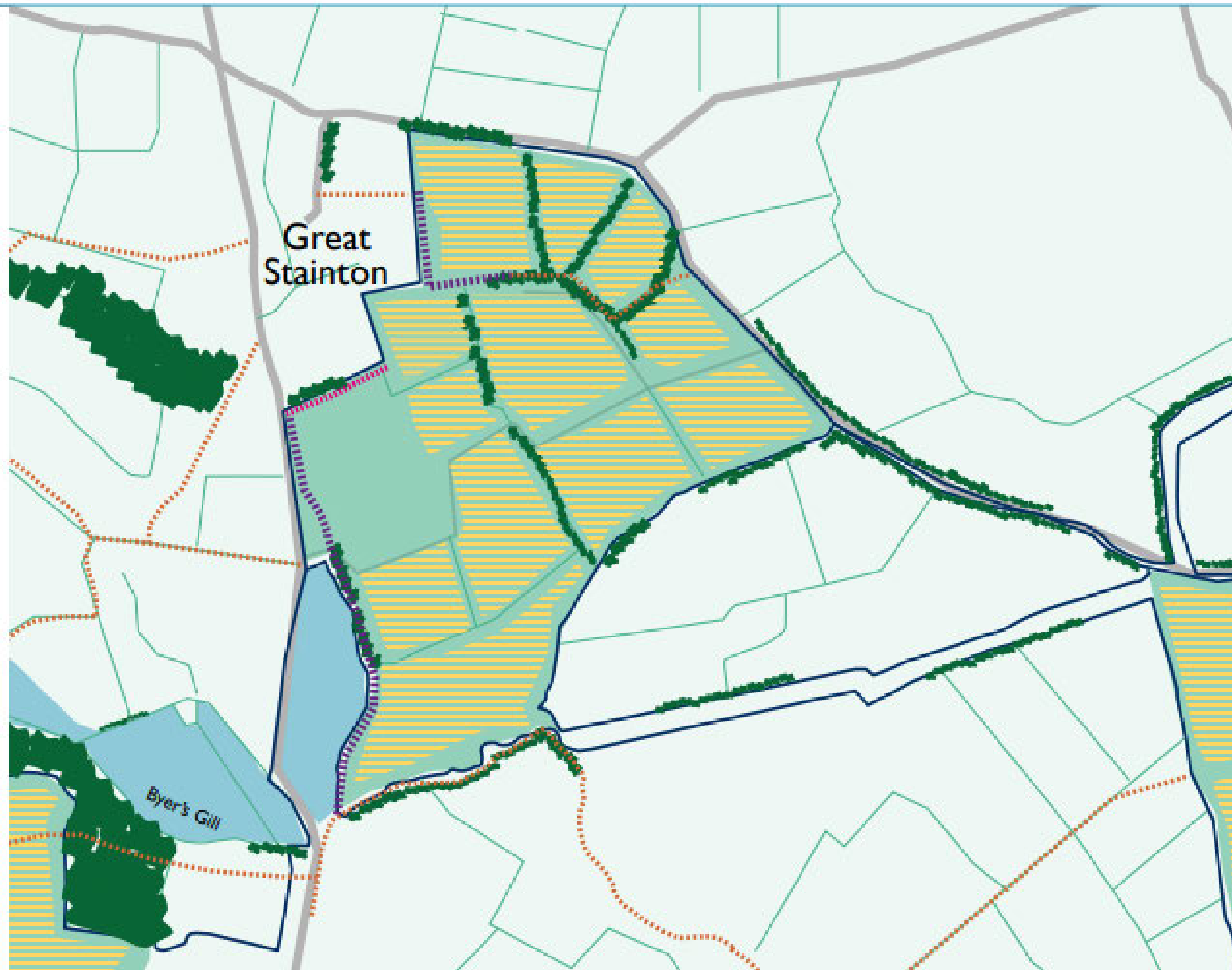
Panel Area D - Great Stainton

JBM
SOLAR

RWE

Key

- Site Area
- Public Right of Way to be retained
- Proposed Permissive Path
- Proposed Re-routed Public Right of Way Public
- Proposed panel area
- Proposed environmental mitigation
- Existing Woodland, Trees and Hedgerows to be retained
- Removed panels



- We're removing a substantial panel area from Area D which will help mitigate the visual impact from Great Stainton. This is shown in the light blue area.
- To the south of Great Stainton, panels have been moved back from Elstob Lane in response to feedback we received on the visual impact around the village.

Panel Area E – West of Bishopton



- Since the consultation, we have also identified a new permissive path that would be created to allow access to the recreational area using the Public Rights of Way network to be accessible from Bishopton.



Panel Area F –North of Bishopton

JBM
SOLAR

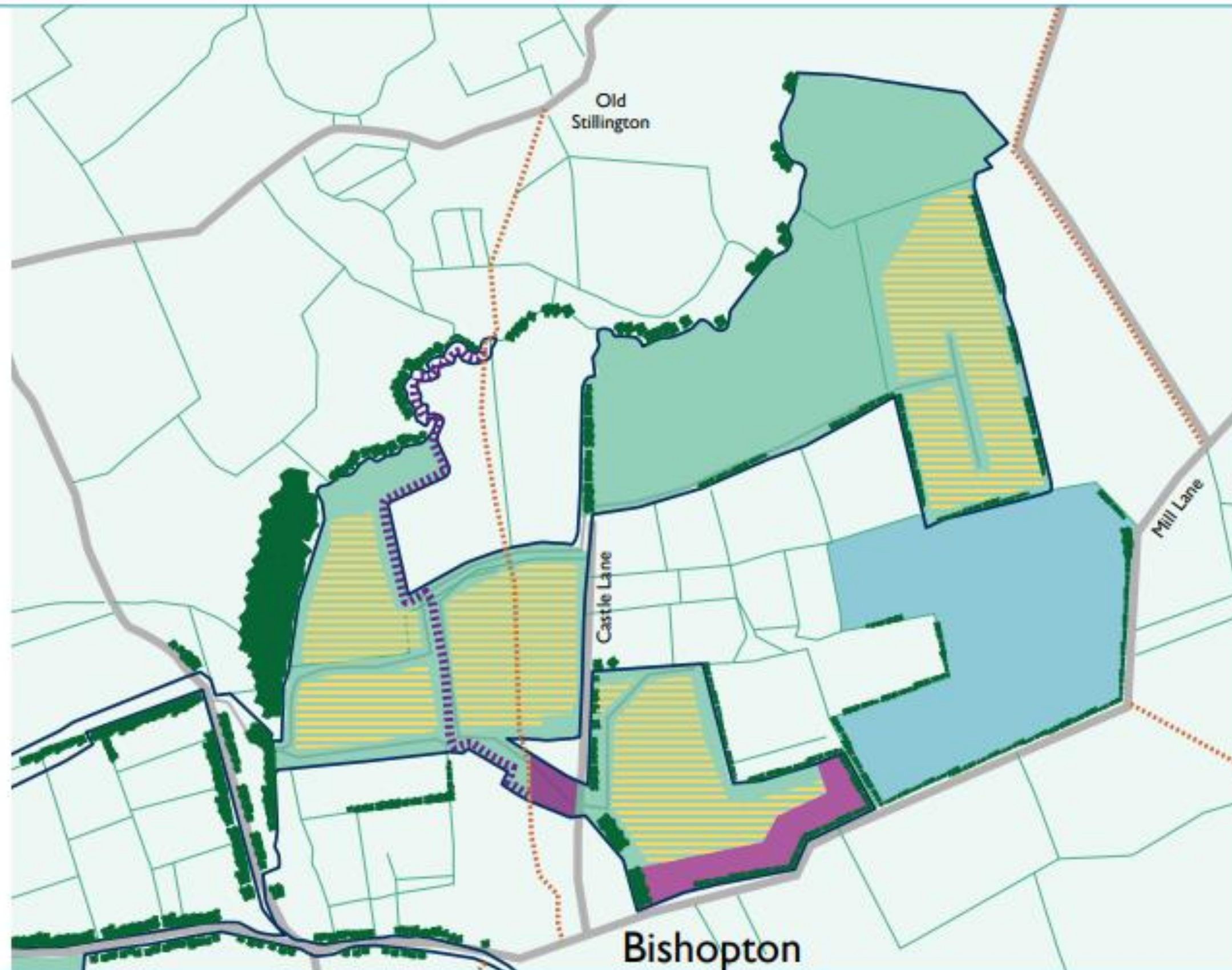
RWE

We understand the potential impacts of the development on Bishopton raised concerns for many, so we have taken on board all feedback to make significant changes. This includes:

- Removing a large panel area to the east of Bishopton.
- Setting panels back from Mill Lane.
- Defined a new construction and operation route, avoiding Mill Lane.
- Confirmed 60 acres of land that will be maintained as an appropriate habitat for curlews and other species.

Key

- Site Area
- Public Right of Way to be retained
- Proposed Re-routed Public Right of Way Public
- Proposed panel area
- Proposed environmental mitigation
- Existing Woodland, Trees and Hedgerows to be retained
- Removed panels
- Removed panels, new proposed environmental mitigation



Community benefits

In addition to helping the UK meet its net zero targets and support in the provision of new renewable energy, Byers Gill Solar will also bring a range of localised benefits to the local communities, including a community fund:

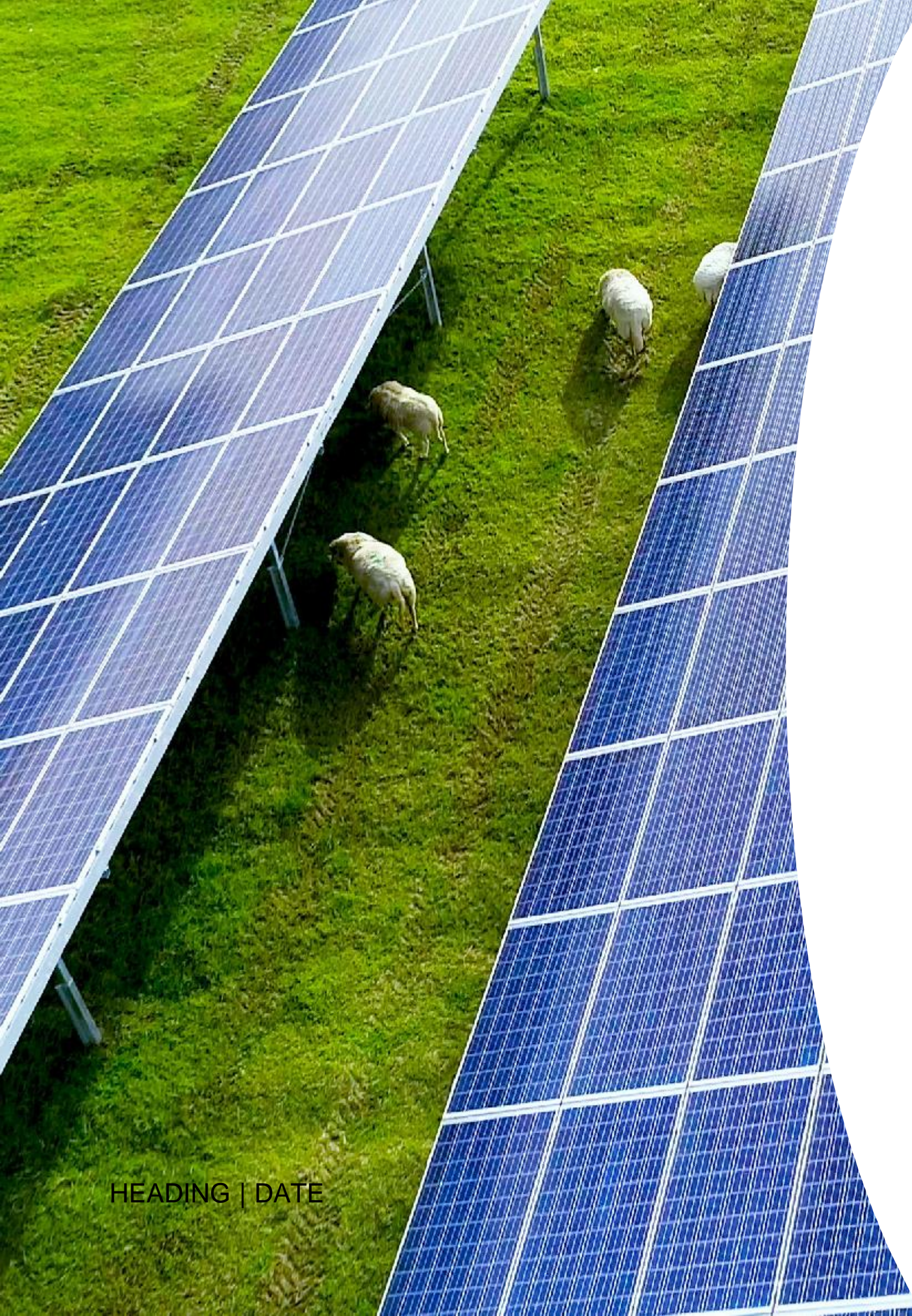
- We have previously indicated there would be a £600,000 community fund, payable in a lump sum at the start of construction.
- This will now increase to circa £1,500,000 over the course of the project lifetime.

We are currently holding meetings with local parish councils to discuss the management of this fund further.



JBM
SOLAR





Next steps

JBM
SOLAR

The size of the scheme means that Byers Gill Solar is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means that planning permission comes from a Development Consent Order (DCO) application made to the Planning Inspectorate.

Following the submission of our application, the Planning Inspectorate will examine the application.

You can get involved with the process during the Examination period by submitting written representation and attending the hearings. To do so, you will need to register as an Interested Party on our page on the Planning Inspectorate's website, which can be accessed here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/byers-gill-solar>

Q&A



Appendix 8.5 Applicant response to Bishopton PC & BVAG



Bishopton Parish Council (cc to Bishopton Villages Action Group)

Via email

14 November 2023


Dear 

Thank you for your response to my previous letter.

Since our Statutory Consultation we have been reviewing all feedback received and conducting further work to help refine the design of Byers Gill Solar.

This work remains ongoing as we work toward submitting our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate in January 2024. As a result we do not currently have full responses to all feedback received, as these will be informed by the work we are undertaking prior to submitting our application.

As part of our application, we will be submitting a Consultation Report which sets out all of the feedback we have received and how we have responded to it. This is the accepted industry approach for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) such as Byers Gill Solar, and is set out in the Planning Act 2008 which all NSIP projects must abide by.

Whilst we still need to finalise certain aspects of our application, we have recently published high level details of several changes to the design of Byers Gill Solar that we wished to share with the community at this time. We have set out the details of these changes in our recently newsletter, which has been posted to approximately 2,700 properties within our Primary Consultation Zone. A copy is also available on our website (byersgillsolarfarm.com), alongside three explanatory videos detailing the changes and responses to key themes and frequently raised questions within the feedback we received. We are also publicising these changes through our new project Facebook page .

We would be happy to attend the Parish Council meeting on 13th December, and also attend an existing scheduled committee meeting of the Action Group to discuss the changes to the design and the updates to the Community Benefit Fund at this time.

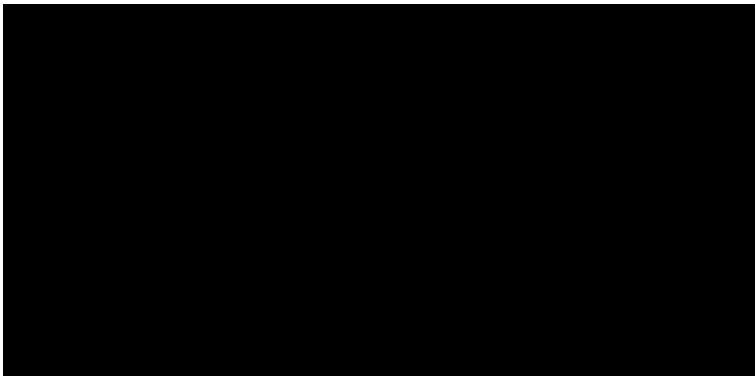
However, we will not be able to answer more detailed questions relating to all feedback received as we do not have all of the information that we would wish to provide you and the wider public with at this moment, and would understandably be expected of us if we committed to answering these questions at this stage.

As a result, we do not feel a wider 'town hall' style event would be beneficial for either ourselves, the Parish Council, Action Group or local community.

If any individuals wish to understand how their feedback has been considered then they are welcome to contact us via email (enquiries@byersgillsolar.com), phone (0800 197 0118) or post (FREEPOST BYERS GILL SOLAR, no stamp required). However, please be advised that, subject to the details of their query and the feedback provided, the information they desire may not be available until we submit our application for the reasons outlined above.

Myself and the project team will be in touch to confirm logistics for the Parish Council's December meeting. Please feel free to contact me at enquiries@byersgillsolar.com or 0800 197 0118 if you have any further questions or suggestions in the meantime.

Kind regards,



JBM Solar

Appendix 8.6 You said, we did newsletter

JBM
SOLAR

RWE

Byers Gill Solar

You said, we did

NOVEMBER 2023





Byers Gill Solar | You said, we did



Byers Gill Solar project update



Byers Gill Solar is located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees, and borders County Durham. If approved, the project will consist of a solar farm capable of generating 180MW of electricity, enough to power over 70,000 homes. The proposals include six panel areas, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and an on-site substation, alongside a range of supporting infrastructure.

Our public consultation for Byers Gill Solar closed on 16 June 2023, and since then we have been working hard to act on the feedback we received.

"We're writing to you today to inform you about the changes we have made to Byers Gill Solar Farm in response to the consultation we held in May and June 2023. We are aiming to submit our application to the Planning Inspectorate in January 2024

I'd like to thank everybody who took part in our consultation, whether it was online or meeting us at events. We have made sure that every comment has been read and considered by the team, and where possible, we have implemented design changes or updated how we're presenting the impacts of the project. Where we haven't been able to implement a matter raised in the consultation, our detailed Consultation Report will explain why this is when it is submitted alongside our application.

We're grateful for all the feedback we received, which has been important in developing the design of Byers Gill Solar ahead of submission in the new year.

Michael Baker, Byers Gill Solar, DCO Project Manager



Why are we proposing a solar farm?

The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security.

About JBM Solar and RWE

JBM Solar is at the heart of the UK's renewable energy revolution, helping to realise our collective goal of net zero emissions through the deployment of solar energy. Since 2012, JBM Solar has secured planning permission for more than 1GW of solar projects, the equivalent of providing energy to over 265,000 homes.

JBM Solar has recently been acquired by RWE, the UK's largest power generator and one of the largest renewables developers. This means we will be constructing and operating the Byers Gill Solar farm and BESS throughout its life.





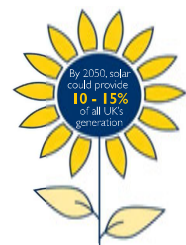
Design changes across Byers Gill Solar

In our recent statutory consultation, we sought your opinions on renewable energy and the project, as well as the more detailed site layout and design. We also looked for the community's and consultees' opinion about the landscape and environmental design, operation and decommissioning; and the initial environmental information that was included in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

The feedback to this consultation, combined with further assessments and engagement with other stakeholders allowed us to further refine all those elements of the scheme.

A number of individuals mentioned the cumulative impact on the local area, as well as the impact on residents' wellbeing, due to potential construction impacts and the disruption associated with this. The visual impact of the solar farm was also one of the topics raised. As a result of this feedback, we're now changing the height of the fixed panels to 3 meters. We have also reduced the overall size of the proposals and moved back panel areas from areas highlighted as important to the community.

We received many comments regarding the land's agricultural use, especially in the context of the current geopolitical situation. A number of individuals mentioned that they worry about fields not returning to agricultural uses post-development.



Safety was a popular topic raised, particularly around BESS. Fire safety has been given thorough consideration and the scheme would be subject to an Outline Health and Safety Plan including Battery and Fire Safety Management, reflecting the latest BESS safety codes and standards. Each container would be isolated and would contain an automatic fire control system. As a response to your feedback we have also changed the locations of BESS and inverters to set them further back from properties. We are continuing to engage with the local fire service to ensure they agree with our approach.

A few individuals noted general opposition to solar energy and expressed a preference for other forms of renewable energy. It has been proven that solar is an important part of the energy mix to achieve the targets for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 as set by the Government. According to the Climate Change Committee, solar could provide 10% to 15% of all UK generation in 2050¹.

The maps of the different panel areas presented on the following pages summarise some of the improvements to the scheme we've made since the consultation.

¹Climate Change Committee. The Sixth Carbon Budget, Electricity generation - <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Section-summary-Electricity-generation.pdf>



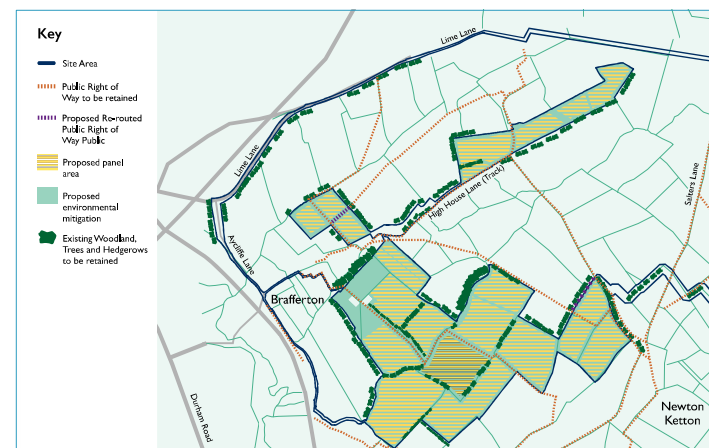
Panel areas changes, Panel Area A - Brafferton

We received a considerable number of comments about the access route south of Brafferton, so we have changed the route so it uses an existing farm track and avoids going through the village.

By changing the route we have been able to reduce the disruption and traffic impacts to Brafferton village.

We have retained the biodiversity enhancement areas which mean the panels are further from the village.

Public Rights of Way running through the solar farm will still be accessible and we have kept the same diversions proposed at the consultation to make the routes more rational.



*Indicative illustration





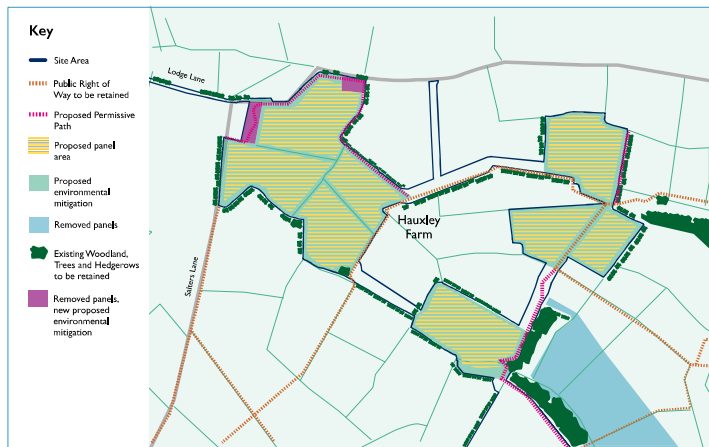
Panel areas changes, Panel Area B - Hauxley Farm

Comments were raised about the visual impacts of the proposals and the distance of the panels from nearby properties. The efficacy and suitability of the proposed mitigation measures were also mentioned.

In response, we're introducing setbacks for residents in the north-western sites of Panel Area B.

In addition, we're proposing to use the existing farm access road for construction and operation, in order to avoid using public lanes and disrupting the residents.

We have changed where the BESS are placed to help reduce both visual impact and potential noise during operation.



*Indicative illustration

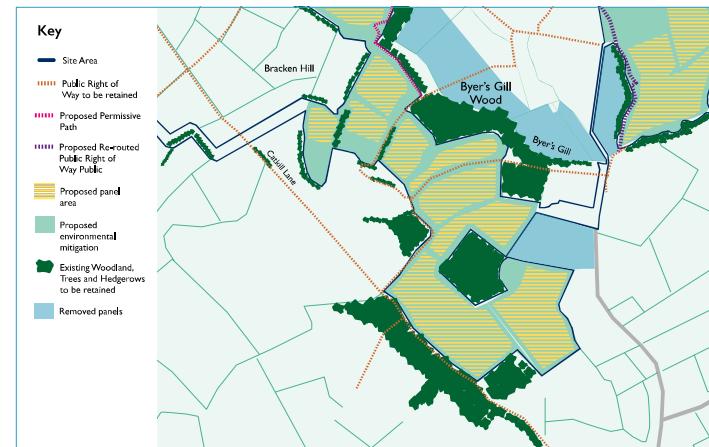


Panel areas changes, Panel Area C - Byers Gill Wood

In this panel area, we have removed a large panel area, as indicated in the light blue shading which is now no longer part of the proposed development. This came after careful consideration of feedback, and following ongoing engagement with the landowner, resulting in the panel area being removed from the proposals.

People also suggested that there should be an alternative access route to reduce the impact on near neighbours. As a result of this feedback, we're now proposing to use the existing access route.

We have retained the existing Public Rights of Way and proposed new permissive routes to allow people to keep using the area for recreation.



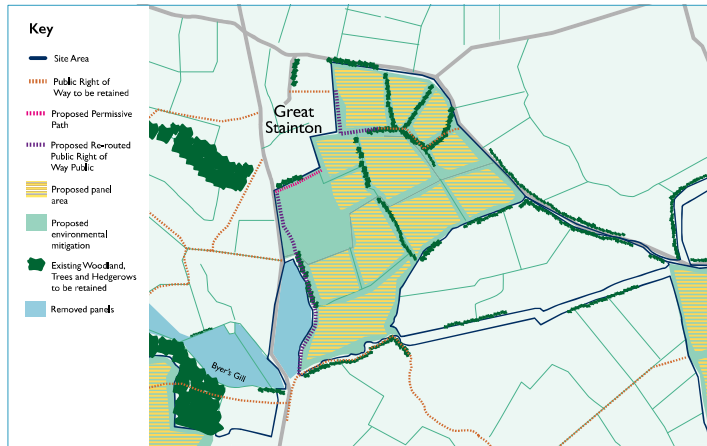
*Indicative illustration





Panel areas changes, Panel Area D - Great Stainton

We received many comments about Panel Areas D and E. We're proposing to remove a substantial panel area from Area D which will help mitigate visual impact from Great Stainton. To the south of Great Stainton, panels have been moved back from Elstob Lane in response to feedback we received on the visual impact around the village.



*Indicative illustration



Panel areas changes, Panel Area E - West of Bishopton

Since the consultation, we have also identified a new permissive path that would be created to allow access to the recreational area using the Public Rights of Way network to be accessible from Bishopton.



*Indicative illustration



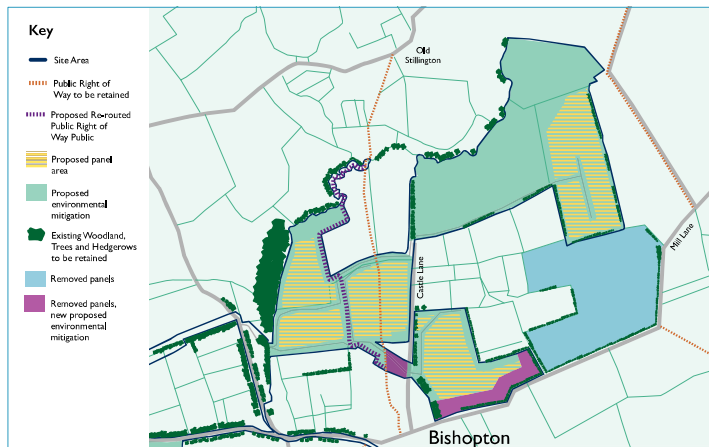


Panel areas changes, Panel area F – North of Bishopton

We understand the potential impacts of the development on Bishopton raised concerns for many, so we have taken on board all feedback to make significant changes. This includes:

- Removing a large panel area to the west of Bishopton
- Setting panels back from Mill Lane.
- Defined a new construction and operation route, avoiding Mill Lane
- Confirmed 60 acres of land that will be maintained as an appropriate habitat for curlews and other species

We are committed to a design which works to minimise the impact on the landscape and those who use it, as well as trying to provide benefits through features that can be designed into Byers Gill Solar;



"indicative illustration"



Come and talk to us

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet, summarising the feedback we received and changes made to the site design as a result.

We are committed to keeping residents updated on the project's progress. We're hosting a project update webinar and will be back in the area at Stockton Market. We have also updated our Facebook page, where you can view before and afters of the proposed development's design changes. Simply search JBM Byers Gill on Facebook on your laptop, tablet or mobile device.



We're here to talk and answer any of your questions. You can write to the project team at: **FREEPOST Byers Gill Solar** (no stamp is required) or email us at: enquiries@byersgillsolar.com.



You can sign up for our online webinar on our website <https://byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk/> on **Wednesday 29th November**



Come and talk to us at The Flea Market, Finkle St, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1AR on **Saturday 25th November**

Next steps

The size of the scheme means that Byers Gill Solar is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means that permission to construct and operate the scheme is sought through a Development Consent Order (DCO) application made to the Planning Inspectorate.

Following the submission of our application, the Planning Inspectorate will examine the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will make the decision on whether or not to grant development consent.

There are a number of ways in which you can get involved with the DCO process. You can register as an Interested Party on our page on the Planning Inspectorate's website, which can be accessed here – <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/byers-gill-solar> - or you can visit the project website, by scanning the QR code below.



JBM
SOLAR

RWE

Contact us

 www.byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk

 enquiries@byersgillsolar.co.uk

 0800 197 0118

 FREEPOST Byers Gill Solar (no stamp required)

Appendix 8.7 Northern Echo advert for design changes

Freemasons' Lodge gives time to help disabled riders



Lennox Lodge team working on insulating container

AS well as providing funds to benefit the local community, Lennox Lodge Freemasons of Richmond has also given practical help to a local riding for the disabled group. Disability is one of the Lodge's themes to support this year. Already having

donated funds to Richmond & Catterick Group Riding for the Disabled (RDA) to assist with running costs, eight members of the Lodge, and window cleaner, Don Wallis, banded together to refurbish the group's shipping container on Saturday, October 28.

The container is used to store everything related to the disabled riders, including specialist riding equipment, activity toys and notice boards. With materials donated by builder's merchant J T Atkinson and project-

managed by builders and fabricators Jason Hammond, Gary Lile and Jack Baldwin, volunteers from the Lodge were able to make the container and notice board waterproof and address the problem of condensation and the lack of ventilation in the

container. Charity Steward of Lennox Lodge, Des McKenzie said: "We tend to donate money to smaller charities as we understand that this makes a big difference to these worthy causes. But our volunteers also provide practical help."

Doctor shortlisted for award

A MIDDLESBROUGH doctor has been shortlisted for a prestigious award for the work she has done to encourage investment in services which support those with acquired brain injuries.

Dr Jessica Moffitt is the Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist at Cypriot Steephams House, on Hemlington Village Road, which is run by Cypriot Health Care and provides neuropsychiatric care and treatment for women. She has been named a finalist in the UKAIBIF awards.

Dr Moffitt has been nominated for the Stephen McAkenzie Award for Inspiration, which will recognise an individual for their inspirational work in the field of Acquired Brain Injury. She has been nominated alongside an NHS colleague, Dr Don Ivershin.

Dr Moffitt, who has been at Cypriot Health Care since 2012, said: "I am delighted and touched to be shortlisted for the UKAIBIF Stephen McAkenzie award for inspiration."

"I have been passionate about the need for appropriate services for people with neurological conditions throughout my career as I have seen the life changing impact neurological rehabilitative care can have when it is adequately funded and the difficulties that can occur when the necessary services are not available."



Byers Gill Solar announces improved design

Improvements to the JBM Solar/RWE Byers Gill Solar Farm – which will help directly to tackle the cost of living crisis by generating cheap renewable energy for the equivalent of over 70,000 homes – have been announced following the consultation held in the summer. These enhancements are an important step before we submit our application.

The plans, developed by JBM Solar (now part of RWE, the UK's leading power generator), are for a solar and battery storage farm that would also help tackle the climate crisis by saving over 4,220,000 tonnes of carbon compared to fossil fuel generation.

Since the Statutory Consultation closed in June, we have been working hard on the feedback received and seeking to accommodate change where possible. We have published a newsletter detailing all of the changes made, which include: a reduction in panel heights, reducing the number of panels, setting panel areas back from areas highlighted as important to the community, and offering construction traffic access routes to some panel areas to avoid villages.

The newsletter has been published on the project website – www.byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk – alongside a number of videos explaining the changes. These are also available on a new project Facebook page, which can be found at www.facebook.com/byersgillsolar.

In a commitment to keep the community updated, JBM Solar/RWE is inviting residents to attend a project update webinar on Wednesday 29th November – sign up at the project website or come and talk to the team at The Flea Market, Finkle St, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1AR on Saturday 25 November.

Changes have also been made to the community benefits offer. At the consultation a £600,000 community fund was proposed, payable in a lump sum at the start of construction. This has now been increased to an annual payment of £39,600 for 40 years, totalling \$1,584,000. JBM Solar/RWE is in dialogue with elected representatives in the region to explore opportunities for JBM Solar/RWE to make further positive contributions to the community.

Michael Baker, Byers Gill Project Manager, comments: "We'd like to thank everybody who took part in our consultation. We have made sure that every comment has been read and considered by the team, and where possible, we have implemented design changes or updated how we're presenting the impacts of the project. Where we haven't been able to implement a matter raised in the consultation, our Consultation Report will set out a justification for why this is when it is submitted alongside our application."

JBM Solar/RWE is aiming to submit a planning application to the Planning Inspectorate in January 2024, marking the next milestone in this ambitious project.

Further information on the project can be found at www.byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk

Appendix 8.8 Project website update for design changes

Byers Gill Solar Farm

The solar farm, located across Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees, would provide enough low-carbon energy to meet the equivalent annual needs of over 70,000 homes.

Next Steps

We held our consultation for Byers Gill Solar from Friday 5 May to Friday 16 June 2023. The deadline for responses was 23:59 on Friday 16 June 2023.

Thank you to everyone who attended one of our events and sent a response to the consultation. The feedback received, combined with further assessments and engagements with other stakeholders, has allowed us to further refine the scheme. You can find out more about the changes in the 'You said, we did' newsletter that can be found on the 'Documents' page, or by viewing the videos below.

We're hosting a project update webinar on Wednesday 29 November, which you can sign up for [here](#). You can also come and talk to us at The Flea Market, Finkle St, Stockton-on-Tees TS16 1AR on Saturday 25 November, we will be available 09:00 to 16:00.



The next steps for Byers Gill Solar are in the table below. We have shown the milestones and activities that are happening on the project, and what these depend on to achieve them. We will keep this up to date to keep you informed of any changes.

Appendix 8.9 Pictures of project team stall - Stockton-on-Tees

Next steps

The approval of the scheme means that Byers Gill Solar is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means that permission to construct and operate the scheme is sought through a Development Consent Order (DCO) application made to the Planning Inspectorate.

Following the submission of our application, the Planning Inspectorate will examine the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will make the decision on whether or not to grant development consent.

Panel areas changes,
Panel Area D -
Great Stainton



Panel areas changes,
Panel Area E -
West of Bishopston



Panel areas changes,
Panel Area F -
North of Bishopston



Byers Gill Solar project update

Byers Gill Solar is located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees, and borders County Durham. If approved, the project will consist of a solar farm capable of generating 180MW of electricity, enough to power over 70,000 homes.

Why are we proposing a solar farm?

The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable clean energy sources. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security.

Panel areas changes,
Panel Area A -
Brafferton



Panel areas changes,
Panel Area B -
Hauxley Farm



Panel areas changes,
Panel Area C -
Byers Gill Wood



Appendix 8.10 Independent community survey report

JBM Solar

Byer Gills solar farm Community Survey report

January 2023

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. This report considers an independent community door-to-door survey undertaken regarding a proposal for a 180 MW solar farm with co-located battery storage, which would be situated across six parcels of land between Darlington, Stockton-on-Tees, and Durham.
- 1.2. The survey occurred over the course of two days on the 22nd and 23rd of November. The survey took place on the doorstep and concentrated on the villages of Bishopton, Great Stainton, Little Stainton, Stillington, and Brafferton.
- 1.3. 51 residents in Bishopton, 8 residents in Great Stainton, 6 residents in Little Stainton, 62 residents in Stillington, and 16 residents in Brafferton took part in the survey. There was a total of 143 respondents across these locations. Not every respondent answered every question. Therefore, percentage figures relate to the numbers who responded to each individual question, which varies.
- 1.4. There were varying levels of support for the proposed solar farm in each of the villages. In some of the villages, a clear majority of residents were either supportive or neutral towards the proposals. In other villages, such as Bishopton, the majority of the residents were opposed to the plans. The survey ultimately demonstrated that there are diverse views regarding the proposal in the local area, and once you go beyond villages like Bishopton support for the project increases.
- 1.5. Due to the fact that Bishopton, Great Stainton, Little Stainton, Stillington, and Brafferton fall under different parishes, Instinctif has separated out the survey results by each village.

2.0 Headline Feedback to the Community

- 2.1. The key findings were as follows:
- 2.2. 143 residents participated in the survey and responded to the questions about the proposed solar farm. In the experience of Instinctif Partners, this represents a good take-up level.

- 2.3. Across the entire survey area, an overwhelmingly majority of residents, 90%, had heard about the plans for the solar farm. In fact, in Brafferton, Bishopton, Great Stainton, and Little Stainton, all residents that participated in the survey already knew about the proposals. 77% of residents were familiar with the proposals in Stillington. These figures demonstrate that there is very high awareness of the proposals across the area.
- 2.4. Across the survey area, 20% of residents were supportive, 38% were neutral, and 42% were opposed to the proposed solar farm. Therefore, in total, 58% of residents were either supportive or neutral towards the proposals.
- 2.5. Support for the proposed solar farm varied by village. The greatest amount of support for the proposals came from Brafferton and Stillington. In Brafferton, 3 residents (19%) were supportive and 9 residents (56%) were neutral towards the plans, while 4 residents (25%) expressed opposition. In Stillington, 20 residents (32%) were supportive and 33 residents (53%) were neutral towards the plans. Only 9 residents (15%) indicated that they were not supportive of the proposals in Stillington.
- 2.6. Bishopton, Great Stainton, and Little Stainton saw more opposition. In Bishopton, 36 residents (71%) were opposed to the development, 12 residents (24%) were neutral, and 3 residents (6%) were supportive. In Great Stainton, 7 residents (88%) were opposed and 1 resident (13%) was supportive. In Little Stainton, 4 residents (67%) were opposed. 1 resident (17%) was neutral and 1 resident (17%) was supportive.
- 2.7. From our time on the doorstep in the local area and analysing the survey results, opposition is very localised. Once you venture a bit further from the site, there is more support. Bishopton due to its location next to a large part of the farm is very opposed. However, looking beyond the village of Bishopton a different picture emerges, where there is more a mix of views, with a lot more people supportive or indifferent to the proposals than being against. For instance, the village of Brafferton, which would also be very close to the solar farm, did not have a large amount of opposition. The majority of residents there were either neutral or supportive of the proposals.
- 2.8. In Bishopton, a good number of residents expressed an opinion that they would be more supportive, or potentially less opposed, if the size of the solar farm was reduced, and panels moved further away from the village. In particular, residents wanted to see the panels moved further away from the local Primary School, Bishopton Redmarshall.
- 2.9. In general, support for the proposed solar farm focused on the need for the UK to increase its production of clean, green energy to combat climate change and protect the environment. Some residents also appreciated that expanding the production of clean energy could result in lower energy bills and thereby help improve energy affordability over the long term – given the lower costs of electricity generated from solar farms compared to costly imported gas.

There were also a handful of residents who were generally indifferent to the proposals because they did not believe that the development would have a significant and direct impact on them. Some residents also remarked that they simply did not know enough about solar energy and thus did not have strong views regarding the development.

- 2.10. Opposition generally focused on the size of the proposed solar farm and the perceived visual impact of the development. Several residents stated that they would have been supportive of the proposals if the solar farm was smaller; whereas some residents indicated they would prefer for solar panels to be placed in a different location (such as rooftops or brownfield sites). There was also a small number of residents who were concerned about the disposal of the panels and what would happen at the end of the life of the solar farm. A couple of residents in Bishopton were worried about a potential scenario whereby JBM Solar goes bankrupt and the panels are left in the fields when the solar farm is not operating.

Additionally, some residents mentioned that they were worried that the proposals would result in the loss of agricultural land. Other concerns commonly raised among residents included the safety of the battery energy storage systems that would be co-located with the solar farm; the impact of the development on the property prices of nearby properties; and disruption from construction traffic and the cabling works required for the grid connection to the site.

- 2.11. Residents in Bishopton were concerned about the cabling works as the route would go under the High Street and were worried it would lead to trees along the High Street being felled. It was explained to residents on the doorstep that the trees would not be impacted, there was no need for tree felling as the cabling works are all underground, like how broadband cables are laid. Some residents in Bishopton were also worried about the health impacts of the solar farm being located close to a local school. Again, Instinctif Partners staff explained that there is no health impact from solar panels and the schoolchildren's health would not be affected. A small number of residents were concerned about the impact on people's health in general, with a few people believing that someone could die as a result of the farm being operational. Other residents were also concerned about the solar farm's impact on the horses who train at the Bishopton Equestrian Centre and ride near to the fields where the panels are proposed.

The approach to the door-to-door outreach survey

- 2.12. Using its expertise, Instinctif Partners analysed the detail of the project including the type of development, the location and history of the site and the composition of its neighbours.

- 2.13. Following this analysis, it was decided that the most effective way of understanding the views of the community would be through a door-to-door outreach survey programme. In general, people tend to only proactively respond to public consultation when they feel strongly about a planning application, hence the opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of a community as a whole. It was determined that an outreach survey would therefore be more likely to capture the views of the 'silent majority' of people and those living closest to the site.
- 2.14. Instinctif Partners selected an area surrounding the site to focus its door-to-door engagement. A map detailing the roads that were included in the survey can be seen in Appendix 1.
- 2.15. The engagement took the form of a brief survey designed to quickly record the views of residents on the key issues. If a resident was not aware of the proposal, a member of Instinctif Partners would explain the proposal.
- 2.16. The survey included the following questions:
- 1. Are you aware of the proposals? Y / N**
 - 2. In principle, how supportive are you of this proposed solar farm?**
 - Supportive
 - Neutral
 - Against
 - 3. What is the main reason for your views?**
 - 4. Do you believe we need to generate more electricity from domestic renewable sources such as solar?**
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
 - 5. Are you supportive of the provision of community funding for local projects?**
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
 - 6. Are you supportive of plans to create new green infrastructure around the site and provide recreational and education spaces?**
- 2.17. Instinctif Partners conducted the survey over 2 days on the 22nd and 23rd of November 2023, with the aim of speaking to as many residents as possible. As best practice dictates, the survey was carried out throughout the day until it got dark in the evening, which was approximately 4:30pm. It was decided to not continue the survey into the early evening due to considerations of staff safety and the public often being less receptive to answering the door after it has become dark.
- 2.18. The majority of households which had a resident at home were willing to participate in the survey.

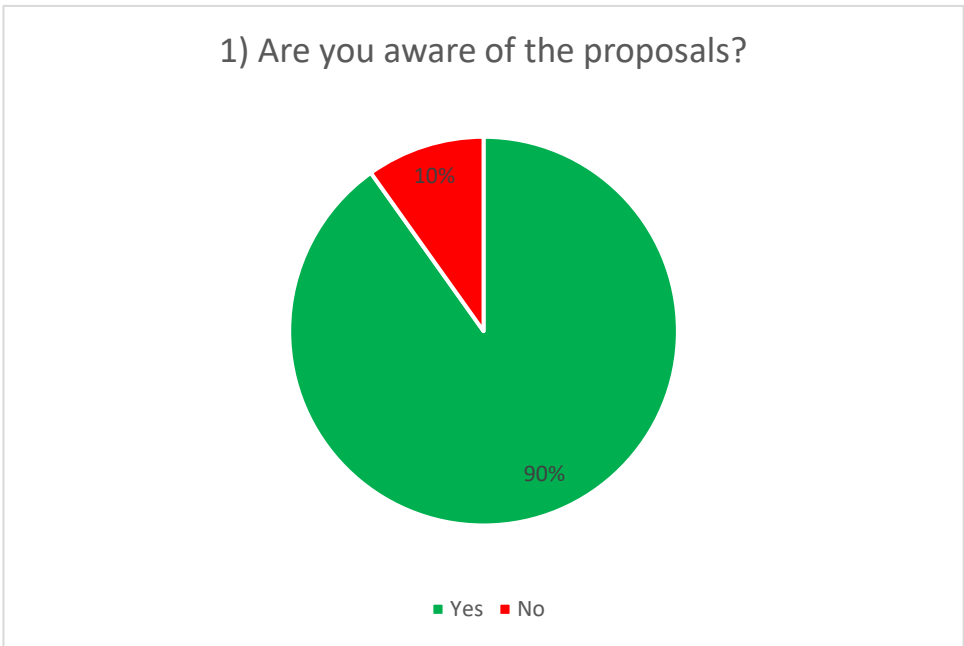
2.19. Instinctif Partners has conducted many surveys for a wide range of clients from both the public and private sector and can confirm that 143 respondents from a local area in a survey of this nature gives a good representative sample of local views.

3.0 Door-to-door Outreach Results

Overall Results

Q1) Are you aware of the proposals?

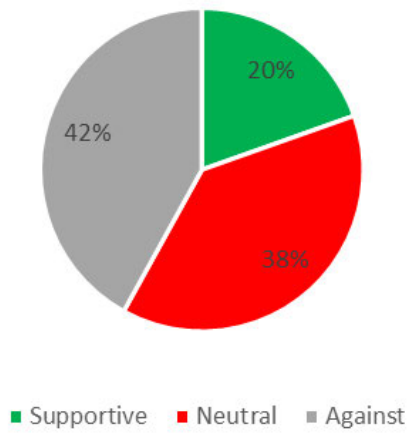
3.1. In total, 132 residents answered this question. Overall, there was very high awareness of the proposals with 119 (90%) residents having already heard of the plans to develop a new solar farm in the local area. 13 (10%) residents were not familiar with the proposals.



Q2) In principle, how supportive are you of the proposed solar farm?

3.2. 143 residents answered this question. 28 residents (20%) said they were supportive of the proposals and 55 residents (38%) were neutral. This meant 58% of residents were either supportive or neutral towards the new solar farm. 60 residents (42%) residents were opposed.

2) In principle, how supportive are you of the proposed solar farm?



Q3) What is the main reason for your views?

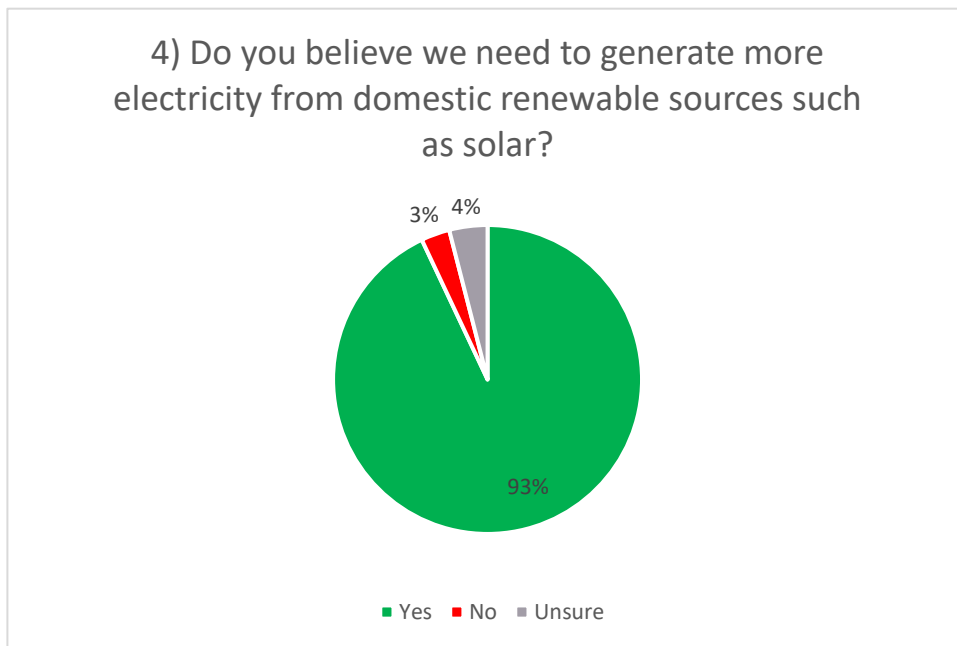
3.3. The most common reasons are below:

Comment	Frequency
Visual impact	20
Support for the environment and green energy	17
Concerns about the use of agricultural land	15
Concerns about the chosen location (i.e. preference for solar panels on rooftops or brownfield sites)	12
No perceived impact	11
Traffic	4
Not aware enough to comment	4
Concerns about project safety (i.e. battery storage systems, flooding, etc)	3

Energy affordability	1
Impact on property price	1

Q4) Do you believe we need to generate more electricity from domestic renewable sources such as solar?

3.4. 100 residents answered this question. 93 residents (93%) agreed that the UK should be generating more electricity from domestic renewable sources such as solar. 4 residents (4%) said that they were unsure, while only 3 residents (3%) indicated they disagreed.

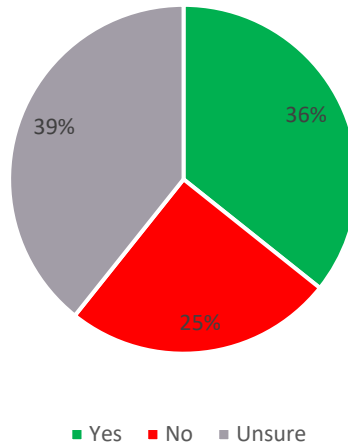


5) Are you supportive of the provision of community funding for local projects?

3.5. 28 residents answered this question. 10 residents (36%) indicated that they were supportive of community funding for local projects and a further 11 residents (39%) stated they were unsure. 7 residents (25%) said they were not supportive of the provision of community funding.

This question was posed specifically to residents in in Bishopton, Great Stainton and Brafferton. This is due to the fact that JBM Solar has proposed to distribute a £1.5 million community benefit fund over the lifetime of the project to the local parish councils for these villages. Many of those people who were against this were so because they felt it was a 'bribe'.

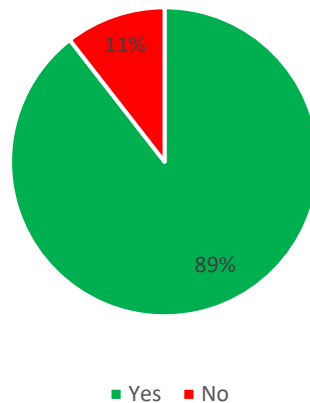
5) Are you supportive of the provision of community funding for local projects?



Q6) Are you supportive of plans to create new green infrastructure around the site and the provision of recreational and education spaces?

3.6. 38 residents answered this question. 34 residents (89%) indicated that they were supportive of plans to establish new green infrastructure around the site and provide recreation and education spaces. Only 4 residents (11%) stated that they were not supportive of these plans.

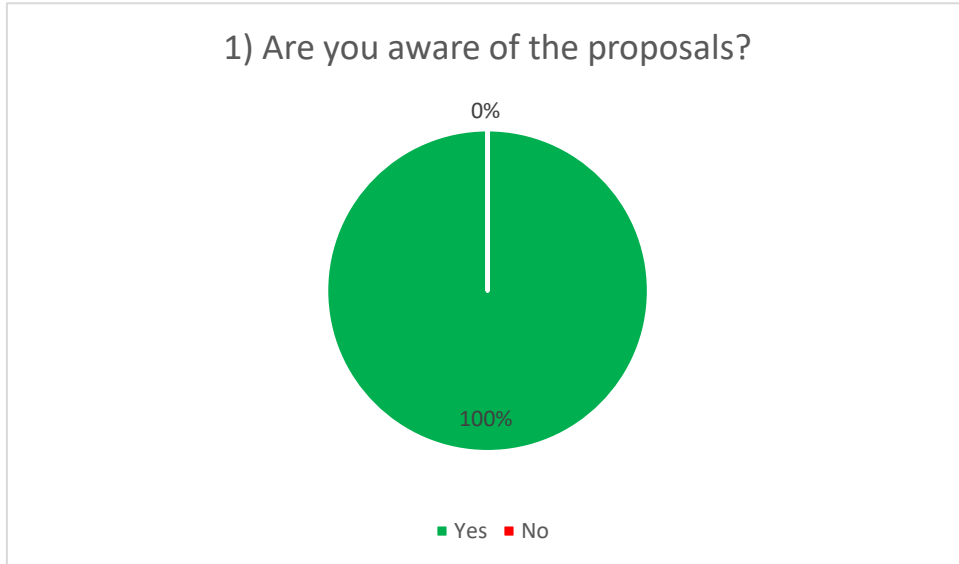
6) Are you supportive of plans to create new green infrastructure around the site and provision of recreation and education spaces?



Bishopton

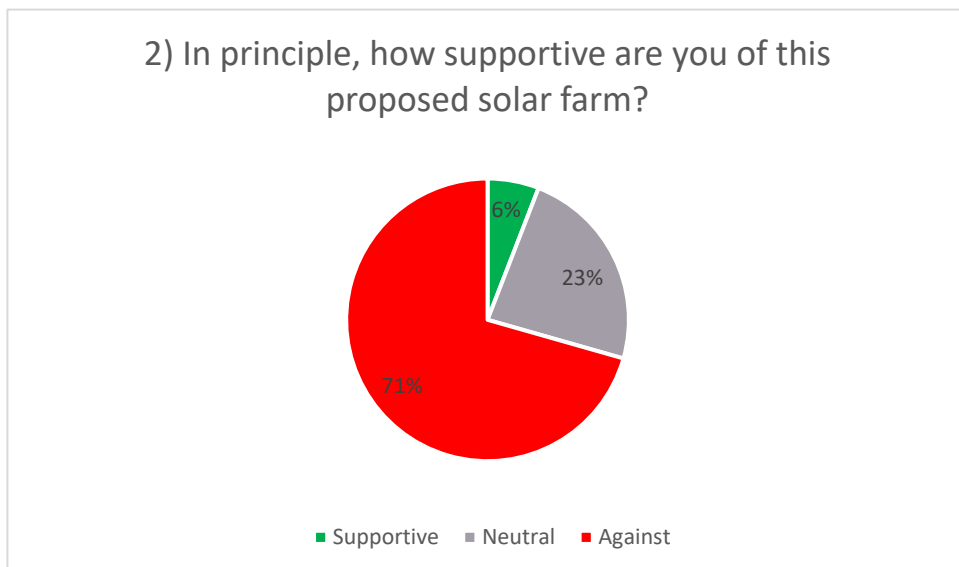
Q1) Are you aware of the proposals?

3.7. 47 residents answered this question. 100% of residents indicated that they had heard of the proposals, which demonstrates that there is extremely high awareness of the proposal.



Q2) In principle, how supportive are you of the proposed solar farm?

3.8. 51 residents answered the question. 3 residents (6%) indicated that they were supportive of the proposed solar farm and 12 residents (24%) were neutral. In total, 15 residents (30%) were either supportive or neutral towards the proposal. 36 residents (71%) were opposed.



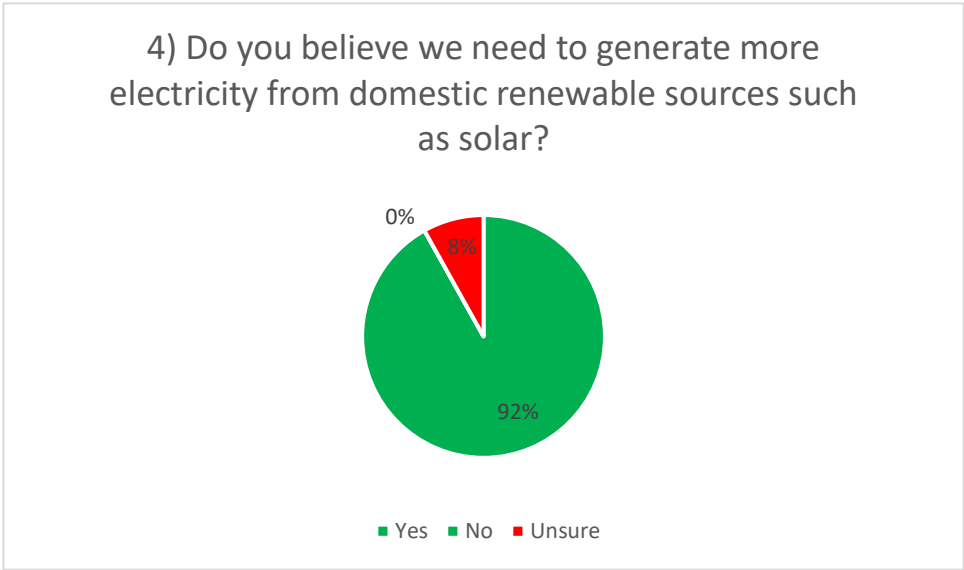
Q3) What is the main reasons for your view?

3.9. The most common reasons are below:

Comment	Frequency
Visual impact	13
Concerns about the use of agricultural land	8
Concerns about the chosen location (i.e. preference for solar panels on rooftops or brownfield sites)	8
Traffic/concern about cabling works in the village	7
Concerns about project safety (i.e. battery storage systems, impact on safety of children, horses, human life and flooding, etc)	4
Support for the environment and green energy	2
No perceived impact	1
Perceived impact on property prices	1

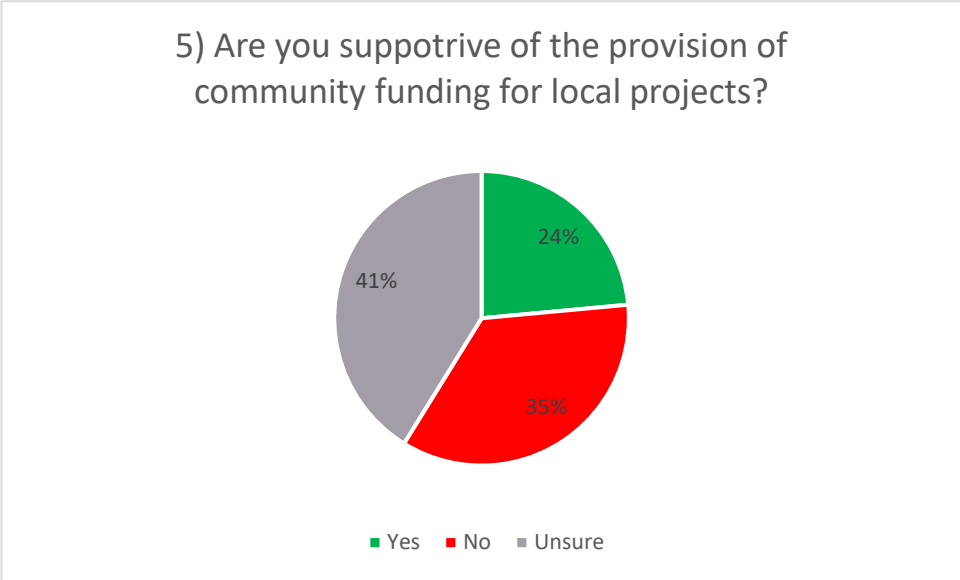
Q4) Do you believe we need to generate more electricity from domestic renewable sources such as solar?

3.10. 37 residents answered this question. Nearly all residents – 34 (92%) – agreed that the UK should generate more electricity from domestic renewable sources. Only 3 (8%) residents disagreed.



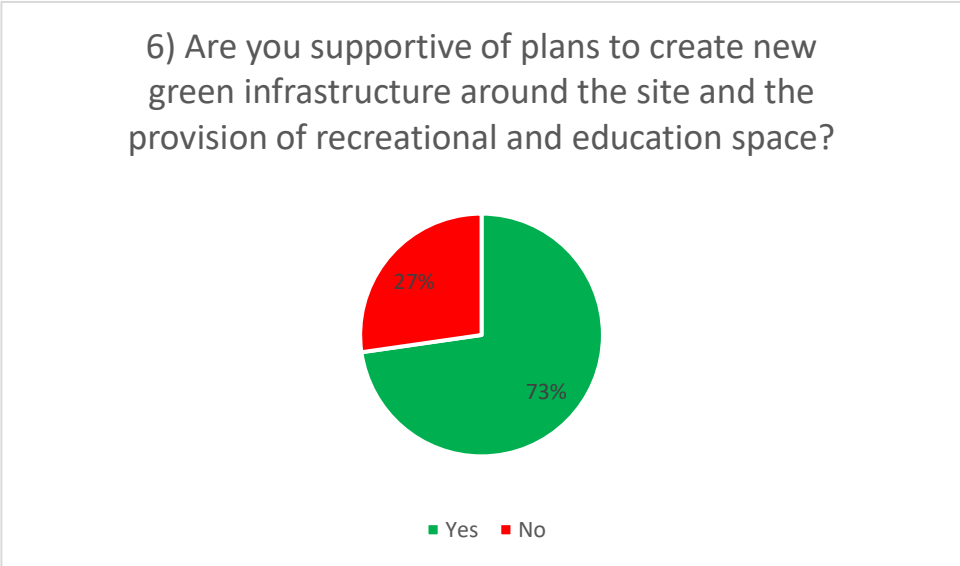
Q5) Are you supportive of the provision of community funding for local projects?

3.11. 17 residents answered the question. 4 residents (24%) were supportive, 7 (41%) were neutral and 6 residents (35%) were opposed to the provision of community funding for local projects.



Q6) Are you supportive of plans to create new green infrastructure around the site and the provision of recreational and education space?

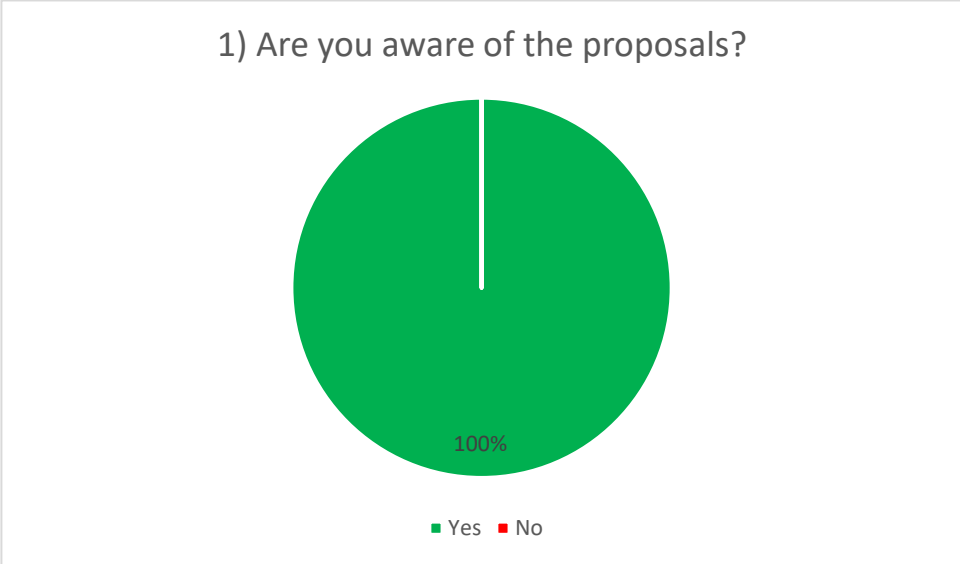
3.12. 11 residents answered this question. 8 residents (73%) responded that they would be supportive of plans to set up new green infrastructure around the site and provide recreational and education space. 3 residents (27%) expressed that they were opposed.



Great Stainton

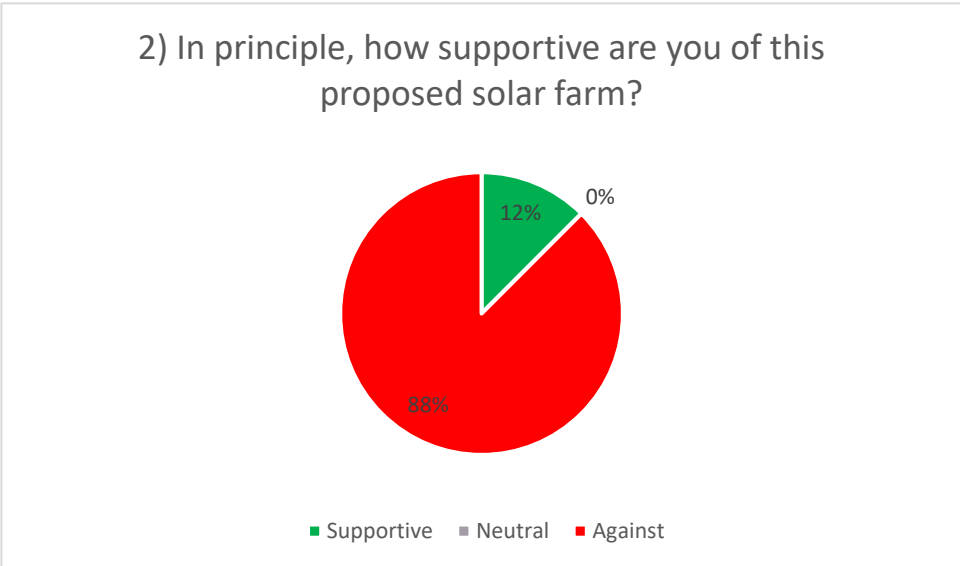
Q1) Are you aware of the proposals?

3.13. 7 residents answered this question. There was 100% percent awareness of the proposals among these residents.



Q2) In principle, how supportive are you of this proposed solar farm?

3.14. 8 residents answered this question. 1 resident (12%) said that they were supportive of the proposed solar farm. 7 residents (88%) were opposed to the proposals.



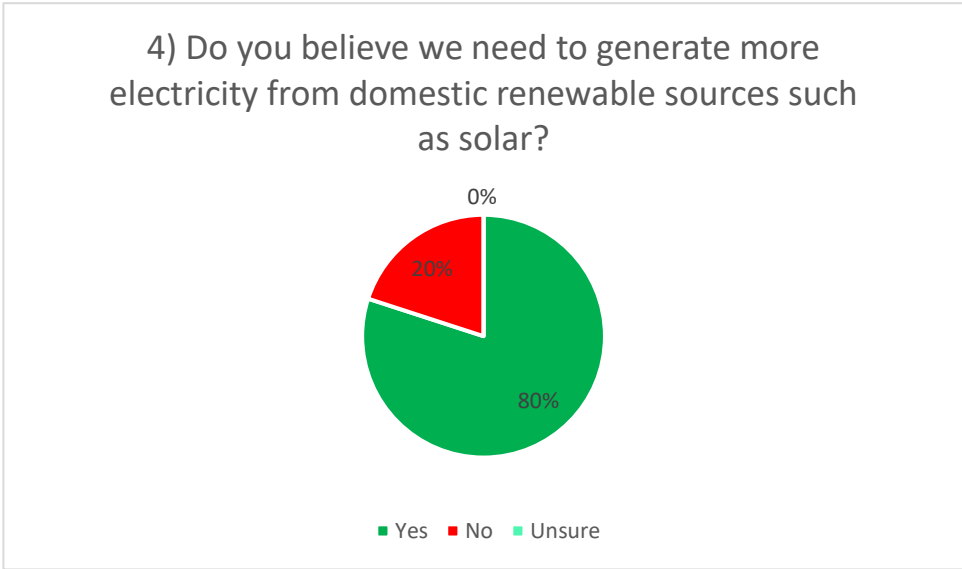
Q3) What is the main reason for your view?

3.15. The most common reasons are below:

Comment	Frequency
Visual impact	1
Concerns about the use of agricultural land	1
Support for the environment and green energy	1
Concerns about project safety	1

Q4) Do you believe we need to generate more electricity from domestic renewable sources such as solar?

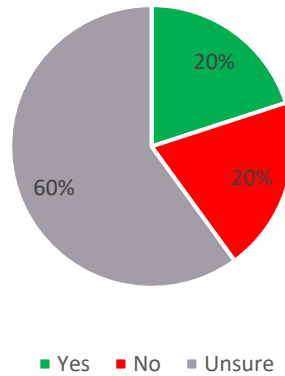
3.16. 5 residents answered this question. A clear majority of residents – 5 (80%) – believed that the UK should generate more electricity from domestic renewables sources. 1 resident (20%) disagreed.



Q5) Are you supportive of the provision of community funding for local projects?

3.17. 5 residents answered this question. 1 resident (20%) said that they were supportive of the provision of community funding for local projects and 3 residents (60%) expressed they were unsure. 1 resident (20%) indicated they were not supportive.

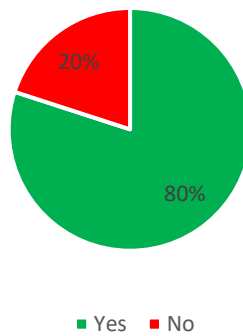
5) Are you supportive of the provision of community funding for local projects?



Q6) Are you supportive of plans to create new green infrastructure around the site and the provision of recreational and education spaces?

3.18. 5 residents answered this question. 4 residents (80%) said they were supportive of plans to establish new green infrastructure around the site in addition to the provision of recreational and education space. 1 resident (20%) did not support these plans.

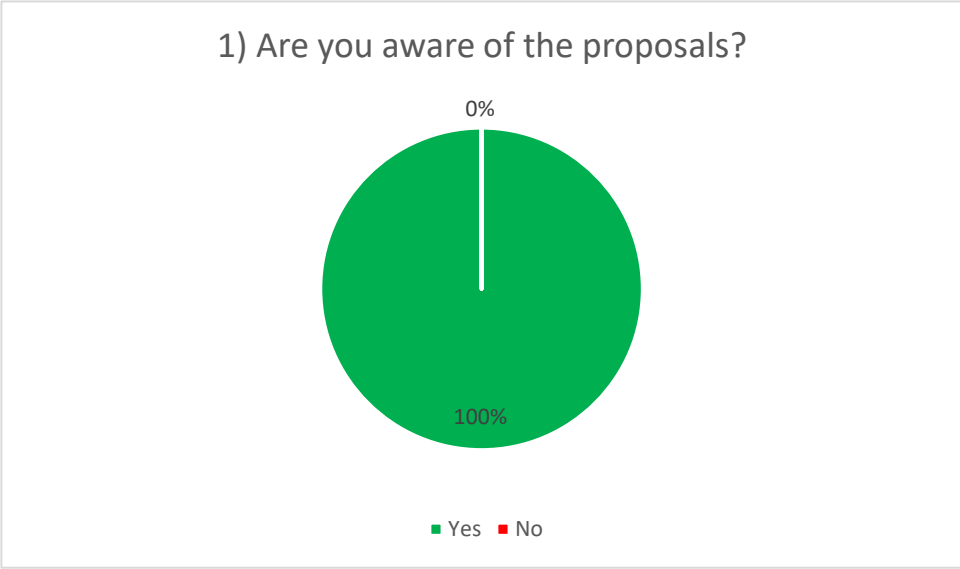
6) Are you supportive of plans to create new green infrastructure around the site and the provision of recreational and education space?



Little Stainton

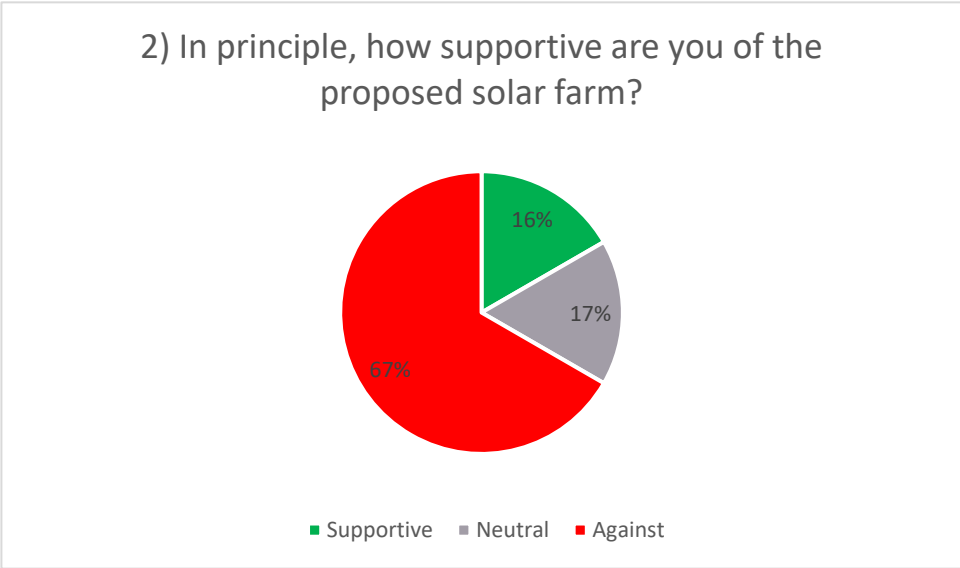
Q1) Are you aware of the proposals?

3.19. 6 residents answered this question. All of the residents (100%) were familiar with the proposals.



Q2) In principle, how supportive are you of this proposed solar farm?

3.20. 6 residents answered this question. 4 residents (67%) were opposed the proposal solar farm. 1 resident (17%) was supportive and 1 (17%) resident was neutral towards the plans.



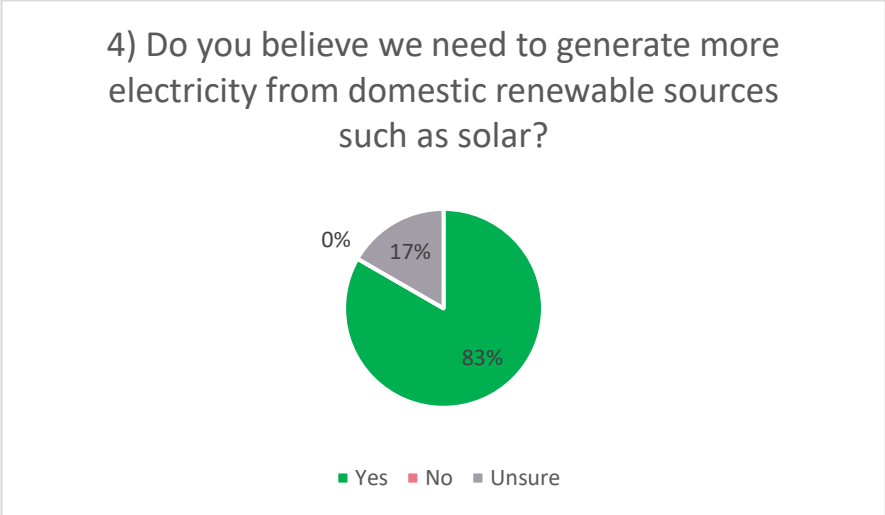
Q3) What is the main reason for you views?

3.21. The most common reasons are below:

Comment	Frequency
Visual impact	2
Concerns about the use of agricultural land	1
Support for the environment and green energy	1

Q4) Do you believe we need to generate more electricity from domestic renewable sources such as solar?

3.22. 6 residents answered this question. Most residents – 5 (83%) – agreed that the UK needs to generate more electricity from domestic renewable sources. 1 resident (17%) did not agree.



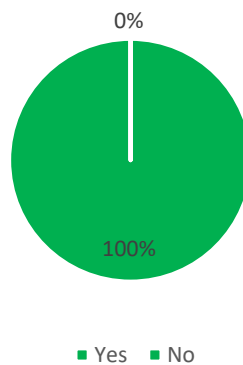
Q5) Are you supportive of the provision of community funding for local projects?

3.23. This question was not applicable to the residents of Little Stainton. The proposed community fund would be distributed over the lifetime of the project to the parish councils of Bishopton, Great Stainton and Brafferton.

Q6) Are you supportive of the plans to create new green infrastructure around the site and the provision of recreational and education space?

3.24. 2 residents answered this question. All of the residents (100%) were supportive of the plans to develop new green infrastructure around the site and include recreational and education space.

6) Are you supportive of plans to create green infrastructure around the site and the provision of recreational and education space?

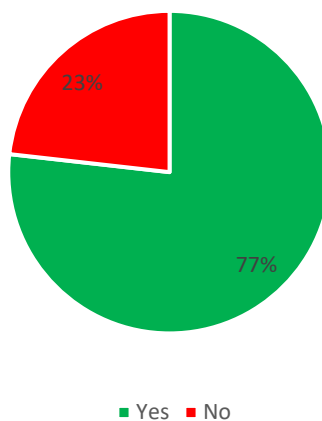


Stillington

Q1) Are you aware of the proposals?

3.25. 56 residents answered this question. 43 (77%) residents were familiar with the plans to develop a new solar farm. This figure was lower than in some of the other villages, though it still demonstrates that there is very high awareness of the proposals in Stillington which is roughly a mile from the eastern part of the site. Only 13 residents (23%) were not previously aware of the proposals.

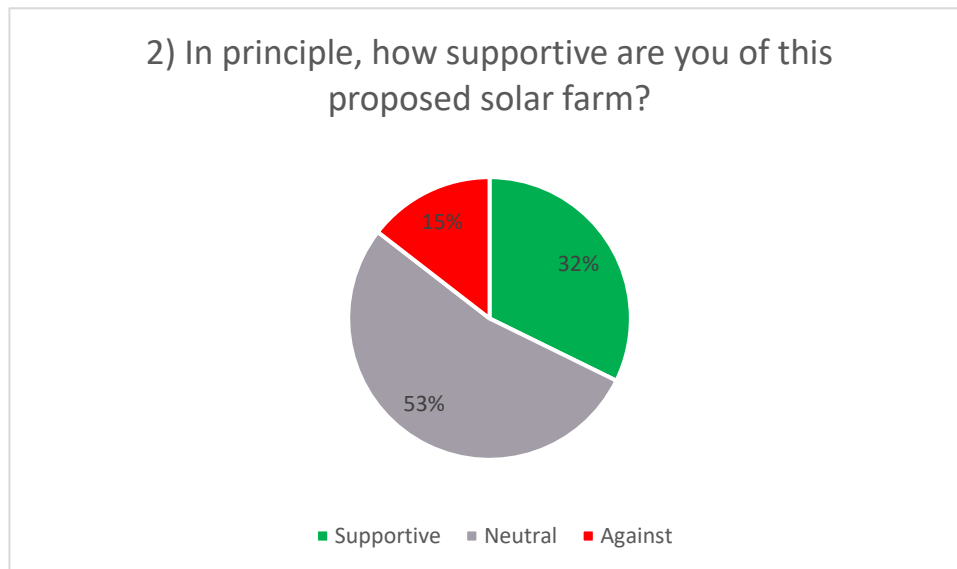
1) Are you aware of the proposals?



Q2) In principle, how supportive are you of this proposed solar farm?

3.26. 62 residents answered this question. 20 residents (32%) indicated that they were supportive of the proposed solar farm and 33 residents (53%) expressed that they were neutral. This means that

75% of residents were either supportive or neutral regarding the proposals. 9 residents (15%) said they did not back the plans.



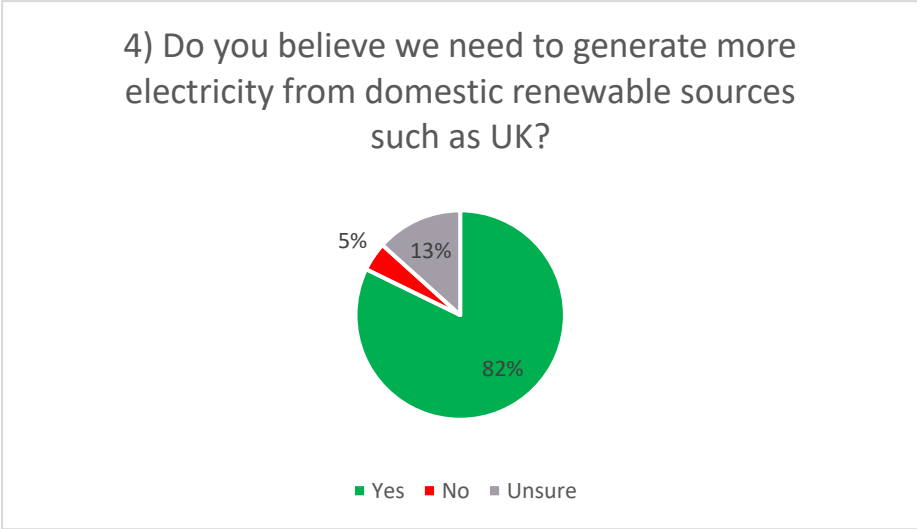
Q3) What is the main reason for your views?

3.27. The common reasons are below:

Comment	Frequency
Support for the environment and green energy	10
No perceived impact	9
Concerns about the use of agricultural land	5
Not aware enough	3
Concerns about location	2
Visual impact	2
Energy affordability	1

Q4) Do you believe we need to generate more electricity from domestic renewable sources such as solar?

3.28. 45 residents answered this question. A substantial majority – 37 residents (87%) – held the view that the UK should generate more electricity from domestic renewable sources. 6 residents (13%) indicated that they were unsure; while only 2 residents (4%) disagreed.

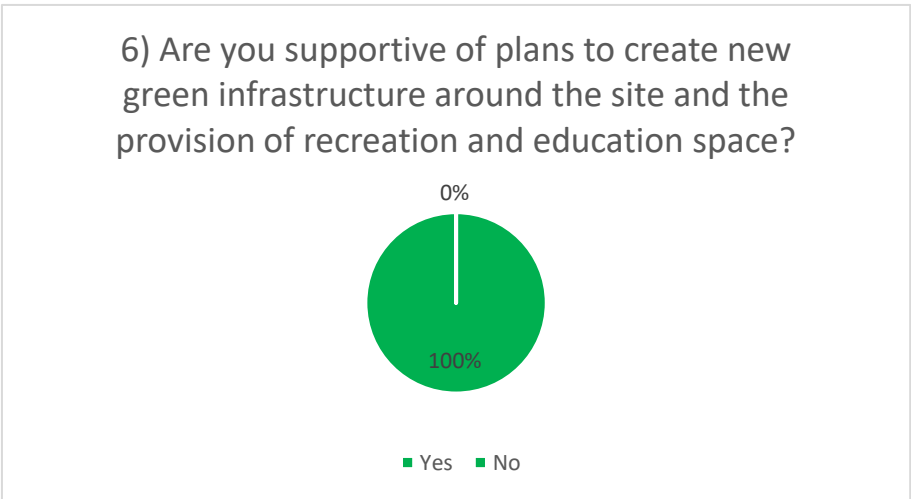


Q5) Are you supportive of the provision of community funding for local projects?

3.29. This question was not applicable to the residents of Stillington. The proposed community fund would be distributed over the lifetime of the project to the parish councils of Bishopton, Great Stainton and Brafferton.

Q6) Are you supportive of plans to create new green infrastructure around the site and the provision of recreational and education space?

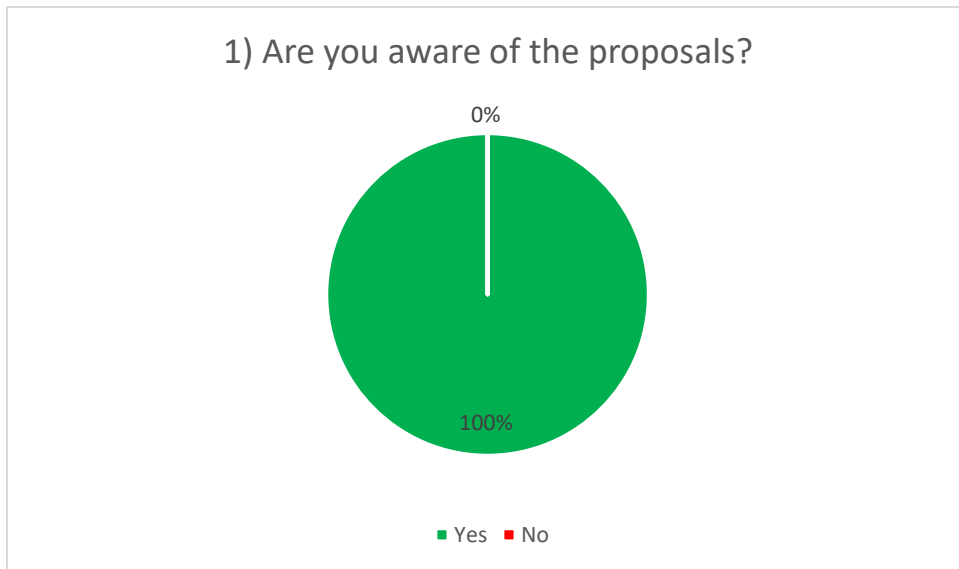
3.30. 16 residents answered this question. All residents (100%) were supportive of plans to create new green infrastructure around the site and establish recreational and education space.



Brafferton

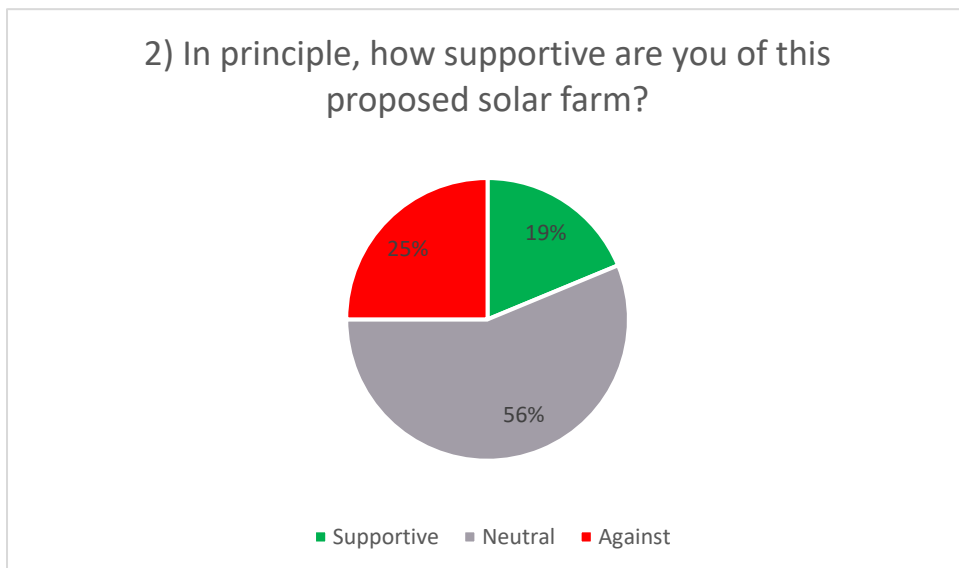
Q1) Are you aware of the proposals?

3.31. 16 residents answered this question. All residents (100%) noted that they already had knowledge of the plans to develop a new solar farm.



Q2) In principle, how supportive are you of the proposed solar farm?

3.32. 16 residents answered this question. Most residents – 9 (56%) - said that they were neutral towards the proposals to develop a new solar farm, while 3 residents (19%) expressed they were supportive. This means that 75% of residents were either supportive or neutral towards the plans. 4 residents (25%) indicated they were opposed.



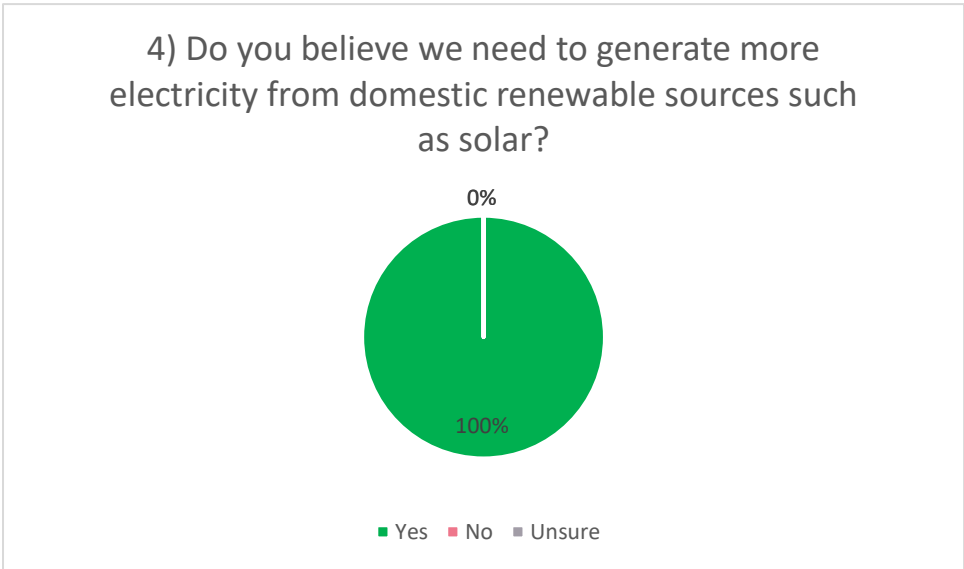
Q3) What is the main reason for your views?

3.33. The common reasons are below:

Comment	Frequency
Support for the environment and green energy	3
Visual impact	2
Concerns about location	2
Traffic	1
Not aware enough	1
No perceived impact	1

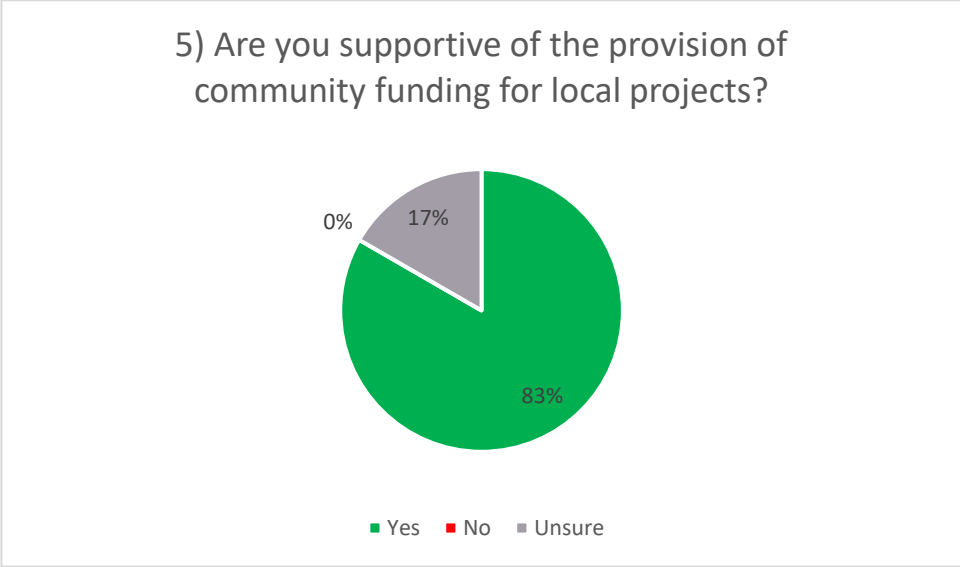
Q4) Do you believe we need to generate more electricity from domestic renewable sources such as solar?

3.34. 13 residents answered this question. All residents (100%) took the view that the UK should generate more electricity from domestic renewable sources.



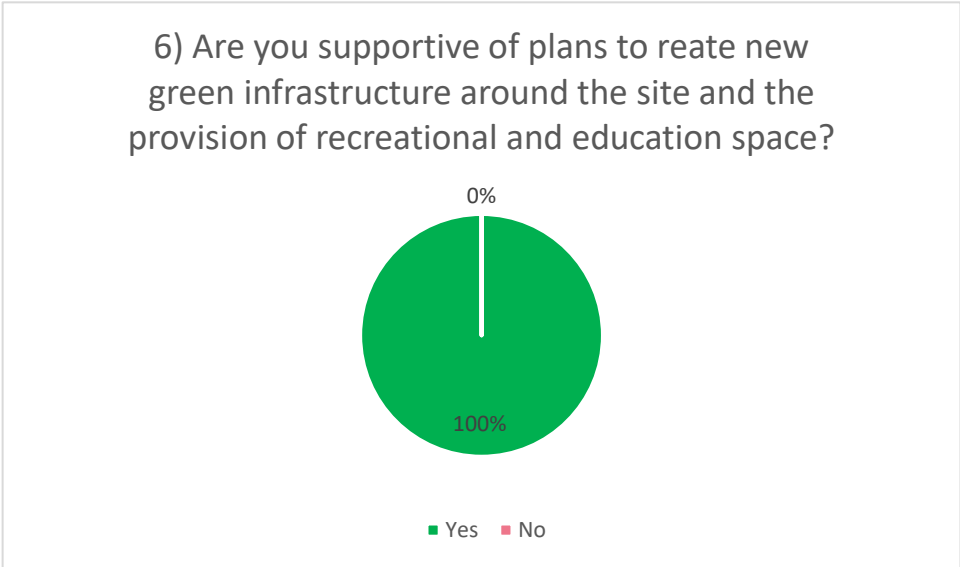
Q5) Are you supportive of the provision of community funding for local projects?

3.35. 6 residents answered this question. 5 residents (83%) expressed that they were supportive of the provision of community funding for local projects. 1 resident (17%) indicated they were unsure. No residents mentioned they were opposed to community funding for local projects.



Q6) Are you supportive of plans to create new green infrastructure around the site and the provision of recreational and education space?

3.36. 4 residents answered this question. All residents (100%) remarked they were supportive of plans to create new green infrastructure around the site and provide recreation and education space.



4.0 Summary & Conclusions

- 4.1 143 residents participated in the survey and responded to the questions about the proposed solar farm, which represents an excellent take-up level from the local area. The survey team also ensured that residents across multiple villages were engaged in the survey, given the size of the proposed solar farm.
- 4.2 A large majority (90%) of residents across the survey area had previously heard of the proposals. Notably, all residents in Bishopton, Great Stainton, Little Stainton, and Brafferton were aware of the plans to develop a new solar farm. Most residents in Stillington were also familiar with these plans.
- 4.3 The survey revealed there were diverse views regarding the proposals in the local community. Overall, 83 residents (58%) across the entire survey area can be classified as supportive or neutral towards the proposed solar farm. 60 residents (42%) were opposed to the plans. The survey demonstrated that the overwhelming majority of local opposition came from the one village of Bishopton.
- 4.4 In general support focused on the need for the UK to move towards a more environmentally sustainable future. A substantial number of residents acknowledged the country should increase the amount of electricity generated from solar and other domestic renewable sources to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change, even those residents who were opposed to the proposed solar farm. Residents also appreciated that harnessing domestic renewable sources could improve energy affordability and reduce household bills over the long-term.

Some residents were also generally indifferent to the proposals as they did not believe that the site would directly or significantly impact them. A few residents also remarked that they did not know enough about renewable energy and therefore did not have strong views on the proposals.

- 4.5 Opposition primarily centred around the size of the proposed solar farm, the perceived visual impact, and the loss of agricultural land. Other concerns that were raised included the safety of battery energy storage systems, the impact of the development on property prices, and potential disruptions that could arise from construction traffic and cabling works needed to connect the site to the grid. The bulk of the opposition came from the village of Bishopton, though a lot of residents there stated that they would be less opposed and perhaps more supportive if the solar farm was reduced in size.

Appendix 1 — (Areas highlighted in red were door knocked- note various other properties and farms across the site area were knocked on)

Bishopton door to door outreach map



Brafferton door to door outreach map



Stillington door to door outreach map



Great Stainton door to door outreach map



Little Stainton door to door outreach map



Appendix 9.1 Land stakeholder design changes letter

[INSERT PARTY NAME]
[INSERT ADDRESS]

9 November 2023

Dear [INSERT SALUTATION],

Byers Gill Solar – Statutory Consultation
Planning Act 2008, Sections 42(1)(d) and 44: Duty to consult on a proposed application

JBM Solar Limited (the “Applicant”) is carrying out additional consultation on its proposals for the Byers Gill Solar Farm (the “Proposed Development”) between Friday 10 November 2023 and Monday 11 December 2023. This letter explains why we are carrying out additional consultation and invites you to share your views on the proposals. The Proposed Development would be located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees in north-east England.

Why we are writing to you

In accordance with the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the “Act”), the Applicant previously undertook statutory pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development. We wrote to you in May 2023 to inform you of the statutory consultation which took place between Friday 5 May 2023 and Friday 16 June 2023. Since we wrote to you, the feedback provided during this consultation has been considered by the project team and has further informed our proposals. There has been further engagement with affected parties and we have subsequently decided to refine our design in some areas.

This letter is sent to you as part of an additional consultation exercise on the Proposed Development carried out under section 42 of the Act. The Applicant is consulting with you as we believe land in which you have an interest is impacted by these changes.

We believe your interest in land relates to:

Title Number (if registered): XXXX

Property Description: XXXX

Nature of Interest: XXXX

We include below, an extract of our proposed Development Boundary, showing our current proposals for the relevant land vs our Development Boundary as shown in the statutory consultation in May.

The change(s) that we believe affect you are an increase in landtake where you are believed to have an interest as noted above. A plan showing the area of change is enclosed.

This letter is notice of the Applicant's additional consultation from Friday 10 November 2023 to Monday 11 December 2023. As the Proposed Development qualifies as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, due to its generating capacity exceeding 50MW, the Applicant would then submit to the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero an application for a DCO, which would authorise the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The Planning Inspectorate ("PINS") will oversee the application process on the Secretary of State's behalf.

The Proposed Development

The Proposed Development will comprise a solar farm capable of generating over 50MW Alternating Current (AC) of electricity with co-located Battery Energy Storage System ("BESS"), located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees in north-east England. The Proposed Development's site area is approximately 490 hectares and comprises six solar photovoltaic (PV) panel areas (Panel Areas A-F). An on-site substation would be located within Panel Area C.

The Proposed Development would comprise:

- up to 32.5km of 33 kilovolt (kV) underground cabling between the Panel Areas and the on-site substation;
- approximately 10km of 132kV underground cable to connect the Proposed Development to the grid connection at the existing Norton substation (located to the north-west of Stockton-on-Tees);
- supporting infrastructure comprising BESS; transformers and inverters for managing the electricity produced; storage containers to hold this equipment; and security measures such as fencing, CCTV and lighting; and
- environmental mitigation and enhancement measures to avoid or reduce adverse impacts on the surrounding environment and nearby communities.

The proposed Development is an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the "EIA Regulations"). This means that the proposed works involved constitute development for which an EIA is required and the proposed application for a DCO will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental

Statement. We have also prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to help you understand the likely effects of our proposals.

A DCO is able to include any necessary rights and powers to ensure delivery of the Scheme, including compulsory acquisition and temporary use powers. It can also include powers to apply and/or disapply legislation relevant to the Proposed Development. The Applicant is seeking to avoid the use of these powers where agreements with landowners are in place.

Consultation documents

To view the full suite of consultation documents that were presented as part of the statutory consultation, please visit the project website at byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk/documents/. These are provided to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us, and comprise:

- the consultation booklet;
- the consultation feedback questionnaire;
- the PEIR, accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary; and
- associated plans and drawings.

When providing your response, please include your name and address, or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode online. Please supply any response using the contact methods below:

- Email: enquiries@byersgillsolar.com
- Freepost*: Byers Gill Solar

**No stamp is required.*

Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on Monday 11 December 2023.

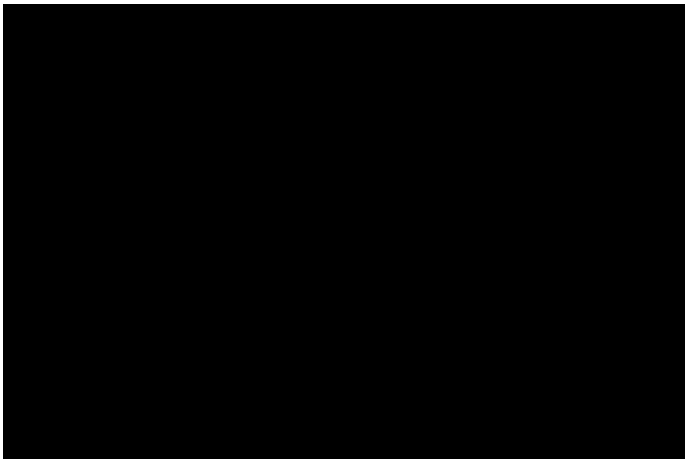
JBM Solar will consider and have regard to all responses to this additional consultation. Responses will be included in a Consultation Report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the Proposed Development, please contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided above.

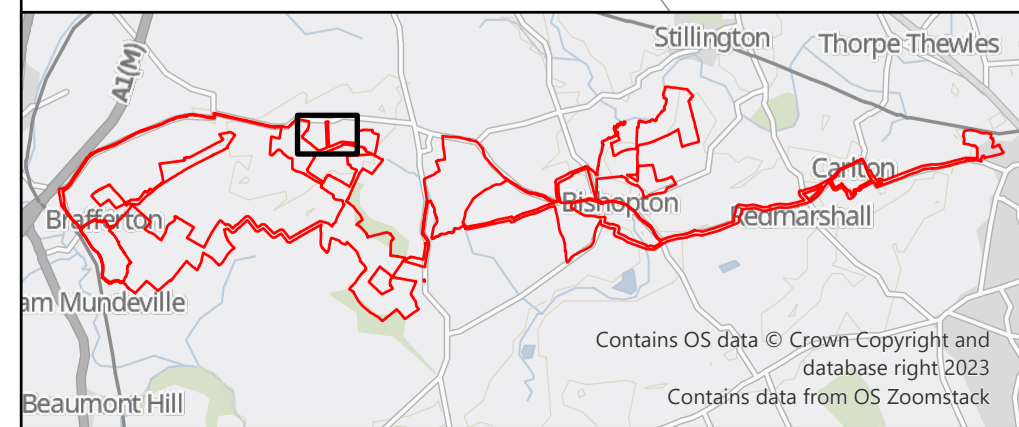
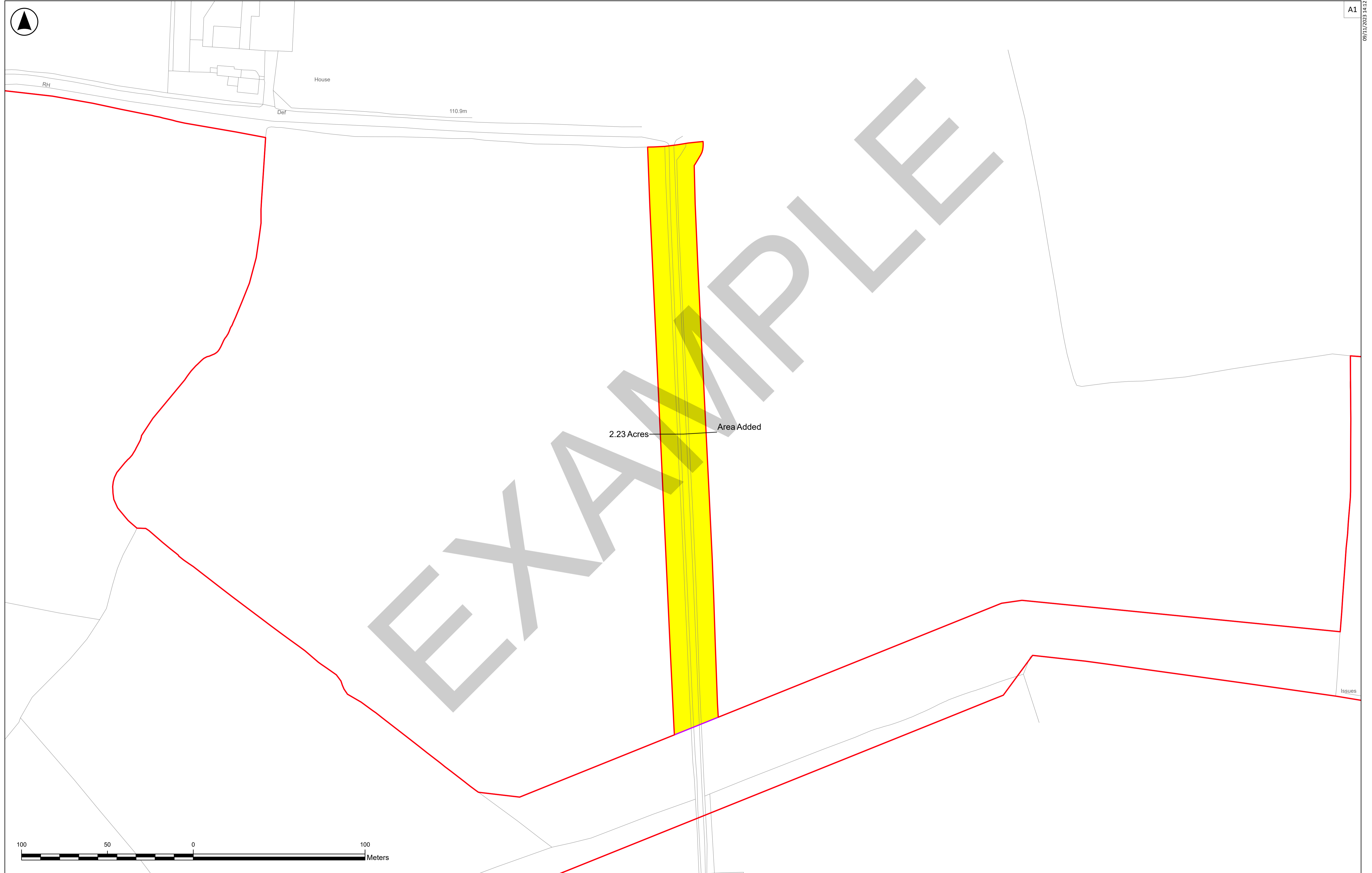
As you may have an interest in the affected land, we are enclosing a plan showing the extents of Proposed Development, which is called the “site location plan”.

Printed copies of the consultation materials may be requested during the consultation period from JBM Solar using the email address, postal address or telephone number provided in this letter. Please note that there would be a charge of up to £500 for paper copies of some consultation materials, though the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR would be provided for free.

Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the Proposed Development or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided below.



Enclosed: Site location plan, Area of Change plan



- ▭ Current Limits
- ▭ Original Limits
- ▭ Area Added

Coordinate System:
British National Grid

DRAFT	02/10/23	JNS	AH	KC	--
Rev	Date	By	Chkd	Appd	Authd



Project Name
Byers Gill Solar

Drawing Title
Red Line Boundary Additions

Scale at A1
1:1,000

Role
--

Suitability
INFORMATION

Project Number 0179	Rev DRAFT
Drawing Name 0179-SHRK-XX-XX-DR-L-1000	

Appendix 9.2 Additional consultee party letters

[INSERT PARTY NAME]
[INSERT ADDRESS]

9 November 2023

Dear [INSERT SALUTATION],

**Byers Gill Solar – Statutory Consultation
Planning Act 2008, Sections 42(1)(d) and 44: Duty to consult on a proposed application**

JBM Solar Limited (the “Applicant”) is carrying out additional consultation on its proposals for the Byers Gill Solar Farm (the “Proposed Development”) between Friday 10 November 2023 and Monday 11 December 2023. This letter explains why we are carrying out additional consultation and invites you to share your views on the proposals. The Proposed Development would be located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees in north-east England.

Why we are writing to you

In accordance with the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the “Act”), the Applicant has previously undertaken statutory pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development. The statutory consultation took place between Friday 5 May 2023 and Friday 16 June 2023. The feedback provided during this consultation has been considered by the project team and has further informed our proposals.

This letter is sent to you as part of an additional consultation exercise on the Proposed Development carried out under section 42 of the Act. The Applicant is consulting with you as, having carried out a recent refresh and further review of Land Registry information, and the ongoing land referencing process, we have identified that you be a person who, is either:

1. An owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land within the Proposed Development’s site area;
2. A person who holds an interest in the land or has the power to sell or convey the land or release the land within the Proposed Development’s site area; or

3. Might be entitled to make a relevant claim if the Development Consent Order (“DCO”) were to be made and implemented

We believe your interest in land relates to:

Title Number (if registered): XXXX

Property Description: XXXX

Nature of Interest: XXXX

This letter is notice of the Applicant’s additional consultation from Friday 10 November 2023 to Monday 11 December 2023.. As the Proposed Development qualifies as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, due to its generating capacity exceeding 50MW, the Applicant would then submit to the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero an application for a DCO, which would authorise the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The Planning Inspectorate (“PINS”) will oversee the application process on the Secretary of State’s behalf.

The Proposed Development

The Proposed Development will comprise a solar farm capable of generating over 50MW Alternating Current (AC) of electricity with co-located Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”), located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees in north-east England. The Proposed Development’s site area is approximately 490 hectares and comprises six solar photovoltaic (PV) panel areas (Panel Areas A-F). An on-site substation would be located within Panel Area C.

The Proposed Development would comprise:

- up to 32.5km of 33 kilovolt (kV) underground cabling between the Panel Areas and the on-site substation;
- approximately 10km of 132kV underground cable to connect the Proposed Development to the grid connection at the existing Norton substation (located to the north-west of Stockton-on-Tees);
- supporting infrastructure comprising BESS; transformers and inverters for managing the electricity produced; storage containers to hold this equipment; and security measures such as fencing, CCTV and lighting; and
- environmental mitigation and enhancement measures to avoid or reduce adverse impacts on the surrounding environment and nearby communities.

The proposed Development is an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the “EIA Regulations”). This means that the proposed works involved constitute development for which an EIA is required and the proposed application for a DCO will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental

Statement. We have also prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to help you understand the likely effects of our proposals.

A DCO is able to include any necessary rights and powers to ensure delivery of the Scheme, including compulsory acquisition and temporary use powers. It can also include powers to apply and/or disapply legislation relevant to the Proposed Development. The Applicant is seeking to avoid the use of these powers where agreements with landowners are in place.

Consultation documents

To view the full suite of consultation documents that were presented as part of the statutory consultation, please visit the project website at byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk/documents/. These are provided to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us, and comprise:

- the consultation booklet;
- the consultation feedback questionnaire;
- the PEIR, accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary; and
- associated plans and drawings.

When providing your response, please include your name and address, or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode online. Please supply any response using the contact methods below:

- Email: enquiries@byersgillsolar.com
- Freepost*: Byers Gill Solar

**No stamp is required.*

Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on Monday 11 December 2023.

JBM Solar will consider and have regard to all responses to this additional consultation. Responses will be included in a Consultation Report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

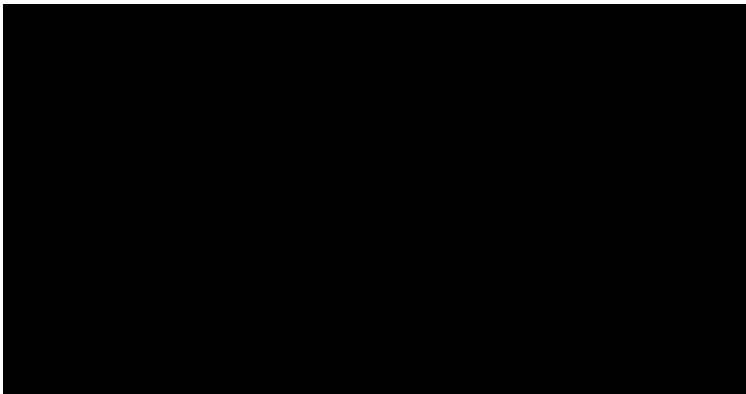
If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the Proposed Development, please contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided above.

As you may have an interest in the affected land, we are enclosing a plan showing the extents of Proposed Development, which is called the “site location plan”.

Printed copies of the consultation materials may be requested during the consultation period from JBM Solar using the email address, postal address or telephone number provided in this letter. Please note that there would be a charge of up to £500 for paper copies of some consultation materials, though the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR would be provided for free.

Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the Proposed Development or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided below.

Yours [INSERT SINCERELY/FAITHFULLY]



Enclosed: Site location plan

Appendix 9.3 Subsoil specific consultation letter

[INSERT PARTY NAME]
[INSERT ADDRESS]

9 November 2023

Dear [INSERT SALUTATION],

Byers Gill Solar – Statutory Consultation
Planning Act 2008, Sections 42(1)(d) and 44: Duty to consult on a proposed application

JBM Solar Limited (the “Applicant”) is carrying out additional consultation on its proposals for the Byers Gill Solar Farm (the “Proposed Development”) between 9 November 2023 and 10 December 2023. This letter explains why we are carrying out additional consultation and invites you to share your views on the proposals. The Proposed Development would be located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees in north-east England.

Why we are writing to you

In accordance with the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the “Act”), the Applicant has previously undertaken statutory pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development. The statutory consultation took place between Friday 5 May 2023 and Friday 16 June 2023. The feedback provided during this consultation has been considered by the project team and has further informed our proposals.

This letter is sent to you as part of an additional consultation exercise on the Proposed Development carried out under section 42 of the Act. The Applicant is consulting with you as, having carried out diligent inquiry, the Applicant considers that you may be a person who, by virtue of a subsoil interest, is either:

1. An owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land within the Proposed Development’s site area;
2. A person who holds an interest in the land or has the power to sell or convey the land or release the land within the Proposed Development’s site area; or

3. Might be entitled to make a relevant claim if the Development Consent Order (“DCO”) were to be made and implemented.

Subsoil interest

A subsoil interest can exist under a legal presumption (the *ad medium filium* rule) that the ground beneath the surface of unregistered public highways is owned by the owners of land adjacent to the highway. This rule allocates the subsoil rights of such roads to adjoining landowners, up to the centre line of the road.

In this instance, the relevant Highway Authority (either Darlington Borough Council or Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council) are the owner and occupier of the surface of each road, whilst you – as an adjacent landowner – are considered to own the subsoil (the ground beneath the road).

As our proposals involve laying cables along local roads, we have determined the need to identify and consult all those with a subsoil interest in highways which may be impacted by the Proposed Development.

The cable works that would be conducted would be similar to the installation of infrastructure that is typically located beneath highways, such as cables and pipes for water, gas, electricity, and telecoms.

We would like to re-emphasise that you are receiving this letter because of your subsoil interest in a road which is located within the boundary of the Proposed Development. It does not mean that any other property or land you have an interest in will be directly affected by the Proposed Development unless we have contacted you separately.

This letter is notice of the Applicant’s additional consultation from 9 November 2023 and 10 December 2023. As the Proposed Development qualifies as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, due to its generating capacity exceeding 50MW, the Applicant would then submit to the Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero an application for a DCO, which would authorise the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The Planning Inspectorate (“PINS”) will oversee the application process on the Secretary of State’s behalf.

The Proposed Development

The Proposed Development will comprise a solar farm capable of generating over 50MW Alternating Current (AC) of electricity with co-located Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”), located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees in north-east England. The Proposed Development’s site area is approximately 490 hectares and comprises six solar photovoltaic (PV) panel areas (Panel Areas A-F). An on-site substation would be located within Panel Area C.

The Proposed Development would comprise:

- up to 32.5km of 33 kilovolt (kV) underground cabling between the Panel Areas and the on-site substation;
- approximately 10km of 132kV underground cable to connect the Proposed Development to the grid connection at the existing Norton substation (located to the north-west of Stockton-on-Tees);
- supporting infrastructure comprising BESS; transformers and inverters for managing the electricity produced; storage containers to hold this equipment; and security measures such as fencing, CCTV and lighting; and
- environmental mitigation and enhancement measures to avoid or reduce adverse impacts on the surrounding environment and nearby communities.

The proposed Development is an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the “EIA Regulations”). This means that the proposed works involved constitute development for which an EIA is required and the proposed application for a DCO will therefore be accompanied by an Environmental Statement. We have also prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to help you understand the likely effects of our proposals.

A DCO is able to include any necessary rights and powers to ensure delivery of the Scheme, including compulsory acquisition and temporary use powers. It can also include powers to apply and/or disapply legislation relevant to the Proposed Development. The Applicant is seeking to avoid the use of these powers where agreements with landowners are in place.

Consultation documents

To view the full suite of consultation documents that were presented as part of the statutory consultation, please visit the project website at byersgillsolarfarm.co.uk/documents/. These are provided to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us, and comprise:

- the consultation booklet;
- the consultation feedback questionnaire;
- the PEIR, accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary; and associated plans and drawings.

When providing your response, please include your name and address, or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode online. Please supply any response using the contact methods below:

- Email: enquiries@byersgillsolar.com
- Freepost*: Byers Gill Solar

**No stamp is required.*

Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on 10 December 2023.

JBM Solar will consider and have regard to all responses to this additional consultation. Responses will be included in a Consultation Report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

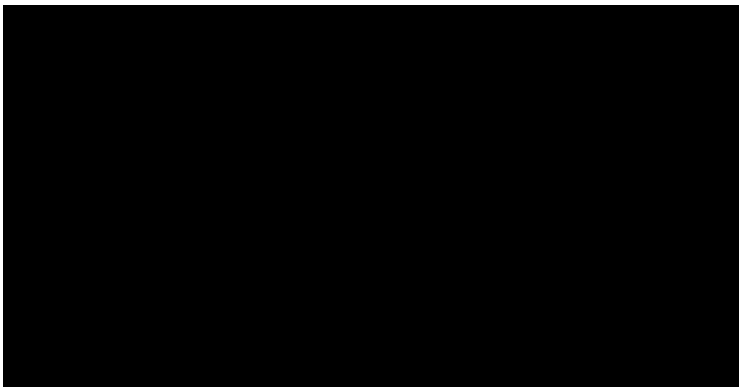
If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the Proposed Development, please contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided above.

As you may have an interest in the affected land, we are enclosing a plan showing the extents of Proposed Development, which is called the “site location plan”.

Printed copies of the consultation materials may be requested during the consultation period from JBM Solar using the email address, postal address or telephone number provided in this letter. Please note that there would be a charge of up to £500 for paper copies of some consultation materials, though the Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR would be provided for free.

Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the Proposed Development or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided below.

Yours [INSERT SINCERELY/FAITHFULLY]



Enclosed: Site location plan

Appendix 9.4 Matters raised by land interests subject to design changes and the Applicant's response

Matters raised by land interests subject to design changes

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Community Benefits			
1	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for the increase in the value of the proposed community benefit fund.	The Applicant thanks the respondent for their support for the increase in the value of the community benefit fund to be provided as part of the Proposed Development, should it be granted development consent.	N
Engineering Design			
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for the slight increase in take of their land to improve the design of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant thanks the respondent for their support for the proposed design changes. The Applicant has submitted a Design Approach Document (Document Reference 7.5) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	Y
General			
3	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for the proposed design changes, stating that they had taken into account feedback from the local communities expressed in the statutory consultation.	The Applicant thanks the respondent for their support for the proposed design changes. The Applicant has submitted a Design Approach Document (Document Reference 7.5) which outlines the approach taken to the design development of the Proposed Development, including how the design has been shaped and influenced by the local landscape, and with local communities and their enjoyment of the local area in mind.	Y
Socioeconomics			
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed support for the alterations made to the proposed PRoW diversions and permissive routes since the statutory consultation.	The DCO Application is supported by an Outline PRoW Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.15) which provides details on the management of the existing and newly proposed Public Rights of Way during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the	Y

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		Proposed Development. It details that the diversions and safety measures will be implemented as a priority, so that local communities are still able to safely enjoy the enhanced connectivity routes from the start of construction. Additionally, the Applicant is proposing to provide approximately 3600m of permissive paths to be implemented during the construction stage, further enhancing the local public right of way network.	

Appendix 9.5 Matters raised by those with sub soil interests and the Applicant’s response

Matters raised by those with sub soil and the Applicant’s response

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
Agricultural Land			
1	Those who responded to the consultation object to solar farms due to their placement on agricultural land, citing concerns regarding reduced food security.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation, including the concern that a small percentage of the Proposed Development is to be put on Grade 3a or above agricultural land. ES Appendix 9.1 Agricultural Land Classifications and Soil Resources (Document Reference 6.4.9.1) provides a summary of the Agricultural Land Classification for each parcel of land which is to be used by the Proposed Development and confirms that only 6.1% of the total site area includes land which is considered Best and Most Versatile (BMV).</p> <p>As the cheapest form of energy, as well as being clean renewable energy, a fivefold increase in solar capacity is anticipated by 2050 in the Government’s Energy Security Strategy 2022. This cannot be achieved through rooftop and brownfield solar installations alone, as they have considerable practical barriers of their own. Many domestic and industrial buildings either do not have roofs made of suitable material to support a solar system, do not have the infrastructure to export electricity to the grid, or simply present as an unaffordable solution, with initial costs of installation too high for some. As a result, agricultural land typically of moderate or low quality is also used, without impacting on food security.</p> <p>Additionally, solar farms provide valuable income for farmers, they can still be used for grazing, and can support UK farmers to continue food production on other parts of their land. The independent National Food Strategy Review shows that solar farms do not in any way present a risk to the UK’s food security. Indeed, the reverse is true: the solar industry is working closely with Britain’s farmers to reduce their energy costs and improve the sustainability of their operations. Further, where a solar farm is installed on land which has been intensively farmed, it enables the ground underneath to recover, while providing</p>	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		income for the farming business. Solar farms also help regenerate soil quality, and so are helping to ensure the continued availability of high-quality agricultural acreage for future generations.	
Arboriculture			
2	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns about the perceived impacts on trees with a Tree Protection Order in Bishopton.	The aim with the cable route will be to avoid root protection areas (RPAs) completely. If RPA cannot be completely avoided, a technical assessment will be made of the presence location and significance of tree roots in the area that the cable route will affect (the RPA is a formula based on trunk diameter that gives an area around the tree where roots are likely to be but does not reflect where roots actually are. In practice, the rooting patterns of trees can be very asymmetric due to the presence of underground obstacles and other factors. For example, where trees are growing next to roads, it is likely that the road subbase is too compacted for roots to be able to penetrate). If the cable route passes through Bishopton Village, the 2-m wide trench will likely be dug down the road, where the likelihood of significant tree roots growing is low. Nevertheless, the above protocol will be followed to avoid disturbing tree roots during operations to install the cable, as set out in Sections 3.6.6 and 3.6.7 of ES Appendix 7.7 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.7.7).	N
Cable Routes			
3	Those who responded to the consultation expressed objection to the proposed cable routes, particularly through Bishopton, due to the perceived impact on properties.	There are no expected effects from the construction of the solar farm or cable route on the structural integrity of residential housing. ES Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11) outline that, as a worst-case scenario, earthworks and construction works may potentially take place at a distance of approximately 15m from existing residential properties. This vibration would also be transient only and for very limited periods during the works (i.e. when activities take place at the Site's boundaries, close to dwellings).	N
4	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns regarding the re-	The Applicant has expressed a preference within the DCO application for off-road cable routes, in part due to the reduced potential impact and disruption to the local road network of this option compared to the on-road	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
	instatement works required post cable-laying.	cable routes. Should an on-road cable route be delivered as part of the Proposed Development, impacts to the local road network would be managed through the measures secured via the DCO in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.7).	
5	Those who responded to the consultation consider that alternative cable routes should be identified.	As set out in ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (Document Reference 6.2.2), two methods for cable installation are under consideration and would be determined at the detailed design stage of the Proposed Development. These are cable plough and horizontal directional drilling (HDD). It is anticipated that underground cables would be installed using a cable plough, wherever possible. This is considered to be the most efficient and least impactful method of cable installation, causing minimal disruption to the ground, by cutting, installing and back-filling in one operation. Only in instances where the cable plough cannot be used, alternative methods, such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD), will be used in more constrained locations such as going underneath water courses and roads.	Y
6	Those who responded to the consultation suggested that established cable routes used for existing energy projects are utilised.	The Applicant will engage with other developers in the area to discuss whether shared works would be possible.	N
General			
7	Those who responded to the consultation expressed opposition to the Proposed Development.	The Applicant acknowledges the range of views expressed in response to the statutory consultation. The UK has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved with the roll-out of reliable, affordable, clean energy sources such as solar. Solar farms, such as Byers Gill Solar, would make a meaningful contribution to local and national climate commitments, reducing our impact on the environment and contributing to energy security. The Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1), which has been submitted as part of the DCO Application, sets out the	N

Row ID	Matters raised	Regard had under Section 49 of the Act	Matter relevant to a design change? (Y/N)
		need for the Proposed Development, and how it is in accordance with national and local planning policy.	
Traffic and Transport			
8	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns about the perceived impact of increased traffic during the construction period, particularly through Bishopton.	Following the consultation, construction routes at Brafferton and Bishopton have been changed to avoid going through the villages with the majority of construction traffic. Additionally, the Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N
9	Those who responded to the consultation expressed concerns about the perceived impact of increased traffic during the construction period.	The Applicant has prepared an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Document Reference 6.4.2.8). which outlines how the construction of the of the Proposed Development on the environment, local road network and local communities will be managed. The CTMP will be updated throughout all stages of the Proposed Development by an appointed contractor at the appropriate times.	N