



HELIOS RENEWABLE
ENERGY
PROJECT

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Consultation Report

June 2024



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1. Executive Summary

1.1. Purpose of the Consultation Report

- 1.1.1. This consultation report is intended to fulfil the requirements of Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008, as amended ('the 2008 Act'). This requires Enso Green Holdings D Limited ('the Applicant'), a joint-venture partnership between Enso Energy and Cero Generation to provide a consultation report as part of its application for development consent for the Helios Renewable Energy Project ('the Proposed Development'), and to give details of the consultation activities that have been undertaken, the responses received to consultation, and how these have informed the evolution of the Proposed Development and the supporting assessments.
- 1.1.2. This report demonstrates how the Applicant has complied with Sections 42, 47, 48 and 49 of the 2008 Act, and has had regard to Section 50 of the 2008 Act. A Statement of Compliance has been prepared which confirms that the Applicant has complied with all relevant provisions (see Chapter 18).
- 1.1.3. Consultation is an important part of the planning and development process. The 2008 Act requires developers to publicise their proposals widely as well as consult with the local community, local authorities, statutory bodies and persons with an interest in the land potentially affected by the proposed Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This process is referred to as 'pre-application consultation' and must be carried out before an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) can be accepted by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on behalf of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

1.2. Overview of informal consultation outcomes

- 1.2.1. This consultation report describes the consultation activities undertaken by the Applicant in relation to the Helios Renewable Energy Project proposal located on land to the south-west of Camblesforth, North Yorkshire (the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.2.2. The Proposed Development falls within the definition of a NSIP under Section 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the 2008 Act as it entails the construction of a generating station in England with a capacity of more than 50 megawatts (MW).

- 1.2.3. Informal engagement and consultation first took place in the area around the proposed application site between 30 June 2022 and 28 July 2022, prior to the statutory consultation which took place in Autumn 2023. This informal consultation and engagement period included correspondence and meetings with relevant consultees and local representatives, launching of the project website and online information, and an introductory newsletter containing information about the proposals and forthcoming consultation, distributed to the communities within the vicinity of the site.
- 1.2.4. Following the close of informal consultation, an ongoing period of engagement with relevant consultees took place as feedback was considered and the proposals refined.
- 1.2.5. During this period, several design changes were made to the Proposed Development as a result of consultation feedback and ongoing development design. Changes made at this point resulted in a reduction in the scale of the Proposed Development as well as:
- Inclusion of buffers and offsets from residential houses to minimise impacts.
 - Allocation of nearly 300ha across the site for new grasslands under and surrounding the panels.
 - Inclusion of over 10ha of new broadleaved woodland to be created across the site to screen the development.
 - Enhanced public access to link Camblesforth and Carlton through the inclusion of a new permissive path through the site.
 - Improvements to hedgerow field margins to help integrate the site within the landscape.
 - Confirmation of the cable route connection corridor via underground cable to minimise disruption.
- 1.2.6. The steps above resulted in a reduction in the lead area from approximately 757 ha to approximately 476 ha.

1.3. Overview of statutory consultation undertaken

- 1.3.1. Informal engagement on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) took

place during March 2023, prior to formal SoCC consultation with relevant consultees across May and June 2023.

- 1.3.2. The SoCC was then published on 12 October 2023 with Section 47 notices appearing in local papers on the same date. Hard copies of the SoCC were placed on deposit at identified locations near the site on 20 October 2023.
- 1.3.3. A formal phase of statutory consultation on the proposals was then undertaken between 26 October 2023 and 7 December 2023 (exceeding the statutory 28 period). During the statutory consultation period, the decision was taken to extend the consultation period until 22 December 2023 in order to allow additional time for respondents to share their feedback. This is explained more fully in Chapter 11 of this report. The statutory consultation period included local consultation events, an online virtual exhibition, local update newsletters, and website updates including copies of all consultation materials and relevant documents in line with the approach confirmed in the SoCC.

1.4. Outcome of consultation

- 1.4.1. The Applicant is grateful for all feedback received through the pre-application consultation process, both formally and informally, from consultees and the local community. This report and associated appendices set out where and how feedback received has influenced the design of the Proposed Development.
- 1.4.2. As a result of the feedback received, and extensive technical assessments and surveys undertaken, the Applicant has refined the final Application in several areas, noted above and set out within this report.
- 1.4.3. The final Application has seen a reduction in the scale of the solar panels through both the removal of land and placement of panels in proximity to local receptors (residential dwellings), significant enhancements in the level of planting of vegetation and trees for screening, as well as improvements through the introduction of new grasslands and wetland areas throughout the site. Enhancements to existing rights of way, plus the addition of a new permissive path have resulted in an improvement to connectivity for pedestrians through the site.
- 1.4.4. Following the close of statutory consultation, an ongoing period of engagement with relevant consultees took place as feedback was considered and the proposals refined.

1.4.5. In addition to the refinements noted above, several other design amendments were made to the Proposed Development as a result of consultation feedback and ongoing development design. Changes made at this point included:

- Further small red line adjustments to clarify land ownership and access arrangements.
- Moving solar PV panels further away from sensitive receptors and creating more substantial buffer zones. Landscaping proposals also represent embedded mitigation, as these will provide screening and will reinstate several historic field boundaries.
- Re-establishment of a strong pattern of hedgerows and tree belts, as well as extensive areas of native wildflower grassland planting and wetland habitats.

1.4.6. In addition, the following core benefits have been defined:

- The ability to generate a significant amount of electricity, with an export capacity of 190MW, from a renewable energy source, capable of powering some 47,500 homes (saving approximately 36,500 tonnes of CO2 every year) and contributing to the urgent need for new low and zero carbon energy infrastructure in the UK and delivering a development which national policy identifies as being a Critical National Priority.
- Including an energy storage element to the development, helping to improve the resilience and flexibility of the wider electricity network.
- Significant habitat enhancement provisions, delivering a quantifiable BNG. These will be managed for the benefit of wildlife over a minimum period of 30 years, providing biodiversity gains for a wide variety of species.
- Creating a new permissive path through the Proposed Development which will provide connectivity across the Site and improve the connectivity of the Public Rights of Way network in the surrounding area.

1.4.7. This Consultation Report sets out each phase of consultation activity, as well as the feedback received, and regard had by the Applicant.

2. Explanatory Text

2.1. Overview

- 2.1.1. This consultation report describes the consultation activities undertaken by the Applicant (Enso Green Holdings D Limited.) in relation to the proposals for the Helios Renewable Energy Project located west of Camblesforth and north of Hirst Courtney in Selby, North Yorkshire.
- 2.1.2. The Proposed Development falls within the definition of a NSIP under Section 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the 2008 Act as it entails the construction of a generating station in England with a capacity of more than 50 megawatts (MW).
- 2.1.3. This section of the consultation report seeks to provide a summary of the consultation undertaken for the Proposed Development. This follows advice provided by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in Advice Note 14: Compiling the Consultation Report, which states that the Applicant should set the scene and provide an overview of the whole pre-application stage.
- 2.1.4. Figure 1 summarises, in chronological order, the key consultation activities that have taken place since the Proposed Development's inception in 2022.

Figure 1: Overview of key consultation activities



3. Introduction

3.1. Purpose of this report

- 3.1.1. This report details how the Applicant has complied with the provisions of the 2008 Act and associated legislation in relation to pre-application consultation for the Proposed Development.
- 3.1.2. It has been prepared pursuant to Section 37(3)(c) and Section 37(7) of the 2008 Act and sets out the approach taken regarding:
- Statutory consultation (in order to comply with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act) that has taken place during the development of the Proposed Development and how the consultation responses have been taken into account (pursuant to Section 49 of the 2008 Act) and subsequently shaped the final form of the Application; and
 - Non-statutory ‘informal’ consultation that has been undertaken in relation to the Proposed Development and which has also informed the development of the project and the Application.

3.2. The Applicant

- 3.2.1. Enso Green Holdings D Limited is a joint-venture partnership between Enso Energy and Cero Generation. Enso Energy is one of the UK’s most experienced renewable energy developers, with an unparalleled focus on solar energy. Cero Generation is a leading solar energy company, working across Europe to support the transition to a net zero future.
- 3.2.2. Further details about the Applicant can be found on the Applicant’s website (www.ensoenergy.co.uk).

3.3. The Proposed Development

- 3.3.1. The Site comprises land to the south-west of the village of Camblesforth and to the north of the village of Hirst Courtney, in the administrative area of North Yorkshire Council. The Site predominantly comprises agricultural land.
- 3.3.2. The Proposed Development comprises the installation of ground mounted solar arrays, battery energy storage system and associated development comprising grid

connection infrastructure and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the development for the delivery of over 50 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

- 3.3.3. The on-site substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be situated in the centre of the Site, away from sensitive receptors (such as local houses). The substation connects all the electricity being generated across the site and acts as a single point from which electricity is then transmitted to the main grid connection at the existing National Grid Substation at the Drax Power Station via an underground cable. The substation itself will be housed in a compound, and comprises an earthing transformer, surge arresters, earth switch, circuit breaker, 33kV intake switch room and generator transformers.

3.4. Early project definition, Site selection and refinement

- 3.4.1. One key consideration for a solar project is the ability to export the electricity generated. This can either be to the national grid infrastructure or to a local energy user. The location near to an available grid connection at the existing National Grid Substation at the Drax Power Station is a key advantage of this Site and a search of land within 5km of the connection was conducted to find an appropriate Site.
- 3.4.2. A review of land availability and suitability was undertaken, which particularly focused on the sunlight levels (irradiance) and topography, which directly impact the efficacy of the solar PV modules. The land surrounding the grid connection at the existing National Grid Substation at the Drax Power Station comprises large open areas of relatively flat land with gently undulating topography which would provide a uniform exposure to irradiance.
- 3.4.3. A number of other factors were also considered when selecting the Site. These included proximity to residential dwellings, areas protected for landscape, ecological importance, glint and glare, ability to access a site, flood risk, agricultural land value, and agricultural land availability.
- 3.4.4. A full overview of the site selection process is included in Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 4 (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/ref no 6.1.4).

3.5. Structure of the report

- 3.5.1. This report describes the consultation process that the Applicant has followed in

terms of both the non-statutory ‘informal’ phases of consultation and the formal consultation and publicity stages as required under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act. In each case, the report is structured chronologically in terms of i) consultation undertaken, ii) the issues raised by consultees, and iii) the action taken to address those issues.

3.5.2. Issues raised through feedback at each stage of consultation, including the statutory consultation responses, have been reviewed, grouped and summarised into tables of key issues. This has been included as part of the informal consultation report (see Appendix 8.10 and has been set out in Chapter 14 for the formal consultation. Due to the number of responses, these issues have been grouped where appropriate into themes. Care has been taken throughout to ensure that issues have been recorded, reviewed and analysed in the context within which they were submitted.

3.5.3. All feedback has been considered in detail and fed into the development of the Proposed Development.

3.5.4. An overview of the structure of this report is provided in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Structure of the Consultation Report

Chapter	Title	Overview	Relevant Appendices
Chapters 1-3	Executive Summary and Introduction	Overview summary of the outcome of pre-application consultation and introduction to the Proposed Development.	N/A
Chapters 4 – 7	Regulatory context and approach to consultation	Approach to consultation with regard to the requirements of the 2008 Act and accompanying guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 4.1 - Frequently asked questions (FAQs)
Chapter 8	Approach to non-statutory consultation	Non-statutory ‘informal’ consultation conducted prior to the formal Sections 42, 47 and 48 consultation and publicity stages under the 2008 Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 8.1 - Key stakeholder list Appendix 8.2 - Informal Consultation letters Appendix 8.3 - Informal consultation press release Appendix 8.4 - Informal consultation presentation slides

Chapter	Title	Overview	Relevant Appendices
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 8.5 - Informal consultation newsletter Appendix 8.6 - Informal consultation banners and feedback form Appendix 8.7 - Social media posts Appendix 8.8 - Informal consultation FAQs Appendix 8.9 - Parish council social media engagement Appendix 8.10 - Informal consultation report
Chapter 9	Approach to statutory consultation under the 2008 Act	The general approach to the statutory pre-application consultation.	N/A
Chapter 10	Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act	<p>Activity undertaken to satisfy the requirements of Section 42 and Section 46 of the 2008 Act.</p> <p>In compliance with Section 42: Duty to consult; including 42(1)(a) prescribed consultees, 42(1)(b) local authorities and 42(1)(d) persons with an interest in the land</p> <p><i>and</i></p> <p>Section 46: Duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed application (as amended by the Localism Act 2001)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 10.1 - Section 42 Consultees Appendix 10.2 - Site Notices Appendix 10.3 - Letter to Landowners Appendix 10.4 - PEIR notification letter Appendix 10.5 - PINS acknowledgment receipt Appendix 10.6 - Section 42 email and letter
Chapter 11	Statutory consultation under Section 47 of	Approach to Section 47 consultation including	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 11.1 - North Yorkshire Council SoCC formal consultation

Chapter	Title	Overview	Relevant Appendices
	the 2008 Act	<p>development of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC).</p> <p><i>In compliance with Section 47: Duty to consult the local community</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 11.2 - Applicant response to North Yorkshire Council response • Appendix 11.3 - Statement of Community Consultation • Appendix 11.4 - Section 47 notice • Appendix 11.5 - Section 47 notice in situ • Appendix 11.6 - Images of hard-copy SoCC in situ • Appendix 11.7 - SoCC letter • Appendix 11.8 - SoCC letter electronic mailing • Appendix 11.9 - SoCC engagement with hard-to-reach groups • Appendix 11.10 - SoCC newsletter • Appendix 11.11 - Statutory Consultation Press releases • Appendix 11.12 - SoCC poster in situ • Appendix 11.13 - Email to Parish Councils regarding extension of consultation deadline • Appendix 11.14 – Updates relating to the start of Statutory Consultation • Appendix 11.15 - Consultation Summary Document • Appendix 11.16 - Statutory Consultation event images • Appendix 11.17 - Statutory Consultation exhibition boards • Appendix 11.18 - Screenshots of Statutory Consultation virtual exhibition • Appendix 11.19 - Accessibility statement

Chapter	Title	Overview	Relevant Appendices
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation letters • Appendix 11.21 - SoCC commitments table
Chapter 12	Statutory consultation under Section 48 of the 2008 Act	<p>Development and publication of the Section 48 notice.</p> <p><i>In compliance with Section 48: Duty to publicise</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 12.1 - Section 48 notice • Appendix 12.2 - Section 48 notices in-situ
Chapter 13	Summary of responses under Section 42 of the 2008 Act	<p>On a topic-by-topic basis, summary of responses received from Section 42 consultees and the regard that has been had to the responses in finalising the application.</p> <p><i>In compliance with Section 49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 13.1 - Section 42 respondents and feedback overview
Chapter 14	Summary of responses under Sections 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act	<p>On a topic-by-topic basis, summary of responses received from Sections 47 and 48 consultees and the regard that has been had to the responses in finalising the application.</p> <p><i>In compliance with Section 49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 14.1 – S47/48 Feedback Analysis Report
Chapter 15	Additional targeted consultation	Further engagement conducted following the statutory consultation in considering outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 15.1 - Targeted consultation letter to new land interests • Appendix 15.2 – Targeted consultation letter to new Category 3 land interests

Chapter	Title	Overview	Relevant Appendices
		issues.	
Chapter 16	Ongoing communication and engagement	Ongoing engagement conducted following the completion of the statutory consultation.	N/A
Chapter 17	Conclusion	A summary of the pre-application consultation undertaken for the project	N/A
Chapter 18	Statement of Compliance	A full statement of compliance with the requirements of the 2008 Act.	N/A

3.5.5. The main body of this consultation report summarises the consultation process, responses received and the regard that has been had to those responses under Section 47 and Section 48 of the 2008 Planning Act. A fuller summary of the consultation responses and the regard had by the Applicant under Section 42 of the 2008 Planning Act are set out Appendix 13.1.

3.5.6. Throughout this consultation report, reference is made to several other application documents, particularly the Environmental Statement (ES) (Doc ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.0 – 6.1.16). In reading this consultation report, due attention should be paid to the contents of these other application documents. This is particularly important in understanding how regard has been taken to the consultation responses in finalising the application.

3.6. Next Steps

3.6.1. Once PINS accepts the application for examination on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), following its 28-day acceptance period, a number of steps will be initiated. This includes the opportunity for interested parties to register to be involved in the examination process and to provide comment in the form of written representations about the Proposed Development. Registered Interested Parties will have an opportunity to

take part in the examination by providing further evidence on any issues that concern them. Interested parties will also be informed of progress of the examination, including when it concludes, and will be notified of the final decision.

For information on how to participate, readers are referred to the guidance on the PINS website: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/having-your-say-guide>.

Alternatively a copy of the registration form can be requested from the PINS helpline on 0303 444 5000.

4. Regulatory context

4.1. Consultation requirements – the consultation report

4.1.1. The requirement for a consultation report is set out in Section 37(3)(c) of the 2008 Act where it is noted that an application for a DCO must, among other things, be accompanied by a consultation report. Section 37(7) of the 2008 Act defines the consultation report as a document giving details of:

- Activity undertaken in compliance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act in relation to the proposed application;
- Any relevant responses received to formal consultation undertaken; and
- The account taken by the applicant of any relevant responses.

4.1.2. The consultation report responds to one of the key requirements set out in the 2008 Act: the statutory obligation on applicants to carry out a process of pre-application consultation. This consultation should be undertaken with statutory or prescribed bodies (under Section 42 of the 2008 Act), with local communities (under Section 47 of the 2008 Act) and through the general notification of a proposed application (under Section 48).

4.2. Relevant Legislation and guidance

4.2.1. The legislative context of these sections of the 2008 Act is further described in this consultation report as follows:

- The duty to consult under Section 42 is set out in Chapter 10
- The duty to consult under Section 47 is set out in Chapter 11
- The duty to consult under Section 48 is set out in Chapter 12

4.2.2. Section 50 of the 2008 Act provides that the applicant must have regard to any guidance issued by the SoS. In addition, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) guidance on the pre-application process for major infrastructure projects contains commentary on the content of consultation reports. PINS Advice Note 14: Compiling the Consultation Report also provides detail relating to the expected content of the Consultation Report. Where an applicant has not been able to follow this guidance, they should provide comments setting out why this is the case in the consultation report.

4.2.3. In developing the approach to consultation for the Proposed Development, the Applicant has given careful consideration to the specific requirements set out in the following legislation:

- The Planning Act 2008
- The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations)
- The Infrastructure Planning (Applications, Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations)

4.2.4. In addition, in preparing this consultation report, attention has been given to:

- DCLG guidance on pre-application consultation (March 2015)
- PINS Advice Note 6 on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (October 2014)
- PINS Advice Note 14 on the Consultation Report (April 2012)

4.2.5. Further information on how the Applicant has had regard to the requirements of the 2008 Act and accompanying guidance in undertaking its formal consultation activities can be found in this consultation report as follows:

- For Section 42 consultation: Chapter 10
- For Section 47 consultation: Chapter 11
- For Section 48 consultation: Chapter 12

4.3. Statement of compliance

4.3.1. Chapters 10,11 and 12 of this consultation report set out the activities the Applicant has undertaken under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act and Chapters 13 and 14 summarise the relevant responses and the regard that the Applicant has had to the responses received under Sections 42, 47 and 48. Each of these chapters concludes with a Statement of Compliance confirming how the Proposed Development has adhered to relevant legislation and guidance in undertaking pre-application consultation.

4.3.2. Each Statement of Compliance is brought together in Chapter 18 to demonstrate that, to the best of the Applicant's knowledge and using best endeavours, all relevant requirements set out in the legislation and guidance listed above have been adhered

to in completing the pre-application process for the Proposed Development.

4.4. UK General Data Protection Regulation (UKGDPR)

4.4.1. The Applicant takes data security seriously and has a clear privacy policy published on its website (www.ensoenergy.co.uk/privacy-policy/)

4.4.2. The Applicant has ensured that its arrangements for data handling are compliant with the UK GDPR requirements. In line with requirements, the Applicant can identify what data it holds, where it came from, and the lawful basis for processing this data.

4.4.3. The lawful basis for the Applicant's purposes can be found in the UK GDPR Article 6 paragraph 1:

(1) Processing shall be lawful only if and to the extent that at least one of the following applies:

...

c) processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject;

d) processing is necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject or another natural person.

4.4.4. In the case of the Proposed Development, there is an exemption to this for processing data (i.e. a legal obligation to consult under Section 42 of the 2008 Act).

4.4.5. The Applicant is therefore compliant with these requirements, and it also ensures that:

- The data is securely, clearly, and logically stored and reviewed to ensure it is up to date; and
- Any details that are no longer required for the DCO are deleted.

4.5. The Applicant's consultation approach (general principles)

4.5.1. The Applicant is committed to honest and open engagement and seeks to ensure that communities have the chance to be involved, share their views and influence the Proposed Development in a meaningful and timely manner.

4.5.2. National Policy Statements (NPSs) establish the need for energy and renewable

energy generation. Notwithstanding this, comment was sought during the informal consultation phase about local views on the need for renewable energy to help tackle the climate emergency, as well as the principle of development in this location. The intention was for this information to help inform the forthcoming statutory consultation and to understand local perception of this core issue.

4.5.3. The Applicant's approach to consultation is based around a number of core principles. These are:

- Clarity – making sure that all information is clear and easy to understand. Where detailed information is made available, that clear guidance is provided on how to find relevant parts of that information.
- Accessibility – ensuring that the consultation process is as open and accessible for all to participate in. This includes providing information in a variety of formats (online and in hard copy), as well as ensuring that feedback mechanisms are available in both offline and online formats, meeting venues are accessible, and online information is presented in line with relevant accessibility guidelines. Further detail on accessibility of the consultation can be found in Chapter 8 of this SoCC.
- Responsiveness – to provide opportunities for direct and informative dialogue between the project team and interested parties, ensuring prompt responses to queries and requests for information or guidance.

4.5.4. The consultation approach has been developed in line with these core principles to ensure that local communities, interested parties and stakeholders have ample opportunity to find out about, and provide their thoughts on, the proposals in a way that allows for their comments to help shape the Proposed Development.

4.5.5. The Applicant is committed to actively and consistently keeping those with an interest in the Proposed Development informed through regular updates about the process. To this end, as the proposals progressed, and further information was made available, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents have been produced to answer questions related to the Proposed Development. These can be found in Appendix 4.1.

4.6. Adapting to COVID-19

4.6.1. Some of the early, informal engagement and consultation on the Proposed

Development took place at a time when some social distancing measures were still recommended as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, development of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was undertaken at a point at which many of the COVID-19 restrictions had been removed. Therefore, the primary approach was to undertake community consultation with face-to-face engagement and meetings.

- 4.6.2. The Applicant sought to develop a consultation programme that would not have been significantly adversely affected by any change in Government guidance in this respect – a virtual public exhibition was hosted online alongside face-to-face exhibitions. The Applicant sought to offer any agreed meetings online as well as in person, and documents and consultation materials were made available for download on the project website (in line with latest guidance on procedural requirements for major infrastructure projects - the Infrastructure Planning (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 and PINS Advice Notes.

5. Connecting to the National Grid

5.1. Overview

- 5.1.1. The Proposed Development will connect to the National Grid substation at Drax Power Station, which lies to the east of the proposed site.
- 5.1.2. Grid routing options were considered against visual and noise impacts, environmental constraints such as waterbodies, existing trees and physical infrastructure that limited the placement of grid infrastructure. It was decided that running the cable along the A645 as far as possible along the connection route was the most efficient and straightforward solution, however some flexibility is required to allow micro-siting of the cable within a narrow corridor near to Drax Golf Club, to facilitate crossing of the rail line entering Drax Power Station.
- 5.1.3. During the public exhibitions held as part of the statutory consultation process, consultees were asked to review the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) design information and share feedback on the proposed route and cable corridor, to be considered in final grid routing design.
- 5.1.4. Throughout the informal and formal consultation processes, and prior to submission of the final ES, the Applicant has engaged with relevant consultees and landowners to determine an optimal design for the final site layout.
- 5.1.5. Ongoing consultation and engagement with National Grid, relevant operators and technical consultees will take place through the application process.

6. Other project consultations

6.1. Overview

- 6.1.1. The Applicant has been careful to consider the implications of other consultations affecting, and of interest to, the consultees and local community who may wish to respond to the statutory consultation on the Proposed Development.
- 6.1.2. Several other projects are located within the vicinity of the Proposed Development site, including new housing developments in Carlton, new solar farm projects nearby and any other proposed pre-application or construction activity near to the site.
- 6.1.3. Consideration of the timing of consultation activities, so as not to conflict with other consultations taking place in the locality, was also factored into the development of the consultation timetable for the statutory consultation. The Applicant also liaised with the relevant local authorities to ensure that that it was aware of, and could take action to minimise, any confusion that may arise from other schemes or consultation processes.
- 6.1.4. Consideration of the cumulative impacts of these surrounding developments have been considered as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment work (covered in each of the technical chapters of the ES).

7. Consultation under the EIA Regulations

7.1. Scoping

- 7.1.1. Extensive non-statutory consultation was undertaken in 2022 and 2023, prior to the statutory consultation period. This consultation took place around and in conjunction with key milestones under the EIA regulations, such as the Proposed Development's request for a Scoping Opinion.
- 7.1.2. The Applicant notified the Secretary of State (via PINS) of its intention to undertake an EIA and provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Proposed Development in June 2022.
- 7.1.3. In accordance with Regulation 6(1)(b) of the 2017 EIA Regulations, a request for a scoping opinion was submitted to PINS on 7 June 2022. Following consultation with relevant bodies, PINS provided a Scoping Opinion on 14 July 2022. The Scoping Opinion is available on the PINS website.
- 7.1.4. The comments raised in the Scoping Opinion are outlined in the relevant technical chapters of the ES. Within each ES chapter, detail is provided on where the comment has been addressed within the ES or other submission documents.

8. Non-Statutory consultation

8.1. Overview and introduction

- 8.1.1. This chapter of the consultation report sets out the non-statutory consultation that the Applicant has engaged in prior to undertaking formal consultation activities as prescribed by the 2008 Act.
- 8.1.2. Non-statutory engagement with consultees also continued following statutory consultation and this is summarised in Chapter 16 of this consultation report.

8.2. Guidance

- 8.2.1. Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) guidance¹ at paragraph 18 recognises that early involvement of local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees can bring about significant benefits for all parties, for example by helping the applicant identify and resolve issues at the earliest stage; enabling members of the public to influence proposed projects; helping local people understand the potential nature and local impact of the proposed project; and enabling potential mitigating measures to be considered.
- 8.2.2. It also notes, at paragraph 29, that applicants will often need detailed technical input from expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the social, environmental, design and economic impacts of projects, and other important matters. Technical expert input will often be needed in advance of formal compliance with the pre-application requirements. Early engagement with these bodies can help avoid unnecessary delays and the costs of having to make changes at later stages of the process.

8.3. Scope of non-statutory consultation

- 8.3.1. Non-statutory consultation was based around engagement at the point of and following the submission of the request for a Scoping Opinion. The scope of engagement during this phase, which was known as the informal phase, was therefore based around the principle of the Proposed Development in this location and sought feedback on the range and extent of environmental assessments and surveys proposed to inform the EIA process including the PEIR, which was consulted

¹ Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015)

upon during the statutory consultation.

- 8.3.2. Engagement with the local community mirrored consultation with technical consultees and focused on introducing the Proposed Development, seeking feedback on the proposals in principle, and understanding the preferred means of communication in advance of the statutory consultation.
- 8.3.3. From the outset, the Applicant has sought to identify and engage with all relevant stakeholders to develop and refine the proposals through the pre-application process. A full stakeholder list was developed and continues to be revised to ensure relevant contacts and organisations are kept informed on the progress of the Proposed Development to have the opportunity to feed into the development proposals.
- 8.3.4. The non-statutory consultation is referred to as 'informal consultation' which was the term used throughout our consultation publicity and materials.
- 8.3.5. A stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken in 2022, which identified relevant Section 42 and Section 47 stakeholders, individuals and organisations within the local areas including:
- Local and national politicians;
 - Local authority officers;
 - Regulators and statutory consultees;
 - Businesses and business groups;
 - Media;
 - Education (such as local schools);
 - Neighbouring communities;
 - Religious groups; and
 - Special interest groups (including voluntary sector umbrella groups and hard to reach/seldom heard groups and organisations).
- 8.3.6. The key stakeholder list is included in Appendix 8.1. This list was later reviewed and refined before the launch of the statutory consultation to ensure that contact details were correct and where additional stakeholders were identified these were also added to the stakeholder list.

8.4. Non-statutory meetings and engagement with technical consultees

- 8.4.1. Engagement with relevant technical consultees took place throughout the non-statutory consultation period. These meetings, correspondence and engagement all assisted in refining the Proposed Development through the early stages of the scheme development, agreement of scoping parameters, and in preparation for the development of the PEIR documents.
- 8.4.2. Engagement with the host local authorities², which at the time of non-statutory consultation was Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council, included regular meetings (Teams meetings scheduled on a regular basis and held whenever necessary throughout the pre-application process, commencing in June 2022). This allowed for ongoing, regular liaison on core issues and enabled both the Applicant, and the local authorities to keep each other updated on progress, and address issues as they arose.
- 8.4.3. In addition to regular meetings with the host local authorities, other meetings and correspondence with relevant technical consultees took place across the non-statutory consultation period. These are set out later in the chapter.
- 8.4.4. Further consultation also took place with technical officers within the host Local Planning Authorities (LPA) throughout the pre-application period in connection with the EIA process and during the statutory consultation as outlined in Chapter 13 of this report.

8.5. Non-statutory consultation with landowners

- 8.5.1. Under Section 42 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant is required to consult all those with an interest in land to which the application relates including owners, lessees, tenants, occupiers and those able to sell or release the land.
- 8.5.2. In order to correctly identify potentially affected parties, consultation with landowners has been ongoing since 2022 and throughout the progression of the Proposed Development, principally through the Applicant's land agent, TerraQuest.
- 8.5.3. During the early stages of the non-statutory consultation process, the Applicant

² Prior to 1 April 2023, the host local authorities were two tier – North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and Selby District Council (SDC). Following 1 April 2023, a new unitary authority was created, North Yorkshire Council. Care was taken throughout the period of change to ensure continuity of approach and dialogue.

sought to identify all relevant affected or partially affected landowners in advance of the statutory consultation period commencing.

- 8.5.4. Engagement with landowners and neighbouring landowners or occupiers prior to statutory consultation focused on ensuring that they were provided with relevant information about the proposals, confirming contact details and preferences, and liaising with relevant landowners over access for surveys.
- 8.5.5. Landowners and other interested parties were identified initially through title searches with the Land Registry. Where ownership could not be determined, site visits were conducted by TerraQuest. The site visits involved identifying and visiting potential landowner residences and discussions with neighbours and other local residents to try to identify landowners. Contact was also made with landowners via telephone, email and letter.
- 8.5.6. Prior to the start of non-statutory consultation, Land Interest Questionnaires (LIQs) were sent to identified landowners and interested parties in July 2023 with reminders sent where no response was received. Further details of correspondence with landowners and interested parties can be found in Chapter 10.
- 8.5.7. All landowners and neighbouring landowners and occupiers also received the consultation newsletter (see Section 8.7 below).
- 8.5.8. Throughout the non-statutory consultation period, the Applicant undertook ongoing engagement with landowners. Further details about engagement with landowners during the statutory consultation under Section 42 is included in Chapter 10 of this report.

8.6. Non-statutory consultation with local communities

- 8.6.1. In line with the Applicant's approach to consultation, consistent engagement with representatives of the local communities within which the Proposed Development lies has taken place since the plans were made public in 2022.
- 8.6.2. Information was provided to local parish councils as well as community representatives and other organisations alongside meetings with technical consultees and the host local authorities.
- 8.6.3. Early engagement was undertaken in July 2022. This engagement focused on introducing the Applicant and the Proposed Development proposals to key

community stakeholders.

- 8.6.4. During this period, the intention was to inform local communities about the DCO process, advise them of the statutory and non-statutory consultation on the Proposed Development and establish lines of communication mechanisms (such as the Freephone number, and project email address). An indicative layout of the Proposed Development, and information relating to the scope and scale of the plans, were also shared at this stage to provide an understanding of the nature of the project. This early engagement also served to help answer any early questions about the proposals and explain the consultation and planning processes involved.
- 8.6.5. The engagement undertaken at this time included distribution of a community newsletter inviting residents to find out more about the proposals via the information contained online and to provide early feedback via a feedback form hosted on the project website. Consultation events were hosted in local venues close to the site, and a virtual exhibition was hosted on the project website.

8.7. A public project launch

- 8.7.1. In June 2022, the Applicant made a public announcement to launch the Proposed Development and introduce the proposals to the local community via key representatives. The project launch was timed to coincide with the submission of the formal request for a Scoping Opinion from PINS and was also designed to provide advance notification to those consultees who would shortly be consulted by PINS in relation to the scoping request.
- 8.7.2. This activity included the production of a press release and the project website, which contained core information about the Proposed Development, being made live. Points of contact were also established at this point, including the Freephone number, Freepost address and dedicated project email address.
- 8.7.3. Letters to stakeholders, consultees and landowners were also issued on 13 June 2022. The letters provided information about the Proposed Development, the EIA Scoping process, the planning process, and the forthcoming consultation. Recipients of the letter were offered a meeting to discuss the proposals, or to ask any questions about the plans. The letter can be found in Appendix 8.2, together with a list of recipients in Appendix 8.1.
- 8.7.4. A press release was issued on 1st July 2022 setting out an overview of the proposals

and introducing the Proposed Development. A copy of the press release can be found in Appendix 8.3.

8.7.5. The project website (<https://www.helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk/>) was made live to coincide with the submission of the Scoping request and contained core project information, alongside details of the planning requirements and the forthcoming consultation process.

8.7.6. At the outset, the website also contained an FAQ section, which covered early expected key issues and responses. As is noted later in this chapter, a more detailed FAQ document was developed and hosted on the project website as more information was gathered and processed by the Applicant.

8.7.7. The following meetings with were held during this initial engagement:

Table 8.1: Meetings held with community organisations and representatives during informal engagement phase

Stakeholder	Date	Issues discussed
Local Ward Members (Cllr Mike Jordan, Cllr Charles Richardson, Cllr Richard Musgrave Hirst Courtney Parish Council Chair Russ Wagstaff)	30/06/2022	Introduction to the Proposed Development. Explanation of the initial proposals and principle of development. Discussion about the planning and consultation timeline. Responses provided to common questions.
Dr Howard Ferguson (Senior Parliamentary Assistant to Nigel Adams - MP for Selby and Ainsty)	07/07/2022	Introduction to the Proposed Development. Explanation of the initial proposals and principle of development. Discussion about the planning and consultation timeline. Responses provided to common questions. Kirsty Lodge, Principal Planner at Enso Energy presented the draft project proposal, and the developer answered any questions from Dr Ferguson during the presentation.
Public consultation exhibition – Camblesforth Hall	14/07/2022	Drop in event for the local community - Introduction to the Proposed Development.

Stakeholder	Date	Issues discussed
		Explanation of the initial proposals and principle of development. Discussion about the planning and consultation timeline. Responses provided to common questions.
Public consultation exhibition – Carlton Village Hall	15/07/2022	Drop in event for the local community - Introduction to the Proposed Development. Explanation of the initial proposals and principle of development. Discussion about the planning and consultation timeline. Responses provided to common questions.
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	04/08/2022	Introduction to the Proposed Development. Explanation of the initial proposals and principle of development. Discussion about the planning and consultation timeline. Responses provided to common questions.

8.7.8. A presentation was developed for use at these early meetings, which contained information about the Applicant, a summary of the Proposed Development, an overview of the planning and consultation process, as well as information about early thinking on the delivery of community benefit.

8.7.9. Whilst tweaked slightly for each meeting, the core presentation slides used were made available for download on the project website to allow any interested parties that attended the meetings, or those that couldn't, to access and review them as required. The presentation slides are available to view in Appendix 8.4.

8.8. Broader informal consultation

8.8.1. Following the initial project launch and engagement with community stakeholders outlined above, a 6-page project information newsletter was prepared and issued to 4,815 residences within the vicinity of the site³. The newsletter was issued via post to

³ The area deemed the 'vicinity of the site' stretched approximately 2km from the red-line boundary, with some areas extended to incorporate parts of settlements that fell outside the 2km radius, such as the easternmost

arrive on or before 30 June 2022. It was also issued to stakeholders and relevant consultees with a covering letter for information via post and email and made available on the project website.

8.8.2. This newsletter contained an overview of the proposals, a concept masterplan identifying the Proposed Development site and key features, as well as an overview of the project benefits, key considerations, and information about the planning process and the approach to consultation. All established contact details and means of communication with the project team were included.

8.8.3. The newsletter also contained information about the forthcoming consultation events and a Freepost removable slip to encourage early feedback on the plans.

8.8.4. A copy of the newsletter is contained in Appendix 8.5.

8.8.5. The consultation events took place at the following times and locations:

- Camblesforth Hall, Brigg Lane, Camblesforth, Selby, YO8 8HJ Thursday 14th July 2022 2pm to 7pm
- Carlton Village Hall, Church Lane, Carlton, DN14 9PB Friday 15th July 2022 12.30pm to 5pm

8.8.6. The consultation events were held at accessible locations in proximity to the Proposed Development site, and included pull up banners with detailed information, plans and information, as well as feedback forms and freepost envelopes. The Applicant was in attendance at these events and available to answer questions and provide additional information where possible.

8.8.7. A copy of the exhibition banners and feedback form from the informal consultation events can be found in Appendix 8.6.

8.8.8. Total attendance across both events was 109 visitors (64 at Camblesforth Hall and 45 at Carlton Village Hall). In addition to local residents and landowners, a number of local councillors, parish council representatives and council officials attended the

houses of Barlow. The mailing radius therefore included all households within the surrounding villages of Camblesforth, Carlton, Drax, Barlow, Hirst Courtney, and Temple Hirst, as well as households and businesses in between. This radius was further confirmed and utilised for statutory consultation, as set out in the SoCC (see Chapter 11 and Appendix 11.3 for further information)

public exhibition events, including:

- Cllr Lisa Quinn, Selby District Council Planning Committee;
- Cllr Neal Yates, Chair of Camblesforth Parish Council;
- Cllr Mike Jordan, ward member for Camblesforth & Carlton at North Yorkshire County Council;
- Richard Beason, Economy and Infrastructure Manager at Selby District Council;
- Representatives from Camblesforth Parish Council, Hirst Courtney Parish Council and Carlton Parish Council.

8.8.9. A full virtual consultation exhibition was also prepared and made available online on the project website for the duration of the informal consultation period. All information available at the physical consultation events was accessible online, including the ability to submit feedback directly to the Applicant via an online form.

8.8.10. Social media updates were also prepared to assist in the dissemination of information relating to the proposals via a dedicated X (formerly Twitter) account. The social media page was launched on 1 July 2022 and included several updates and posts about the proposals and forthcoming consultation events.

8.8.11. An overview of the social media posts delivered during this period can be found in Appendix 8.7.

8.8.12. A detailed FAQ document was also developed for this stage of informal consultation. This document expanded on the initial FAQs included on the project website when it launched in June 2022 and was refined to include issues and questions that were raised by local residents and stakeholders. The FAQ document was made available on the project website initially in June 2022, before being updated in October 2023 and is available to view in Appendix 8.8. Further FAQ updates were made during the statutory consultation period (see Chapter 11).

8.9. Engagement with Hard-to-Reach groups

8.9.1. Engagement with those that do not normally engage with planning consultations was an ambition of the Applicant throughout the informal consultation period.

8.9.2. The Applicant sought to achieve this through both direct outreach to hard-to-reach

representatives and groups in the area⁴, and also through designing the consultation and engagement approach to make it as accessible as possible for all members of society to find out about and contribute to the consultation.

8.9.3. Building local relationships through meeting with community representatives (such as parish councils and local authority councillors) helped to spread information via 'word of mouth' and by seeking to use existing channels of communication (such as parish council social media accounts and websites). This was effective in helping to spread information about the proposals and the consultation process (see Appendix 8.9 for an example of this).

8.9.4. Requesting feedback from community representatives during early meetings helped shape the approach to consultation and engagement with a broad spread of the local community. For example, feedback on appropriate means of communicating, as well as suitable community venues to hold consultation events, was provided during the early informal engagement with parish councils. Requests for information about relevant local seldom heard or hard to reach representatives or groups were also made to the local authorities as part of the informal engagement on the SoCC (see Chapter 11) to ensure that contact databases were robust.

8.9.5. In addition, direct outreach to schools, places of worship, and bodies representing seldom heard or harder to reach groups (such as Age UK) was undertaken alongside other communication relating to the informal consultation period in June and July 2022. Copies of the newsletter (contained in Appendix 8.5) were issued via post and email to hard-to-reach stakeholders, along with a covering letter (see Appendix 8.2).

8.10. Methods of providing feedback

8.10.1. In addition to allowing stakeholders and local residents to learn more about the Applicant and the Proposed Development, the early engagement through meetings, newsletters and online updates sought to gather written comments from participants, which contributed towards evidence gathering to help shape the early proposals.

8.10.2. To this end, the newsletter issued in June 2022 invited early feedback and comments via a variety of channels. The newsletter itself had a removable freepost slip that

⁴ These are identified in Appendix 8.1. Groups and representatives contacted were identified through initial desk based research, which was then reviewed and tested through engagement with the local authority and relevant parish councils.

encouraged direct postal feedback. The newsletter also encouraged feedback via the project website through an online feedback form, which was made live for the duration the informal consultation (30 June to 28 July 2022).

8.10.3. The feedback form was designed to help the project team understand initial thoughts, comments or queries about the Proposed Development in general, views on the use of solar energy in the UK and early thoughts on how community benefit could be best achieved as a result of the Proposed Development. The form asked the following questions:

- What are your early thoughts on the principle of developing Helios Renewable Energy Project in this location?
- Please let us know any initial thoughts about the proposed site, the local environment, access considerations or other technical points that you feel we should be taking into account as we develop the proposals.
- We'd like to understand where we may be able to bring local benefit to the communities around the site. Please let us know if you had any thoughts or suggestions on this.

8.10.4. A copy of the feedback form can be found in Appendix 8.6.

8.10.5. In addition to the feedback form, comments and queries could also be submitted to the project team via the following channels, which were set up at the outset of the early engagement during the Scoping process in June 2022:

- Freephone consultation number (0800 6990081), which was made available from 9am to 5pm during weekdays. Outside of these hours a message facility was available for voicemails to be left, and responded to at the earliest opportunity, to ensure information was readily available and queries and concerns addressed; and
- Dedicated consultation email address (info@helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk), whereby feedback, comments and questions could be sent directly to the project team.

8.11. Feedback and key issues raised during non-statutory consultation

8.11.1. There was a high rate of response throughout the informal consultation period indicating a generally high level of interest and willingness to engage with the

proposals from the local community. In total 110 responses containing feedback were received during the consultation period.

8.11.2. The table below summarises the top-level statistics of the feedback received and interactions throughout the consultation period between 30 June and 28 July 2022.

Table 8.2: Top level response statistics during the informal consultation period

Feedback and interactions	Total
Number of newsletters issued to closest residents	4815
Number of public consultation events held	2
Number of attendees to events	109
Number of feedback forms returned (total)	84
Of which:	41
a) Via Freepost comment card submitted in person at Camblesforth event	
b) Via Freepost comment card submitted in person at Carlton event	14
c) Via Freepost comment card received via freepost following events	9
d) Feedback form received via freepost following events	18
e) Online feedback forms	2
Number of emails, phone calls and letters received	26
Of which:	4
a) Letters	
b) Emails	17
c) Phone calls	5
Number of (not unique) website hits during consultation period	1,215

8.11.3. The majority of feedback and queries received during the informal consultation and engagement related to the principle of development and seeking an understanding

of the planning and consultation processes. Common queries and questions were noted and used to inform updates to the Frequently Asked Questions document, which was made available on the project website.

8.11.4. A full overview of the informal consultation activity and response analysis is contained in Appendix 8.10.

8.11.5. The table below summarises the most common issues raised and the Applicant’s response to these issues.

Table 8.3: Key issues and queries raised during the informal consultation period

Issue theme	Summary
<p>Impact on agricultural land – Food security</p>	<p>One of the most commonly noted themes throughout all feedback provided was related to the loss of high-quality agricultural land and the subsequent impact on the region/country’s ability to achieve its food security ambitions. The Ukraine War was noted a number of times as a reason why agricultural land of this nature should be protected.</p> <p>There was a general consensus that brownfield land should be prioritised and that the scale of this proposals (see below) on agricultural land, and the cumulative impacts of this alongside other planned and consented developments in the local area meant that the impact on food security was unsustainable.</p>
<p>Scale of the project and setting</p>	<p>As referenced in relation to the impact on agricultural land, several respondents also made comments about the scale of the proposals being too large for the local area. The geographic spread of the development across land in this location was felt to be too great. General comments made statements relating to the impact ta scheme of this size would have on the local area, affecting visual amenity, house prices, traffic and the local environment. The cumulative impact of this development alongside</p>

Issue theme	Summary
	<p>other local existing industrial activity (such as Drax Power Station), consented and planned renewable schemes in close proximity, and other development such as housing, was noted by various respondents concerned over the scale of the scheme in the context of its setting.</p>
<p>Traffic and impact on local road network</p>	<p>Numerous comments and concerns were noted in relation to the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the local road network. Existing traffic routes were deemed to be inadequate and residents living close to the site raised concerns about additional large vehicle traffic on the existing road network.</p>
<p>Impact on biodiversity and ecology</p>	<p>Whilst several respondents noted the positive effects on biodiversity the proposals could have, numerous comments and concerns were raised in relation to the potential impacts to local wildlife and the impact of the 'loss' of green fields on local habitats. Erecting fencing and materials across the area was noted as a concern for wildlife on the site.</p>
<p>Visual and landscape</p>	<p>One of the most common 'general' comments made by respondents related to the visual impact these proposals could have on the local area. The transition from green fields to areas covered in solar panels was a concern for many respondents, especially in a landscape that had previously been industrial, but was now changing as coal mining and the larger power stations were disappearing.</p> <p>Concerns and discussion around the visual impact on specific properties and proximity to local housing was regularly noted. Suggestions or concerns about the use of screening to 'hide' the development was also commented on. Numerous respondents felt that it was not possible to address the visual impact concerns due to the scale of the</p>

Issue theme	Summary
	<p>development.</p> <p>Other specific concerns relating to visual amenity focused on the potential for glint and glare to affect local properties or passers-by.</p>
<p>Impact on residents and on the value of homes</p>	<p>Linked to the above points, respondents highlighted concerns over the impacts of traffic, loss of visual amenity, impact to agricultural economy and activity and various other factors such as noise and construction impacts as reasons why they believed that house prices would be affected.</p> <p>A high proportion of respondents that raised concerns about this point lived close to the proposed site and made comments relating directly to their own property or land.</p>
<p>Community Benefit</p>	<p>Whilst several respondents noted that they did not feel that any community benefit could be achieved from this development, various suggestions and feedback was provided. One of the most common themes in this respect was the potential for the development to make improvements to the local public rights of way through and around the site. Several specific comments on walking/cycling routes that could be improved were made and a general consensus was that if non-motorised links between villages and to and from Selby could be improved, it would be seen as a local benefit.</p> <p>Other popular requests for community benefit included a reduction in energy bills, supporting local jobs and the economy, engagement with local organisations to make improvements and education opportunities.</p>
<p>Other environmental considerations</p>	<p>A range of other specific points, comments, queries and feedback included environmental concerns and issues relating to flood risk and drainage, noise, pollution and</p>

Issue theme	Summary
	health considerations (such as radiation or impacts to wellbeing through proximity to the scheme). These were either general comments or queries, or very specific to the respondent's own property.

8.12. Ongoing communications and feedback

- 8.12.1. Continued informal discussions assisted in keeping stakeholders updated and informed on the Proposed Development and approach to the upcoming statutory consultation. Discussions also assisted in informing the development of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), which is detailed further in Chapter 11.
- 8.12.2. The project team also kept in touch with local residents throughout the period leading up to statutory consultation through the provision of the consultation Freephone number and dedicated project email address to ensure that there was always a line of communication available directly with the project team.

8.13. Overview of non-statutory consultation and influence on the Proposed Development

- 8.13.1. The non-statutory consultation process allowed the Applicant to introduce the Proposed Development to relevant stakeholders and the local community and to understand initial thoughts and concerns about the early proposals and principle of development.
- 8.13.2. Information about related key topics, such as the use of agricultural land, visual impact, noise, construction traffic and access, as well as consultation approach and ongoing communication were raised and considered in further detail as a result of the informal engagement undertaken.
- 8.13.3. Ongoing engagement with the local authorities and relevant consultees through the Scoping process, coupled with introductory conversations and feedback from host and neighbouring parish councils, political representatives and near neighbours, informed updates to the plans for the Proposed Development prior to the launch of statutory consultation.

8.13.4. Following the close of the informal consultation, feedback was considered and the proposals refined.

8.13.5. During this period, several design changes were made to the Proposed Development as a result of consultation feedback and ongoing development design.

8.13.6. Changes made at this point resulted in a reduction in the scale of the Proposed Development (reduction in land used from approximately 757ha to approximately 476ha), as well as the following additional amendments:

- Removal of identified land parcels closest to sensitive receptors, to minimise impact on local residents.
- Inclusion of buffers and offsets from residential houses to minimise impacts.
- Allocation of nearly 300ha across the site for new grasslands under and surrounding the panels.
- Inclusion of over 10ha of new broadleaved woodland to be created across the site to screen the development.
- Enhanced public access to link Camblesforth and Carlton through the inclusion of a new permissive path through the site.
- Improvements to hedgerow field margins to help integrate the site within the landscape.
- Confirmation of the cable route connection corridor via underground cable to minimise disruption.

8.13.7. These changes were considered and incorporated into the refined Proposed Development design presented during the statutory consultation (See chapters 10 – 13).

9. Approach to statutory consultation under the 2008 Act

9.1. Overview and introduction

9.1.1. This chapter of the consultation report sets out the approach taken to formal consultation and publicity under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act for the Proposed Development.

9.1.2. The activities undertaken under Sections 42, 47 and 48 are provided in detail in chapters 10, 11 and 12 respectively. Together these chapters seek to provide the information required under Section 37(7)(a) of the 2008 Act and the relevant parts of the DCLG guidance (March 2015) on pre-application consultation.

9.2. Approach to statutory consultation

9.2.1. The Applicant has sought from the outset to undertake a single stage of statutory consultation on the Proposed Development following early informal engagement and a single stage of informal (non-statutory) consultation in June-July 2022 with consultees, stakeholders and the local communities.

9.2.2. As a result of the defined project parameters and refinements made during the engagement prior to statutory consultation, a single phase of statutory consultation was then undertaken.

9.2.3. The statutory consultation took place from October to 22 December. Further details of the statutory consultation can be found in following chapters.

10. Formal consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act

10.1. Overview and introduction

10.1.1. This chapter of the consultation report sets out the activities undertaken by the Applicant to comply with its duty to consult under Section 42 of the 2008 Act. It seeks to provide the information relevant to formal Section 42 consultation as required under Section 37(7)(a) of the 2008 Act and the relevant parts of the DCLG guidance (March 2015) and PINS Advice Note 14 on pre-application consultation.

10.1.2. This chapter concludes with a statement of compliance summarising the regard that the Applicant has had to relevant legislation and guidance in carrying out its duties under Section 42.

10.2. Legislative context: Duty to consult under Section 42

10.2.1. Section 42 of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to consult the following about the proposed application:

- a. Such persons as may be prescribed;
- b. Each local authority that is within Section 43 of the Act;
- c. The Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London; and
- d. Each person who is within one or more categories set out in Section 44 of the Act.

10.2.2. For the purposes of Section 44(a), the persons prescribed are those listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations (as amended).

10.2.3. With regard to Section 42(b), local authorities are defined as those within which the land to which the proposed application relates is located (Section 43(1)). It also includes those local authorities that share a boundary with that authority (Section 43(2)). This is referred to in more detail in Section 10.5.

10.2.4. For the purposes of Section 42(d), a person is within Section 44 of the 2008 Act if the applicant knows that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land (Category 1, Section 44(1)); interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or release the land (Category 2, Section 44(2)); or is entitled to make

a relevant claim if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented (Category 3, Section 44(4)). This is referred to in more detail in Section 10.6.

10.2.5. There is a duty on the applicant, when consulting a person under Section 42, to notify them of the deadline for receipt of comments to the consultation (Section 45(1)). This must be a minimum of 28 days, commencing on the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents (Section 45(2)). Consultation documents must be supplied to the person by the applicant for the purposes of the consultation (Section 45(3)).

10.2.6. DCLG guidance (2015) at paragraph 26 notes that in addition, applicants may wish to strengthen their case by seeking the views of other people who are not statutory consultees, but who may be significantly affected by the project.

10.3. Defining Section 42 consultees

10.3.1. The following sections describe how the prescribed bodies, local authorities and significantly affected persons to be consulted under Section 42 of the 2008 Act were identified. It then sets out the approach taken to formal consultation for the Proposed Development under Section 42.

10.4. Prescribed consultation bodies

10.4.1. The prescribed consultees listed by PINS in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 were consulted under Section 42 as part of the pre-application process. Prescribed consultees for the Proposed Development were also confirmed in the Appendix of the PINS response to the Scoping Opinion.⁵

10.4.2. Prescribed bodies cover the main regulatory bodies including the ‘technical’ bodies with specific expertise and/or regulatory responsibility for a given discipline.

10.4.3. A list of the prescribed bodies consulted under Section 42 is included in Appendix 10.

⁵ EN010140-000029-EN0101040 Scoping Opinion - Helios Renewable Energy Project

10.5. Local authorities

10.5.1. Section 42(1)(b) of the 2008 Act states that applicants must consult all local authorities which fall within one of the categories detailed in Section 43 as follows:

- 'A' is a neighbouring local authority (s43(3)) that shares a boundary with a unitary council or lower-tier district council within whose area development is situated.
- 'B' is either a unitary council or a lower-tier district council in which the development is situated – a host authority.
- 'C' is an upper-tier county council in which the development is situated – a host authority.
- 'D' is either a unitary council or an upper tier county council which shares a boundary with a host 'C' authority – a neighbouring authority (s43(3))

10.5.2. Table 10.1 shows all local authorities that were consulted under Section 43. The following maps (Figure 2 and Figure 3) show how these authorities were identified.

Table 10.1: Local authorities consulted under Section 43

Authority type	Level	Authority Name
B Authority (Host)	Unitary	North Yorkshire
A Authority	Borough/District	East Riding of Yorkshire
A Authority	Borough/District	York
A Authority	Borough/District	Doncaster
A Authority	Borough/District	Wakefield
A Authority	Borough/District	Leeds
A Authority	Borough/District	Bradford
A Authority	Borough/District	Ribble Valley
A Authority	Borough/District	Lancaster

Authority type	Level	Authority Name
A Authority	Borough/District	Westmorland and Furness
A Authority	Borough/District	County Durham
A Authority	Borough/District	Darlington
A Authority	Borough/District	Stockton-on-Tees
A Authority	Borough/District	Middlesbrough
A Authority	Borough/District	Redcar and Cleveland
A Authority	Borough/District	Pendle
D Authority	Borough/District	Lancashire
D Authority	National Park	Yorkshire Dales
D Authority	National Park	North York Moors

Figure 2: Local and Neighbouring Authorities

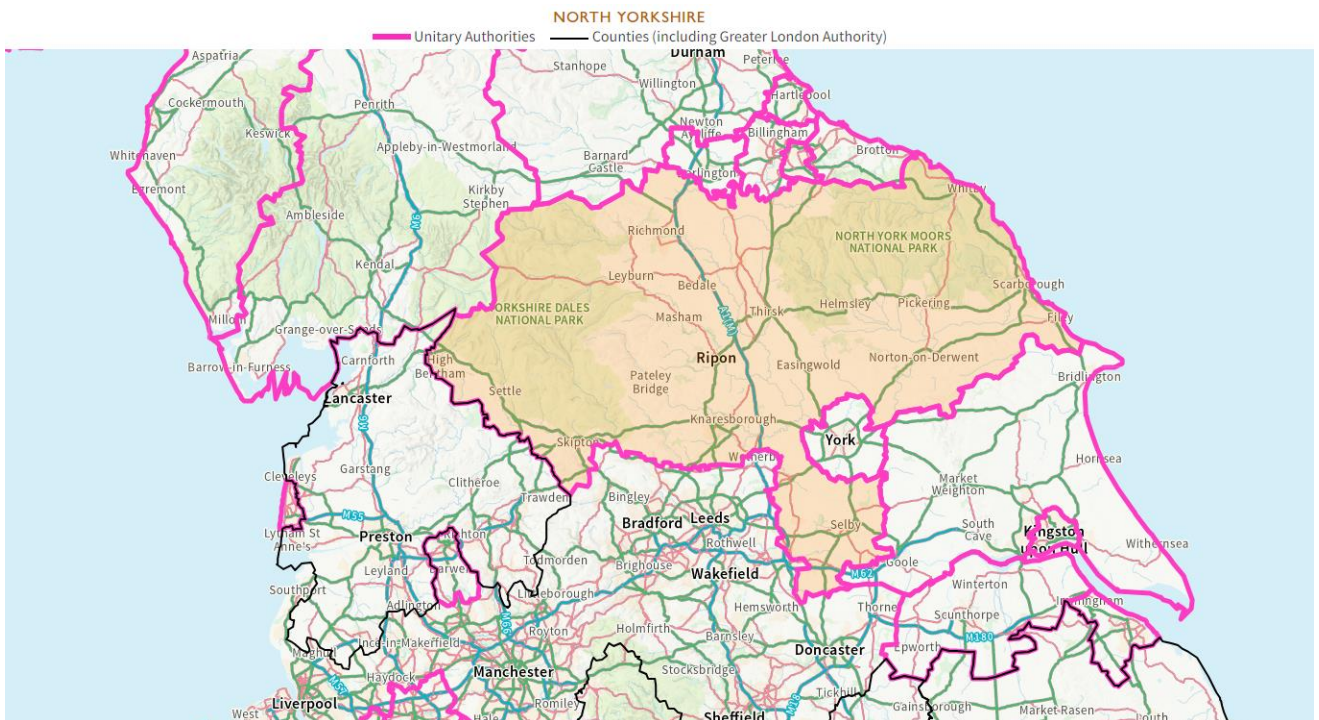
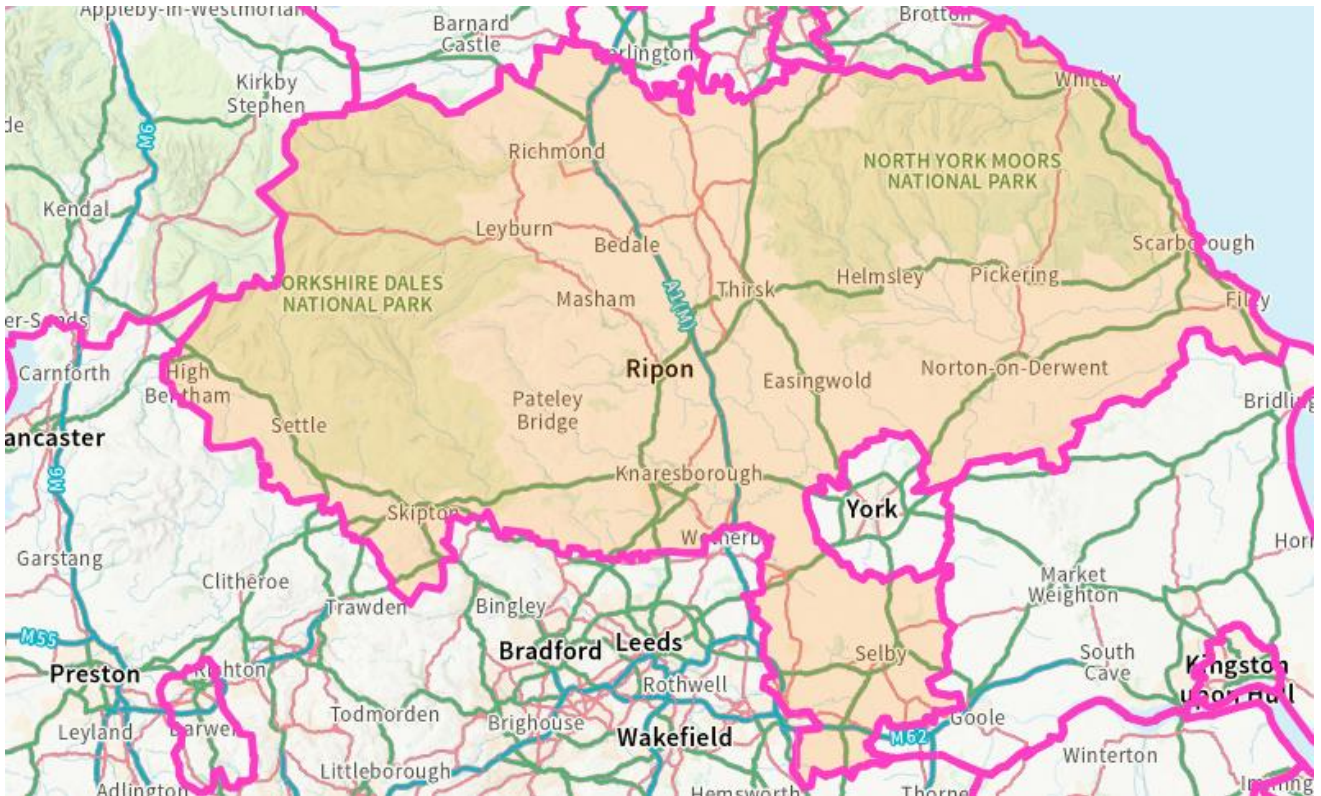


Figure 3: Local Planning Authorities Map



10.5.3. In addition, West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Sheffield City Region Combined Authority were also notified at the same time for the sake of completeness.

10.6. Section 44 persons (landowners)

10.6.1. Under Section 42 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant is required to consult all those with an interest in land to which the application relates including (but not limited to) owners, lessees, tenants, occupiers and those able to sell or release the land.

10.6.2. Consultation with landowners has been ongoing throughout the development of the Proposed Development, principally through the Applicant's land agent, TerraQuest. The identification of potentially affected parties has been an on-going process since 2022.

10.6.3. As noted in Chapter 8, landowners and other interested parties were identified initially through title searches with the Land Registry. Where ownership could not be determined, site visits were conducted by TerraQuest. The site visits involved identifying and visiting potential landowner residences and discussions with neighbours and other local residents to try to identify landowners. Contact was also made with landowners via telephone, email and letter.

- 10.6.4. Where landowners remained unknown or where persons with rights of access over affected access ways were unknown, site notices were erected where possible in a suitable visible location (for example gateways or nearby telegraph poles). A copy of a site notice is included in Appendix 10.2.
- 10.6.5. The combination of the above land referencing activities produced a list of interests for the statutory consultation under Section 42 of the 2008 Act. Letters to these contacts were issued on 24 July 2023, prior to the statutory consultation. A copy of this letter can be found in Appendix 10.3.
- 10.6.6. The Book of Reference (EN010140/APP/4.1) contains details of the relevant landowners and interests related to the Application.
- 10.6.7. **Part One Claimants (Category 3: Section 44(4) and Section 44(6)(b)):** Based on environmental information available at the point of statutory consultation (October 2023), and the position of the red line boundary at that point, qualifying properties were identified. Therefore, parties who may be entitled to claim under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 have been identified.

10.7. Notifying PINS under Section 46

- 10.7.1. As required under Section 46 of the 2008 Act, the Applicant complied with the duty to notify the SoS of the proposed application. The Applicant supplied the SoS (via PINS) with such information in relation to the proposed application as would be supplied to the consultees for the purpose of complying with Section 42. This was provided prior to commencing the consultation under Section 42.
- 10.7.2. The Section 46 notification was issued by email to PINS on 24 October 2023. The letter contained a link to the project website, which hosted:
- The PEIR;
 - A Non-Technical Summary (“NTS”) of the PEIR;
 - Plans showing the location of the Helios Renewable Energy Project;
 - Section 48 Notice;
 - Community Consultation Leaflet;
 - Feedback Form; and
 - Additional documents including a Consultation Summary Document and the

Statement of Community Consultation (which are included for information purposes).

10.7.3. A download link for the PEIR was also included in the covering email. A copy of the notification letter is contained in Appendix 10.4. A copy of the acknowledgement of receipt from PINS is included in Appendix 10.5.

10.8. Consultation undertaken in accordance with Section 42 of the 2008 Act

10.8.1. As noted above, under Section 42 of the 2008 Act, applicants are required to consult with prescribed bodies, each local authority that is within Section 43, and each person who is within one or more categories set out in Section 44 (landowners) for a period of at least 28 days after the day on which the documents are received. The Applicant undertook consultation in line with these requirements.

10.8.2. Consultation under Section 42 ran from 26 October to 7 December 2023 (a period of 42 days) with a subsequent extension to the 21 December 2023 for the local community. Details of the extension to the consultation can be found in Chapter 11.

10.8.3. A letter was issued to all identified Section 42 consultees (as set out in Appendix 10.2) dated 25 October 2023 informing them of the consultation, the process for providing feedback and setting out the timetable for responses to be received by (as noted under Section 45 of the 2008 Act). Details about how to obtain further information was also included.

10.8.4. The letters contained a link to the project website, which hosted:

- The PEIR;
- A non-technical summary (“NTS”) of the PEIR;
- Plans showing the location of the Helios Renewable Energy Project;
- Community Consultation Leaflet;
- Section 48 Notice;
- Feedback Form; and
- Additional documents including a Consultation Summary Document and the Statement of Community Consultation (which are included for information purposes).

10.8.5. The letters noted that hard copy documentation was also available upon request

(noting a charge where applicable).

10.8.6. The letters were also issued via email on 24 October 2023. A copy of the Section 42 letters (including to Section 43 and Section 44 recipients) and email is included in Appendix 10.6. Documents including proof of postage and mailing confirmation are included in Appendix 11.8.

10.8.7. **Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR):** The PEIR was prepared for the purposes of presenting the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development based on the environmental and social data collated at the time as part of the EIA process. This was the principal source of information consulted upon under Section 42 and formed the basis of all consultation materials and information.

The information contained within the PEIR, which had an accompanying NTS document, was issued to Section 42 consultees to provide them with an opportunity to understand the likely environmental impacts of the Proposed Development and to provide feedback on these points. Copies of the PEIR chapters, the non-technical summary document and associated plans are available to view on the project website.

10.8.8. The PEIR contained information on the key topics outlined in the chapter list below:

Table 10.1: PEIR Chapter list

Chapter	Topic
1	Introduction
2	The Environmental Impact Assessment and Methodology
3	Site and Development Description
4	Alternatives and Design Evolution
5	Construction and Decommissioning Methodology and Phasing
6	Cultural Heritage
7	Landscape and Views

Chapter	Topic
8	Biodiversity
9	Water Environment
10	Transport and Access
11	Noise and Vibration
12	Climate Change
13	Socioeconomics
14	Soils and Agricultural Land
15	Cumulative Effects
16	Summary and Residual Effects

10.9. Feedback mechanisms

10.9.1. The Applicant had a range of feedback mechanisms in place throughout the consultation and these were detailed in the Section 42 notification letters. Consultees were able to provide feedback in the following ways:

(a) By completing a feedback form - available online via the project website (www.helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk/). Hard copies were also able to be provided upon request, using the project contact details.

(b) By emailing: info@helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk

(c) In writing to: FREEPOST TC CONSULTATION (no further address or stamp required).

10.9.2. The dedicated consultation Freephone number was also available throughout the consultation process for interested parties to seek clarification about the process, ask any questions, or provide feedback.

10.10. Meetings and engagement with relevant Section 42 consultees and key stakeholders

10.10.1. The below table provides a list of meetings that have taken place with Section 42 consultees and key stakeholders both during the statutory consultation period and as part of the ongoing engagement during the period of design refinement.

Table 10.2: Meetings with Section 42 consultees

Consultee	Meeting date	Summary of meeting
The Environment Agency (EA)	16/11/2023	Introduction of Proposed Development and project team to EA case manager.
Natural England (NE)	01/12/2023	Introduction of Proposed Development and project team to NE team and discussion on Terms of Reference and Statement of Common Ground.
Burn Gliding Club	07/12/2023	Introduction of Proposed Development and discussion on technical areas of concern for Burn Gliding Club.
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	13/12/2023	Introduction of Proposed Development and changes since 2022. Detailed discussion around the Landscape Strategy Plan to understand areas of concern and potential improvement.
North Yorkshire Council (NYC)	20/12/2023	Initial discussion of NYC stat consultation response and Statement of Common Ground.
North Yorkshire Council (NYC)	18/01/2024	Meeting to discuss NYC Socio-Economics/Population and Human Health response.
North Yorkshire Council (NYC)	01/02/2024	Meeting to discuss NYC Landscape response.
National Highways (NH)	06/02/2024	Meeting to discuss National Highways consultation response and Statement of Common Ground.
North Yorkshire	12/02/2024	Meeting to discuss NYC Highways response and

Consultee	Meeting date	Summary of meeting
Council (NYC)		Statement of Common Ground.
Planning Inspectorate (PINs)	14/02/2024	Meeting to introduce PINS team to Proposed Development project team and discuss approach to and consultation responses received and proposed project response.
North Yorkshire Council	07/03/2024	Meeting to progress Statement of Common Ground.
Environment Agency	13/03/2024	Meeting to discuss approach to Flood Risk Assessments.
Environment Agency	11/04/2024	Meeting with the national infrastructure team to discuss ways of working and overall approach to FRA.
Burn Gliding Club	12/04/2024	Meeting to discuss results of the Implications Report.

10.11. Statement of compliance

10.11.1. As required under Section 42 of the 2008 Act, consultation was undertaken with prescribed consultees under the APFP Regulations, Section 43 local authorities and all identified Section 44 consultees. The Applicant also sought to obtain the views of other organisations that were identified because of their knowledge of the local area or a specific environmental topic. This is set out below:

- a. All consultees were provided with information on how to access the consultation documents, namely the PEIR and supporting NTS documents, a consultation summary document and all relevant plans and the feedback questionnaire. A cover letter stated that the consultation process would run from 26 October to 7 December 2023, giving consultees 42 days to make a representation.
- b. The Applicant has had regard to all relevant responses (Section 49)

- c. The Applicant provided PINS with a copy of the same documentation that was sent to the Section 42 consultees (Section 46)
- d. The Applicant also had regard to the DCLG guidance on the pre-application process (Section 50).

10.11.2. A full statement of compliance can be found in Chapter 18.

11. Formal consultation under Section 47 of the 2008 Act

11.1. Overview and introduction

11.1.1. This chapter of the consultation report sets out the activities undertaken by the Applicant to comply with its duty to consult under Section 47 of the 2008 Act. It seeks to provide the information relevant to formal Section 47 consultation as required in the consultation report under Section 37(7)(a) of the 2008 Act and the relevant parts of DCLG guidance and PINS Advice Note 14.

11.1.2. This chapter concludes with a statement of compliance summarising the regard that the Applicant had to relevant legislation and guidance in carrying out its duties under Section 47.

11.2. Legislative context

11.2.1. Section 47(1) of the 2008 Act requires the applicant to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The SoCC should set out how the applicant intends to consult the local community on the proposed application. There is a duty on the applicant to consult the relevant local authorities in respect of the content of the SoCC (Section 47(2)) because their knowledge of the local area may influence decisions on the geographical extent of consultation and the methods that will be most effective in the local circumstances.

11.2.2. Local authority responses to consultation on the content of the SoCC should be requested by the applicant within a 28-day period (commencing on the day after the day on which the local authority receives the request for comments). Consultation documents must be provided to the local authority at this stage, providing information which allows the authority to make an informed response to the SoCC consultation (Sections 47(3) and 47(4)). Section 47(5) of the 2008 Act requires the applicant to have regard to any response provided by the local authority that is received within the 28-day period.

11.2.3. In developing the SoCC, regard must be had to the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance on pre-application procedure. Regulation 10/12 of the EIA Regulations stipulates that the SoCC must set out whether the proposal is an EIA development and, if so, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information.

11.2.4. Guidance on developing and publicising the SoCC has been provided by DCLG and is summarised in the Statement of Compliance in Chapter 18 of this report.

11.2.5. Once the SoCC has been finalised, notice of deposit must be published in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the Proposed Development site (Section 47(6)(a) of the 2008 Act) and the applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement (Section 47(7)).

11.3. Informal consultation on the SoCC

11.3.1. In formulating the approach to statutory consultation and the SoCC, the Applicant worked with North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council, who then merged to become part of the unitary authority of North Yorkshire Council, having regard to guidance and advice on the extent of consultation and methods deployed.

11.3.2. DCLG guidance (paragraph 42) states that it may be helpful to make informal contact with the local authorities in advance of formal consultation on the content of the SoCC. Therefore, the Applicant met with the lead officers on behalf of North Yorkshire Council to discuss an early draft SoCC, which was shared with the authorities prior to formal consultation.

11.3.3. This engagement resulted in valuable feedback being provided and incorporated into the revised SoCC, which was formally consulted upon. Changes made to the SoCC as a result of feedback from this early informal engagement include the addition of a relevant local newspaper for advertising purposes, confirmation that the key consultation zone was felt to be appropriate, and the inclusion of the use of social media to help advertise the consultation to a broader range of people. A full summary of the changes made to the SoCC can be found in Table 11.2 below.

11.4. Formal consultation on the SoCC

11.4.1. The consultation approach set out in the draft SoCC was developed with the experience and outcomes of the previous informal engagement taken into account. It was designed with specific detail of the proposals, as well as the demographics of local communities in mind.

11.4.2. The site falls entirely within North Yorkshire Council, however, due to the proximity of some neighbouring authorities, it was agreed that the SoCC would also be shared with East Riding of Yorkshire Council for their information.

Table 11.1 List of consultees provided with the draft SoCC for review during the statutory consultation period

Consultee	Date Draft SoCC issued for comment/information	Feedback deadline	Feedback received
North Yorkshire Council	17 May 2023	19 June 2023	15 June 2023
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	17 May 2023	19 June 2023	None received

- 11.4.3. A meeting took place with North Yorkshire Council on 29 March 2023 to discuss the draft SoCC and get early comments on the approach. The early feedback from this meeting was considered and incorporated into the draft SoCC.
- 11.4.4. As shown in Table 11.1, the draft SoCC was provided to the required local authority, in this instance North Yorkshire Council, on 17 May 2023, and the authority was given 28 days to respond.
- 11.4.5. North Yorkshire Council provided comments in a formal response letter on 15 June 2023 which can be found in Appendix 11.1. The Applicant responded to each comment received from North Yorkshire Council on 11 October 2023 and updated the SoCC accordingly. The Applicant’s response to comments from the local authority can be found in Appendix 11.2.
- 11.4.6. Table 11.2 below outlines the feedback provided and the changes made to the SoCC following informal and formal consultation on the draft document.

Table 11.2 Feedback received to the draft SoCC, and regard had by the Applicant

SoCC Feedback Table		
Consultee	Comments	Applicant Comment
Informal consultation comments received		
Selby District Council	Include local ward councillors within the	The ward councillors were identified as being key stakeholders and were included

SoCC Feedback Table		
Consultee	Comments	Applicant Comment
	approach to engagement.	as part of the approach to consultation.
Selby District Council	Can a line be drawn around the map showing the Core Consultation Zone (CCZ) to make it clearer where the area is?	A clear line to mark the CCZ was added to the map.
Selby District Council	Is there an identified area for the wider consultation zone?	We recognise that residents, communities, organisations, and other stakeholders outside the CCZ will have different requirements for information and it is anticipated that this area may well focus on broader economic and social matters, such as employment opportunities. Therefore, the wider consultation zone has not been defined but will targeted through publicising the consultation through local media, online and statutory notices.
Selby District Council	Will the dates of the consultation be confirmed in the SoCC?	The dates of the consultation and consultation events were included in the published draft SoCC.
Selby District Council	Are any political briefings proposed?	The Applicant confirmed that it would be willing to provide a briefing to any interested political

SoCC Feedback Table

Consultee	Comments	Applicant Comment
		<p>stakeholders. In addition, a ‘Stakeholder preview’ was arranged prior to the first consultation event to which political stakeholders and interested parties were invited.</p>
<p>Selby District Council</p>	<p>Who are the ‘underrepresented and seldom heard’ groups? Can a list be included?</p>	<p>A list of groups was subsequently shared and confirmed with the LPA and included in the final published SoCC.</p>
<p>Selby District Council</p>	<p>What are the relevant newspapers? Can these be listed.</p>	<p>A list of local newspapers was agreed with the local authority and included in the final published SoCC.</p>
<p>Selby District Council</p>	<p>Can you give more detail on in person events and online events. How many and where/what times? Even though covid restrictions have eased, I think having online events as well as in person events would be beneficial. We have seen this with other NSIPS.</p>	<p>The times of the events had not been agreed at the time of discussion with the LPA. However, the times and dates of the events were subsequently included in the final published SoCC.</p>
<p>Selby District Council</p>	<p>Will electronic copies and hard copies of the PEIR be available to view at deposit locations?</p>	<p>Due to the size of the PEIR and environmental impact of printing the full document, it was decided it would be more appropriate to direct people to access the PEIR</p>

SoCC Feedback Table

Consultee	Comments	Applicant Comment
		online. The deposit locations offered free online access to allow people to view all consultation documents, including the PEIR.

Formal consultation comments received

North Yorkshire Council (via email)	The online platform for the virtual consultation should be readily accessible, easy to navigate and contain the same information as the in-person events.	The virtual exhibition was publicised through the consultation leaflet and accessed through the project website. All of the consultation materials were available to view and download.
North Yorkshire Council (via letter)	Can the line drawn to show the CZZ be made clearer (different colour or thickness)?	A clearer CCZ, with a thicker line, was included in the published SoCC.
North Yorkshire Council (via letter)	Can the area for the wider consultation zone be identified?	<p>The ‘wider’ consultation zone is, in effect, all areas outside of the Core Consultation Zone (CCZ). To ensure that individuals and organisations situated outside of the CCZ were given the opportunity to participate, we raised awareness of the consultation in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly notifying those

SoCC Feedback Table		
Consultee	Comments	Applicant Comment
		<p>people and organisations who registered an interest in the Proposed Development through direct engagement or participation in informal consultation phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing a Section 48 notice in the local and national press and London Gazette. • Publicising the consultation by advertising in local media. • Publishing consultation materials on the project website.
North Yorkshire Council (via letter)	Will the actual dates for consultation be inserted?	The dates of the consultation and consultation events were included in the published SoCC.
North Yorkshire Council (via letter)	Will a list of EDI/under-represented groups be included?	A list of EDI groups was identified and agreed with North Yorkshire Council. These were also listed in the final SoCC. It was also noted that should additional groups be identified they would also be included.
North Yorkshire	Can details of the times	Since the draft SoCC was issued

SoCC Feedback Table		
Consultee	Comments	Applicant Comment
Council (via letter)	and dates of the public events be included?	to the LPA the Applicant confirmed the timings for the public consultation events which were included in the published SoCC with these details.
North Yorkshire Council (via letter)	Will hard copies of the document be available? If so what will the cost be?	<p>Hard copies of the SoCC were made available at Selby Library, Snaith Library and Goole Library from the date of publication of the SoCC.</p> <p>Hard copies of all other documents were available at consultation events and could be posted upon request. With the exception of the Full PEIR (with annexes), all other documents can be provided free of charge.</p>
North Yorkshire Council (via letter)	Should references to NTS and DCO be set out in full within the document?	It is generally accepted that abbreviations only need to be written in full in the first instance, however, this was kept under review to allow for amends to be made if required.

11.5. The final SoCC

11.5.1. Following confirmation of receipt of the comments on the draft SoCC, a final version was agreed and prepared for publication.

11.5.2. The final SoCC can be seen in Appendix 11.3.

11.6. Publication of the final SoCC (Section 47(6))

11.6.1. The final SoCC was published on 12 October 2023. A notice was placed in the Selby Times, Goole Times, The Pontefract & Castleford Express and the Yorkshire Post on the same date detailing where the SoCC could be viewed, in print or digitally. A designed version of the formal notice was also published on the same date in order to aid interested parties in easily identifying the information. A copy of the notice can be seen in Appendix 11.4. Copies of the notices and designed adverts as published in situ can be seen in Appendix 11.5.

11.6.2. Hard copies of the SoCC were placed on deposit and made available to view free of charge in the following locations:

Table 11.3 SoCC deposit locations

Date SoCC available	Location
12 October 2023	Selby Library , 52 Micklegate, Selby YO8 4EQ
12 October 2023	Snaith Library , 27 Market Place, Snaith, Goole DN14 9HE
12 October 2023	Goole Library , Carlisle Street, Goole DN14 5DS

11.6.3. Images of the hard copy SoCC in situ at deposit locations can be found in Appendix 11.6.

11.6.4. The SoCC was also made available to view or download via the project website from 12 October 2023.

11.6.5. In addition, letters were issued to stakeholders and those with an interest in the proposals that the SoCC had been published and was available to view online or in hard copy. Letters were issued to identified stakeholders, neighbours, and Hard to Reach stakeholders. Appendix 8.1 contains a list of stakeholders issued this letter. Appendix 11.7 contains a copy of the various tailored letters, which were dated 12 October 2023.

11.6.6. A digital copy of the SoCC was also issued electronically to those stakeholders and interested parties for which the Applicant held email address details. This email

contained a copy of the same letter noted above and links to the project website to find out more.

11.6.7. A copy of this electronic mailing can be found in Appendix 11.8.

11.6.8. Tailored correspondence was also issued to identified harder to reach groups, organisations and representatives. This was to highlight the consultation, seek to engage with seldom heard individuals and groups, and encourage participation in the process. A copy of this correspondence can be found in Appendix 11.9.

11.6.9. A newsletter was also issued to all those within Consultation Zone 1, which was defined in the SoCC as being approximately 2km the red-line boundary of the Proposed Development based on an assessment of the likely environmental (landscape and visual) effects within the vicinity of the site. This zone included all properties within Camblesforth, Hirst Courtney and Carlton as the key settlements closest to the Site, as well as Barlow to the north and all properties in between and around the Site.

Figure 4: Map showing Core Consultation Zone (CCZ)



11.6.10. The newsletter summarised the key information contained in the SoCC and provided an overview of the forthcoming statutory consultation. It contained the following information:

- Announcement of statutory consultation period and publication of the SoCC
- Information about the Proposed Development

- Information about the planning process
- Details about the consultation process, consultation events, online access to consultation materials, feedback mechanisms and contact details

11.6.11. A copy of the newsletter was included in the correspondence issued to stakeholders, including those that lived outside the Key Consultation Zone. The newsletter was made available to download from the project website alongside the SoCC itself. Copies of the newsletter were also left alongside the hard copies of the SoCC at the identified deposit locations. The newsletter is available to view in Appendix 11.10.

11.6.12. The project website was also updated with information about the SoCC, and to reflect the new information being presented with regard to the statutory consultation. These changes were made to the project website on 12 October 2023.

11.6.13. The publication of the SoCC was also announced on the project Twitter feed. The social media updates included information on where to view the full SoCC. These updates can be viewed in Appendix 8.7. When shared with the local parish councils, the Applicant requested that updates be made, and the information shared on the existing parish council social media channels. This resulted in updates regarding the SoCC publication and the forthcoming statutory consultation on Camblesforth Parish Council's website.

11.6.14. A press release was issued on 12 October 2023 to highlight the publication of the SoCC. The press release was issued to the Selby Times, The Pontefract and Castleford Express, The Yorkshire Post as well as other relevant local business and trade press. A copy of the press release can be found in Appendix 11.11.

11.6.15. Posters were also placed in the following locations on 10 October 2023:

- Carlton Post Office (Londis) – High Street, Carlton, Goole, DN14 9LY
- Carlton Village Hall - Church Ln, Carlton, Goole DN14 9PB
- Selby Library – 52 Micklegate, Selby, YO8 4EQ
- Selby SPAR – 1 Bawtry Road, Abbeyside, Selby, YO8 8NA
- Carlton Co-Op – High Street, Carlton, Goole, DN14 9LY
- Snaith Library – 27 Market Pl, Snaith, Goole, DN14 9HE
- Goole Library - Carlisle Street, Goole, DN14 5DS

- TESCO Superstore - Boothferry Rd, Goole, DN14 6BB

11.6.16. Digital copies of the posters were also emailed to Carlton Parish Council, Hirst Courtney Parish Council and Camblesforth Parish Council on 18 October with a request that they be placed in Parish Council Notice boards and websites to help inform the local community. Hard copies were offered to be posted upon request.

11.6.17. A copy of the poster and example photos in situ can be found in Appendix 11.12.

11.7. Undertaking consultation

11.7.1. Consultation under Section 47 was undertaken in line with the SoCC and took place at the same time as the Section 42 statutory consultation period, which ran from 26 October to 7 December 2023. These consultation dates were advertised on all publicity confirming publication of the SoCC noted above, including on the project website, in correspondence issued to stakeholders, social media updates and via the newsletter issued to all local residents within the vicinity of the proposed site.

11.7.2. The Applicant used a wide variety of tools aimed at Section 47 consultees to provide information about the proposals in an accessible way to encourage feedback. These tools included:

- Consultation summary document;
- Feedback questionnaire;
- Public exhibitions;
- A virtual public exhibition;
- Presentation slides
- Website updates; and
- Social media

11.7.3. These documents were made available on or prior to 26 October 2023 to coincide with the commencement of the statutory consultation period.

11.7.4. An update letter was issued to stakeholders on 25 October 2023 to remind them of the start of the consultation period and to provide direct links to the above noted consultation materials. The virtual consultation, which contained all consultation materials (including exhibition boards, the consultation summary document, plans and the feedback form) was made live for this date. Screenshots of the virtual

consultation can be found in Appendix 11.18. Presentation slides were prepared and made available on the website for community organisations to use if they wished. These slides are available in Appendix 8.4.

11.7.5. A digital version of the letter was also issued via email to those stakeholders for whom the Applicant had email addresses. Updates were also made to the project website and social media to highlight the start of consultation and provide links to the relevant consultation materials, including the PEIR, non-technical summary and all relevant associated plans and drawings. A copy of this letter and screenshots of the website showing the addition of the statutory consultation documents, including the PEIR and all consultation materials can be found in Appendix 11.14.

11.7.6. On 26 October 2023 a press release was issued to the same publications as received the press release on the SoCC. This press release contained further information about the statutory consultation, including where to find out more information, how to attend consultation events and the deadlines for feedback to be provided. The press release was re-issued to the same publications on 30 October to encourage the promotion of the statutory consultation. This resulted in coverage appearing in the Selby Times and the Goole Times on 26 October 2023. A copy of this press release can be found in Appendix 11.11.

11.8. Extension to the consultation

11.8.1. On 4 December 2023 the Applicant noted an error on the email address advertised on the feedback form which resulted in some members of the community being unable to submit their feedback via email. Following a review of all of the consultation materials it was found that the error was isolated to the feedback form only and had not prevented feedback to be submitted via the web form, postal forms or emails using the correct email address.

11.8.2. As soon as it was identified, the email address stated on the hard copy feedback form was made active so that any further emails to that address would come through to the project team. In addition, to ensure that all participants had the opportunity to submit their feedback it was agreed that the deadline for receiving responses would be 21 December 2023 to allow more time to provide feedback. During this period 8 feedback responses were received. All feedback and issues raised have been included as part of this consultation report.

11.8.3. The Applicant wrote to all parish councils and local community representatives on 5

December 2023 to advise them of the consultation extension and to seek their assistance in communicating this with the local community. A copy of the email can be found in Appendix 11.13. In addition, social media updates were made to explain the extension. These can be seen in Appendix 8.7.

11.8.4. The website was updated to confirm that responses would be received up to 21 December 2023.

11.9. Consultation materials

11.9.1. **Consultation Summary Document:** As recommended in DCLG's guidance, a 'summary document', written in non-technical language, should be produced to help explain the proposals and scope of consultation.

11.9.2. The Applicant therefore produced the 'Consultation Summary Document', which set out the key information about the Proposed Development in an accessible way, as well as providing information about the consultation process and explaining how to submit feedback on the proposals.

11.9.3. This document contained the following information:

- Project overview including information about the Applicant, the planning process, site location, local context and key constraints;
- A summary of the design evolution and changes to the proposals since the informal consultation;
- Key project components including details of the on-site substation and connecting to the grid;
- Environmental Assessment, including information about the EIA process, landscape and visual impact considerations and land use;
- An overview of environmental issues including water resources and flood risk, noise and vibration, glint and glare, historic environment, air quality, cumulative impacts and connection route;
- Further summary detail of the landscape strategy including ecology and biodiversity considerations for the site;
- An overview of construction and operations, as well as decommissioning considerations;
- A summary of social considerations including community benefit and economic

benefit; and

- Information on how to find out more and provide feedback.

11.9.4. This document was available throughout the statutory consultation period and was available online, at consultation events, at deposit locations and upon request.

11.9.5. The Consultation Summary Document contained the same questions that were included in the feedback questionnaire. The questions were included alongside the relevant information within the document. This was designed to help inform and signpost Section 47 consultees to the correct information in order to ensure that they could provide informed feedback to each topical question.

11.9.6. A copy of the Consultation Summary Document can be found in Appendix 11.15.

11.9.7. **Preliminary Environmental Information Report:** In addition to the Consultation Summary Document, plans and copies of the PEIR were made available throughout the statutory consultation period.

11.9.8. Plans illustrating the Proposed Development's location, proposed cable route and associated infrastructure were made available in hard copy at consultation events and upon request. Hard copies of the full PEIR document and appendices were also available to access at each of the consultation events held during the statutory consultation period.

11.9.9. The Applicant also provided a copy of the full PEIR, appendices and plans free of charge on a USB device. These devices were available at each of the consultation events, and upon request.

11.9.10. Electronic copies of the PEIR were also available to download or view from the project website throughout the statutory consultation period.

11.9.11. Hard copies of all documents were available upon request, subject to a fee for the main PEIR document.

11.9.12. **Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR:** The Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR sought to provide an overview of the environmental impacts of the Proposed Development in non-technical terms.

11.9.13. The Applicant provided copies of the Non-Technical Summary document for reference at the consultation events which were held. Copies of the document were

also made available free of charge upon request in hard copy, or on USB devices available upon request. The project website also contained copies of the document for download from 26 October 2023.

11.10. Public exhibitions

11.10.1. The Applicant identified suitable and accessible venues with best endeavours sought to hold events in the locations most likely to be impacted by the proposals, but factors including venue suitability and availability were also considered. As a result, events were held in the villages of Camblesforth (Cambelsforth Hall – Wednesday 8th November 2024 2pm-7pm) and Carlton (Carlton Village Hall – Thursday 9th November 2024 12pm – 5pm) at the same venues as the events held during the informal consultation in 2022. In total 117 attendees visited across the two days. Photos of both events showing the layout and materials on display can be found in Appendix 11.16.

11.10.2. **Consultation exhibition boards** – The Applicant developed easy to understand consultation materials including consultation information boards, which summarised the information in the PEIR and the Consultation Summary Document, and displayed large scale plans and images to help understanding for attendees at the public exhibitions. Copies of the exhibition boards can be found in Appendix 11.17.

11.10.3. **Virtual Exhibition** - Those that were unable to attend a public exhibition were able to view a virtual public exhibition online via the project website. This virtual ‘room’ contained digital representations of the consultation materials, including the exhibition boards, plans maps, and the Consultation Summary Document. Screenshots of the virtual exhibition can be found in Appendix 11.18.

11.10.4. The virtual exhibition was designed to ensure that the consultation materials were easily accessible to all those that wished to participate in the consultation, even if they were isolating due to health reasons, or preferred to engage online rather than in person. The exhibition site was designed to be accessible, and visitors had the opportunity to manipulate the site to support any specific impairment needs. This included the ability to:

- change the font size
- zoom in up to 300% without the text spilling off the screen

- navigate most of the website using just a keyboard
- navigate most of the website using speech recognition software
- listen to most of the website using a screen reader (including the most recent versions of JAWS, NVDA and Voiceover)

11.10.5. An Accessibility Statement for the site can be found in Appendix 11.19.

11.10.6. **Feedback Mechanisms** - The Applicant had a range of feedback mechanisms in place throughout the statutory consultation and these were detailed in the consultation materials. Consultees were able to provide feedback in the following ways:

- (a) By completing a feedback form - available online via the project website (www.helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk/). Hard copies were also able to be provided upon request, using the project contact details.
- (b) By emailing: info@helios-renewable-energy-project.co.uk
- (c) In writing to: FREEPOST TC CONSULTATION (no further address or stamp required).

11.10.7. The dedicated consultation Freephone number was also available throughout the consultation process for interested parties to seek clarification about the process, ask any questions, or provide feedback.

11.10.8. **Feedback Form** – The Statutory Consultation Feedback Form was made available at all consultation events, online and upon request.

11.10.9. The feedback form was designed to direct respondents to provide feedback on specific areas that the Applicant wished to receive feedback, but also allowed space for general feedback where respondents were free to comment on any aspect of the Proposed Development.

11.10.10. The feedback form questions linked to the information within the Consultation Summary Document and the detail contained on the exhibition boards. This cross reference between materials was designed to assist the respondent with providing information about the topics that were being asked about.

11.10.11. Hard copies were available at each of the consultation events. Attendees at the

consultation events were provided the opportunity to complete and submit their feedback forms directly to the Applicant, or, provided with a freepost envelope to allow them to complete the form away from the event and return it free of charge.

11.10.12. A copy of the feedback form can be found in Appendix 11.20.

11.11. Statement of Compliance

11.11.1. Statement of compliance An account of how the requirements of the 2008 Act and the EIA Regulations have been complied with in terms of undertaking the section 47 consultation is set out in the chapter and the full statement of compliance in chapter 18.

11.11.2. This chapter demonstrates that consultation was undertaken in line with the SoCC. In summary, the Applicant complied with the 2008 Act and EIA regulations as follows:

- A draft SoCC was prepared, which set out how the Applicant proposed to consult the community and was consulted on with the relevant authorities in whose area the Proposed Development lies (section 47(2)).
- Statutory consultation with the relevant local authorities on the SoCC ran from 17 May 2023 to the 19 June 2023 thus allowing a period greater than 28 days for responses (section 43(3)).
- Engagement was undertaken with the local authority prior to this point to discuss the contents of the SoCC.
- The Applicant considered all relevant comments received on the draft SoCC (section 47(5))
- Notice of the SoCC was published in local newspapers on 12 October 2023.
- The SoCC was made available on the Proposed Development website, and in hard copy at deposit locations close to the site.
- The consultation process was carried out in accordance with the SoCC, as explained in this chapter (section 47(7)). A SoCC Commitments Table also confirms document locations for specific commitments made in the SoCC (see Appendix 11.21).

12. Publication of Section 48 notice under the 2008 Act

12.1. Overview and introduction

12.1.1. This chapter of the consultation report sets out the activities undertaken by the Applicant to comply with its duty to consult under Section 48 of the 2008 Act. It seeks to provide the information relevant to formal Section 48 consultation as required in the consultation report under Section 37(7)(a) of the 2008 Act and the relevant parts of DCLG guidance on pre-application consultation.

12.1.2. This chapter concludes with a statement of compliance summarising the regard that the Applicant had to relevant legislation and guidance in carrying out its duties under Section 48.

12.2. Legislative context

12.2.1. Section 48 of the 2008 Act requires an applicant to publicise a proposed application at the pre-application stage. Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations prescribes the manner in which an applicant must undertake this publicity. Regulation 4(2) sets out what the publicity must entail, including the publishing by the applicant of a notice, and Regulation 4(3) provides detail of the matters which must be included in that notice.

12.2.2. In developing and publishing the notice, regard must be had to the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance about pre-application procedure. Regulation 13 of the 2017 EIA Regulations stipulates that, where the application for development consent is an application for EIA development, the applicant must, at the same as publishing the notice for the proposed application under Section 48(1), send a copy of the notice to the consultation bodies and to any person notified to the applicant by PINS in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2017 EIA Regulations.

12.2.3. Guidance provided by DCLG pertinent to Section 48 states that this publicity is an integral part of the public consultation process. Where possible, the first of the two required local newspaper advertisements should coincide approximately with the beginning of the consultation with communities (paragraph 58).

12.3. The Section 48 notice

12.3.1. The Section 48 notice was developed with reference to the above legislation and

guidance. A copy of the wording of the final notice is provided in Appendix 12.1.

12.3.2. The Statement of Compliance in Chapter 17 sets out the matters which must be included in the notice (from Regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations) and provides references to where this information can be found in the final notice.

12.4. Timing of publication

12.4.1. As noted above, guidance on pre-application consultation notes that Section 48 publicity is an integral part of both Section 42 and Section 47 consultation. This fed directly into the overall approach to pre-application consultation for the Proposed Development.

12.4.2. Publicity under Section 48 occurred in parallel to formal consultation under Section 42 and 47 of the 2008 Act. The deadline for the receipt of views on the application was 7 December 2023, which was consistent across Section 42 and 47 consultation and Section 48 publicity. However, as set out in section 11.8, an extension was given to the consultation and the deadline for receipt of views was allowed up to 22 December 2023.

12.5. Publicising the notice

12.5.1. For onshore development such as for Proposed Development, an applicant must publish a notice, which must include the matters prescribed by paragraph (3) of Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations, or the proposed application:

- For at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated;
- One in a national newspaper; and
- Once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette.

12.5.2. The following table sets out the publications and dates that the notifications were published. Copies of the published notifications in situ are included in Appendix 12.2.

Table 12.1 List of Section 48 notice publications and dates

Date	Publication
26 October 2023	The London Gazette
26 October 2023	The Times
26 October 2023	Goole Times
2 November 2023	
26 October 2023	Selby Times
2 November 2023	

12.6. Consultation materials

12.6.1. As set out in the SoCC, electronic copies of the consultation materials could be accessed and viewed free of charge online from the project website during the statutory consultation period. For those who did not have online access, they were directed to view the materials online free of charge in the following locations:

Table 12.2 List of consultation materials deposit locations during statutory consultation

Date materials available to view online	Location
26 October to 22 December 2023	Selby Library , 52 Micklegate, Selby, YO8 4EQ
26 October to 22 December 2023	Snaith Library , 27-29 Market Place, Snaith, DN14 9HE
26 October to 22 December 2023	Goole Library , Carlisle Street, Goole DN14 5DS

12.6.2. The Section 48 notice was included in the mailing to Section 42 consultees and made available on the project website on 26 October 2023.

12.7. Statement of compliance

12.7.1. As required under Section 48 of the 2008 Act, the application was publicised to seek views from the public on the Proposed Development. The Applicant complied with the relevant legislation as follows:

- The Applicant prepared and published Section 48 notices for the statutory consultation in the manner prescribed under the APFP Regulations (Section 48(1)).
- The formal period for responses was included in the Section 48 notices as 26 October to 7 December 2023 (allowing 42 days to respond, more than the minimum 28 days (after receipt) required under Section 48(2)).
- The Applicant published the Section 48 notices as required by Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations.
- The statutory consultees were supplied with a copy of the Section 48 notice in accordance with Regulation 11(1)(c) and Regulation 13 of the 2017 EIA Regulations. A copy of the Section 48 notice was enclosed within letters sent to statutory consultees under Section 42.

12.7.2. Publicity under Section 48 occurred in parallel to formal consultation under Section 42 and Section 47. The requirements under the 2008 Act are for the applicant to have regard to the responses in developing the proposed application (Section 49). No discernible responses were received specifically in relation to Section 48 publicity, however it is acknowledged that feedback received under Section 47, may have been submitted following notification under Section 48. For the purposes of this report, feedback that has not been identified as received under Section 42, has been classed as being received under Section 47 and Section 48.

12.7.3. A full statement of compliance can be found in Chapter 18.

13. Summary of responses under Section 42 of the 2008 Act

13.1. Introduction

13.1.1. This chapter of the consultation report sets out how the Applicant has complied with its duty under Section 49 of the 2008 Act to take account of consultation responses received under Section 42 of the 2008 Act. Information pertaining to consultation responses received under Section 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act is presented in Chapter 14 of this report.

This chapter aims to provide the information relevant to Section 42 consultation responses as required in the consultation report under Sections 37(7)(b) and 37(7)(c) of the 2008 Act and the relevant parts of the DCLG guidance on pre-application consultation.

13.2. Legislative context

13.2.1. Section 49(2) of the 2008 Act requires the applicant to have regard to relevant responses to the consultation and publicity that has been undertaken under Sections 42, 47 and 48. A relevant response for the purposes of Section 42 is defined in Section 49(3)(a) as a response from a person consulted under Section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed.

13.3. Summary of responses received

13.3.1. 29 individuals or representatives from various organisations provided a response to the Section 42 consultation. A list of all respondents and a summary of their feedback to Section 42 consultation is provided in Appendix 13.1 alongside a summary overview of the regard had to comments.

13.3.2. Many of the Section 42 consultees provided comments on the EIA process, in addition to writing about EIA topics. This, therefore, has been included in the report, alongside the other EIA topics covered in the ES.

13.3.3. North Yorkshire Council wrote to the Applicant on 7 December to request an extension to provide a full response. The Applicant agreed that as North Yorkshire Council is regarded as a key consultee it would grant an extension to 15 December 2023. North Yorkshire provided their response on this date.

13.3.4. A late submission was also received by Natural England on 19 December 2023.

However, it was agreed that the response would be accepted and has considered within this report.

Table 13.1 Summary of topics and responses received

Topic	Response received by:
Site & Development Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and Safety Executive - National Grid Transmission (NGT) - Natural England - Long Drax Parish Council - Hirst Courtney Parish Council
Alternatives & Design Evolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and Safety Executive - Openreach - North Yorkshire Council - Natural England
Construction & Decommissioning Methodology & Phasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue - UK Health Security Agency - Openreach - North Yorkshire Council - Environment Agency - Hirst Courtney Parish Council
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Historic England - North Yorkshire Council
Landscape & Views	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trans-Pennine Trail (Sustrans) - The British Horse Society - North Yorkshire Council - Hirst Courtney Parish Council
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Yorkshire Council - Natural England - Hirst Courtney Parish Council
Water Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yorkshire Water - Selby Area Internal Drainage Boards

Topic	Response received by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Yorkshire Council - Environment Agency - Hirst Courtney Parish Council
Transport & Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Highways - Trans-Pennine Trail (Sustrans) - The British Horse Society - North Yorkshire Council - Long Drax Parish Council - Hirst Courtney Parish Council
Noise and Vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Yorkshire Council - Hirst Courtney Parish Council
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Yorkshire Council
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trans-Pennine Trail (Sustrans) - The British Horse Society - North Yorkshire Council - Hirst Courtney Parish Council
Soils & Agricultural Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yorkshire Water - Selby Area Internal Drainage Boards - North Yorkshire Council - Natural England - Hirst Courtney Parish Council
Cumulative Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and Safety Executive - North Yorkshire Council - Hirst Courtney Parish Council
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and Safety Executive - North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue - UK Health Security Agency - National Grid Transmission (NGT) - The British Horse Society

Topic	Response received by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Yorkshire Council - Environment Agency - Hirst Courtney Parish Council
Specific comments relating to consultee’s assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Grid Transmission (NGT) - National Grid Electric (NGET) - Yorkshire Water - Selby Area Internal Drainage Boards - Burn Gliding Club - Trans-Pennine Trail (Sustrans) - Openreach
Confirmation of ‘no comment’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canal and Rivers Trust - Network Rail - NATS - Durham County Council - Transmission Investment - National Plant Enquiries - Lancashire County Council - Fulcrum Pipelines - The Coal Authority - Northern Powergrid - Redcare and Cleveland Borough Council - Yorkshire Dales - North York Moor National Park Authority - Carlton Parish Council

13.3.5. Throughout the statutory consultation period the Applicant proactively engaged with all parish councils to ensure that they had access to the relevant information and to answer any queries. Key stakeholders and representatives, including parish councils, were encouraged to attend the consultation events, where members of the project team were available to provide an overview of the proposals and address key concerns.

13.3.6. All parish councils were encouraged to provide a formal response to the statutory

consultation and responses were received from Hirst Courtney Parish Council and Long Drax Parish Council. Carlton Parish Council confirmed that they were submitting a response of 'no comment'.

13.3.7. Further details on the engagement with Parish Councils can be found in Chapter 14.

13.4. Statement of compliance

13.4.1. As required under Section 42 of the 2008 Act, consultation was undertaken with prescribed consultees under the APFP Regulations, Section 43 local authorities and all identified Section 44 consultees. The Applicant also sought to obtain views of other organisations that were identified because of their knowledge of the local area or a specific environmental topic. This is set out below:

- All consultees were supplied with the consultation documents, namely the PEIR and supporting Non-Technical Summary documents, a Consultation Summary Document and all relevant plans and a copy of the feedback form. A cover letter stated that the consultation process would run from the 26 October to 7 December 2023.
- The Applicant has had regard to all relevant responses to the consultation (Section 49).
- The Applicant provided PINS with a copy of the same documentation that was sent to Section 42 consultees prior to the commencement of the statutory consultation (Section 46).
- The Applicant also had regard to the DCLG guidance on the pre-application process (Section 50).
- A full statement of compliance can be found in Chapter 18.

14. Summary of responses under Section 47 and Section 48 of the 2008 Act

14.1. Introduction

14.1.1. This chapter of the consultation report sets out how the Applicant has complied with its duty under Section 49 of the 2008 Act to take account of consultation responses received under Sections 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act. Information pertaining to the consultation responses received under Section 42 of the 2008 Act is presented in Chapter 13 of the Report.

14.1.2. This chapter seeks to provide the information relevant to Section 47 and Section 48 consultation responses as required in the consultation report under Sections 37(7)(b) and 37(7)(c) of the 2008 Act and the relevant parts of the DCLG guidance on pre-application consultation.

14.1.3. As no responses were received stating specifically that they were as a result of the Section 48 publicity, the Applicant has not identified any Section 48 responses. However, comments received from respondents may have submitted their feedback having seen the Section 48 publicity, but just not identified this within their feedback. Therefore, all comments received, and the regard had by the Applicant which is summarised within this chapter, are considered to have been received under Section 47 or Section 48.

14.2. Legislative context

14.2.1. Section 49(2) of the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to have regard to relevant responses to the consultation and publicity that has been undertaken under Sections 42, 47 and 48. A relevant response for the purposes of Section 47 and 48 is defined in Section 49(3)(a) as a response from a person consulted under Section 47 or Section 48 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed.

14.3. Summary of responses received

14.3.1. The following table contains a summary of the key themes and issues that arose within the feedback received during the statutory consultation period. The Applicant's response to these issues and explanation of the regard had for these is also included.

14.3.2. A detailed Feedback Summary Report (included in Appendix 14.1) contains an

overview of the number of responses received, method of response, and frequency of noted issues.

14.3.3. A full list of all issues raised through the feedback provided, and a description of the Applicant's response to each issue, is included in Table 14.1.

Table 14.1 Summary of responses to Section 47 and Section 48 and regard had by the Applicant

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
	Site location / General	
1.1.	General comments in support of the Proposed Development.	Noted.
1.2.	General comment in opposition to the Proposed Development.	Noted.
1.3.	Scale of the project – Concern that the Proposed Development is too large.	<p>1.3.1. The Applicant has set out why the Proposed Development is considered to be appropriate in scale and positioning within the context of the surrounding area in Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Design Evolution of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.4).</p> <p>1.3.2. The Site is situated within an area which already contains various industrial features, with the existing Drax Power Station to the east of the Site, and several lines of overhead cables running through the landscape.</p> <p>1.3.3. Prior to the statutory consultation period, the Proposed Development was reduced in scale from 757 hectares (ha) to 476ha. This was in response to feedback received from stakeholders throughout the pre-application period and well as to mitigate impacts on nearby receptors.</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>1.3.4. The topography of the Site, alongside existing vegetation, proposed visual mitigation, screening and panel design, means that the full extent of the solar farm will not be visible from any one location. Extensive work has been undertaken through the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to reduce impacts on local receptors and key viewpoints.</p> <p>1.3.5. Specific feedback has been taken on board from local residents around the site to adjust and amend the site design in response to feedback and views from local properties.</p> <p>1.3.6. National Policy Statements (NPS) EN-1 (overarching NPS for energy) and EN-3 (NPS for renewable energy infrastructure) state there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure, such as the Proposed Development. On this basis, the use of appropriate sites for ground mounted solar will be necessary for the UK to meet its carbon reduction targets. This is set out in detail in the Planning Statement (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/7.1).</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
1.4.	Concern that there would be reduction in house prices as a result of development and visual impact.	1.4.1. To date there is no evidence to suggest that solar farms negatively affect property prices. With appropriate screening, the visual impact of a solar farm is negligible. The panels themselves do not generate noise, and it is commonly accepted that this form of energy generation is one of the cleanest, cheapest and least intensive forms of renewable energy generation currently available.
1.5.	Concern at negative impact on the value of local businesses.	1.5.1. To date there is no evidence to suggest that solar farms negatively affect nearby business. Refer to Applicant response 1.4.1.
1.6.	The Proposed Development should be located elsewhere (general comment).	1.6.1. The Applicant has undertaken extensive survey and assessments to identify the selected site for the deployment of NSIP scale solar farm within the proximity of a viable and available grid connection at Drax Power Station. The site selection process undertaken has been set out in Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Design Evolution of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.4) and Section 5 – Site Selection of the Planning Statemen (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/7.1).

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		Refer to Applicant response 1.3.6.
1.7.	A preference for wind turbines, rather than solar panels.	1.7.1. The applicant notes this preference, however this is beyond the scope of this Proposed Development, which is for a solar photovoltaic array electricity generating facility.
1.8.	Preference to place solar panels/locate on brownfield land (such as Eggborough Power Station).	1.8.1. The Applicant notes a preference from some respondents to the consultation for deployment on brownfield sites or industrial/residential rooftops. Refer to Applicant response 1.6.1. and 1.3.6.
1.9.	Preference to place solar panels on houses in the area as an alternative to the current site.	1.9.1. The Applicant notes a preference from some respondents to the consultation for deployment on brownfield sites or industrial/residential rooftops. Refer to Applicant response 1.6.1. and 1.3.6.
1.10.	Suggestion to install solar panels on floodplains instead of agricultural land.	1.10.1. Deployment of solar panels on floodplain at this scale is not a viable option. Refer to Applicant response 1.3.6.
1.11.	Would like further information about Helios Renewable Energy Project and which	1.11.1. The Applicant is Enso Green Holdings D Limited, which is a company registered in the United Kingdom.

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
	company is leading the development. Is it a British company?	1.11.12. Enso Green Holdings D Limited is a joint-venture partnership between Enso Energy and Cero Generation. Enso Energy is one of the UK's most experienced renewable energy developers, with an unparalleled focus on solar energy. Cero Generation is a leading solar energy company, working across Europe to support the transition to a net-zero future.
1.12.	Concern at the impact of cumulative development. There are too many developments (both solar farms and other developments) taking place in the area already	1.12.1. The Applicant is aware of the broader potential impacts of other development in the vicinity of the site. Close consideration of the potential cumulative impacts of the proposals are addressed in ES Chapter 15 – Cumulative Effects (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.15).
1.13.	The British climate/weather conditions means that the solar farm will not generate energy most of the time.	<p>1.13.1. The Applicant is confident that the irradiation levels in this location are sufficient as to allow for an effective and productive solar farm.</p> <p>1.13.2. Solar panel technology is advancing rapidly, and whilst there are some other technologies with a higher efficiency rating, there are few technologies available today that are as cheap to deploy and swift to bring online.</p> <p>1.13.3. Solar panel efficiency is increasing year on year as technology is refined and advancements in technology (such as</p>

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		<p>the use of bi-facial panels which absorb light from the back and front, including light refracted from the ground) maximising efficiency, and national policy recognises that solar farms will be one of the UK's most important opportunities to meet its carbon reduction targets.</p>
1.14.	<p>Food security should be prioritised over energy security in the UK, given the current global events. (See also Soils and Agricultural Land)</p>	<p>1.14.1. The latest Food Security Report (October 2023) states that the greatest threat to food security is climate change.</p> <p>1.14.2. This Application represents a viable and valuable opportunity to deliver against the UK's renewable energy targets to assist in the fight against climate change, with national policy identifying nationally significant low carbon renewable energy as a critical national priority.</p> <p>1.14.3. One of the benefits of solar development is the protection and improvement of soil quality as it will no longer be subjected to intensive farming or use of pesticides and herbicides. At the end of its operational life the solar panels will be removed and the land returned to arable use. During operations the site can still be used for grazing livestock (such as sheep), and there are often significant improvements to local biodiversity through enhancement and active management of site boundaries.</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>1.14.3. The solar panels will be fixed to the ground on fully removeable piled frames which will be removed in the decommissioning phase. There are areas within the site where fixed equipment is proposed, such as access tracks, the on-site substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which for the purposes of assessment are considered permanent development. These make up less than 3% of the site.</p> <p>1.14.4. The ALC grading and quantum of these areas has been considered and the significance of the loss assessed against the methodology in IEMA’s “A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environmental Impact Assessment” (2022). A Soil Resource Plan, as necessary tied in with a Soil Management Plan, can be used to avoid or reduce the impacts on agricultural land.</p> <p>1.14.5. Consideration of the Site’s land use and an assessment of the Agricultural Land Classification can be found in ES Chapter 14 – Soils and Agricultural Land (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.14) with associated Appendices.</p>
1.15.	There are better alternatives in terms of location and more efficient energy production	1.15.1. The Applicant notes a preference from some respondents to the consultation for deployment on alternative sites.

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		Refer to Applicant response 1.6.1. and 1.3.6.
1.16.	Solar farms are not environmentally friendly	<p>1.16.1. Solar Farms are one of the least intrusive forms of energy generation available currently. They are swift to deploy, with minimal long-term impact to the local environment due to being temporary. The construction, operation and decommissioning of solar farms is less intrusive than most other forms of renewable or non-renewable energy generation.</p> <p>1.16.2. Alongside the solar farm, the Proposed Development will reestablish a strong pattern of hedgerows and tree belts, as well as extensive areas of native wildflower grassland planting and wetland habitats. As such the Proposed Development will result significant habitat enhancement provisions, delivering a quantifiable BNG.</p>
1.17.	Solar farms are supposed to be time limited and reversible back to land use. If the return to farmland is not considered until after a 40-year period, this would have an irreversible and negative impact on the land and local communities	1.17.1. It is a legal requirement for the Applicant to return the site to its current state following the 40-year life of the Proposed Development. This has been set out in ES Chapter 5 – Construction & Decommissioning Methodology & Programme (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.5).

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		<p>1.17.2. While the Proposed Development is operational, there will be potential for benefits to soil health and quality, as a result of the cessation of intensive farming and inorganic fertiliser use. In essence, the Proposed Development provides an opportunity for the soils to naturally regenerate.</p>
	<p>Site design</p>	
<p>2.1.</p>	<p>Support for reduction in overall scale of the Proposed Development following the informal consultation phase.</p>	<p>2.1.1. The design of the site has been carefully considered throughout the pre-application process and refinements have been made to reduce impacts on the surrounding areas wherever possible. This includes making use of topographical land features and existing planting/vegetation for screening purposes, avoiding areas close to sensitive receptors (such as local houses), having regard for existing site constraints (such as ecological designations, hydrological features or other constraining factors), and ensuring that the infrastructure is positioned optimally for deployment and connection to the grid.</p> <p>2.1.2. The Applicant notes this point. The reduction in scale following the informal consultation was driven by feedback received from the local community and technical stakeholders to help shape the proposals as set out in the PEIR.</p>

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2.2.	The site is situated too close to the local roads (general comment). (See also Landscape and Visual)	<p>2.2.1 While the solar panels do lie in proximity to the A1041 in some locations, this is for limited stretches, broken up by existing or enhanced vegetative planting and direct screening between the panels and the road itself.</p> <p>The landscape strategy is set out in ES Chapter 7 – Landscape and Views (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.7).</p>
2.3.	Support for the relocation of the BESS away from local houses.	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Refer to Applicant response 2.1.1.</p>
2.4.	The site uses the land available inefficiently. The site is too spread out/disperate (general comment).	2.4.1. The site design process is discussed further in ES Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Design Evolution, with specifics of how environmental constraints have influenced the site design discussed in relevant discipline specific Chapters.
2.5.	Support for the provision of buffer areas/offsets from properties (panels placed further from sensitive receptors).	2.5.1. Noted. This factor was an important consideration for the Applicant as the final site design was refined.
2.6.	BESS is located too close to the Black Dog Inn, Camblesforth.	2.6.1. Siting the BESS has been an important consideration for the Applicant to minimise impact to sensitive local receptors. For this reason the BESS has been co-located with the onsite 132kV substation towards the centre of the site, away from sensitive local

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>receptors which includes the Black Dog Inn.</p> <p>Refer to Applicant response 2.1.1.</p>
	<p>Pedestrian access and rights of way</p>	
<p>3.1.</p>	<p>Support for the retention and enhancement of existing public rights of way through the site. (General comment).</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>3.1.1. The Applicant has sought to deliver improvements to the pedestrian access between the local villages of Carlton and Camblesforth through the delivery of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>3.1.2. The existing rights of way will remain unchanged, and where required enhanced by additional planting and biodiversity improvements.</p> <p>3.1.3. A new permissive path through the site will also improve connectivity between Carlton and Camblesforth. This is shown on the Landscape Strategy Plan (ES Appendix Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.2.7.8- 6.2.7.10).</p>
<p>3.2.</p>	<p>The Applicant should ensure adequate signage to inform about access, the landscape strategy and footpaths.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>3.2.1. The Applicant will ensure appropriate signage and information is made available to inform local users about the access arrangements, especially during construction where some diversions may be required.</p>

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		<p>3.2.2. A summary of PRow management is provided in the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP), included in the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.3.5.2).</p> <p>3.2.3. A detailed PRow Management Plan to be provided during detailed design (post-submission of the DCO application).</p> <p>3.2.4. Once operational, the Applicant has confirmed the inclusion of a series of interpretation boards to be sited in key locations to provide information about the Proposed Development and the surrounding area.</p>
3.3.	General support for the provision of paths between Camblesforth and Drax 'away from the roads'.	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Refer to Applicant response 3.1.1, 3.1.2. and 3.1.3.</p>
3.4.	Request for disabled access across the site.	<p>3.4.1. The Applicant is unable to guarantee disabled access across the site due to various constraints and existing nature of the access through the site.</p> <p>All PRow routes have been incorporated into the scheme which will allow continued access for members of the public</p> <p>Refer to Applicant response 3.1.2. and 3.1.3.</p>

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3.6.	Concern relating to the potential loss of off-road cycle tracks.	Refer to Applicant response 3.1.2.
	Traffic and Access	
4.1.	Concern at the impact of additional traffic on local roads, which are already very busy with a range of vehicles. (General comment)	4.1.1. The traffic assessments show that there is likely to be very little impact on the local road network. However, a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be prepared to outline specific points, such as delivery times, restrictions, and routes to ensure that construction traffic does not have a significant impact to the local road network. An Outline CTMP is available to review within the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.3.5.2)
4.2.	Request not to utilise Selby/Station Road during construction.	4.2.1. Construction traffic will be exiting the M62 at junction 36 and then travelling to the site via the A614 and the A1041. Access to the site is directly from the A1041. These routes have been assessed and are considered appropriate for the construction of the Proposed Development without causing a significant impact on the local road network. This has been confirmed in the CTMP (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.3.5.2) and following consultation with the highways authority and National Highways.

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4.3.	If the access is going to be off the A1041, it would be beneficial to lower the speed limit through Camblesforth, where traffic builds up speed.	4.3.1. The Applicant notes the request to reduce the speed limit on the A1041. This is a decision for the highways authority, however the Applicant has set out how it intends to manage access and egress from the access points to the site onto/from the A1041 in a safe manner within the outline CTMP (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.3.5.2).
4.4.	Preference to move access point further down Selby Road (or enter via Burn Road) to avoid potential for accidents on the A1041. There have been several accidents in recent years between the Black Dog Inn and the White House.	4.4.1. The Applicant notes the request to adjust the access points to/from the A1041. Road safety during construction and operation of the Proposed Development is a high priority for the Applicant. 4.4.2. The Applicant has set out how it intends to manage traffic management, including access and egress to and from the site onto/from the A1041 in a safe manner within the outline CTMP (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.3.5.2). This will be agreed through consultation with the Local Highways Authority.
4.5.	The existing roads and pavements are currently too narrow for construction vehicles. Two large HGVs cannot pass at certain points along the road.	4.5.1. All roads have been subject to extensive surveys and on-site assessment to ensure that they are suitable to accommodate the proposed vehicles. 4.5.2 The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.3.5.2) sets out how construction

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		vehicles will access the site. Refer to Applicant response 4.1.1.
4.6.	Concern at the potential that the Proposed Development will cause additional traffic jams during the construction period. (See also, 'Construction').	4.6.1. The traffic assessments show that there is likely to be very little impact on the local road network. The construction of a solar farm is not an intensive process in comparison to other large scale developments. As noted in Chapter 10 – Transport and Access of the ES, only 36 vehicle movements a day (to and from the Site) are anticipated during construction. The process will be managed carefully to ensure minimal disruption to the surrounding road network. 4.6.2 The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.3.5.2) sets out how construction vehicles will access the site – including management of delivery times to avoid peak hours, and how deliveries will be phased.
4.7.	Concern at levels of dust (air quality) and road/soil debris created from construction traffic on local roads. (See also, Construction).	4.7.1 A construction dust risk assessment (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.3.2.3) has been prepared for the Proposed Development. It concludes that the construction of the Proposed Development has the potential to create dust during earthworks, and that during construction it will be necessary to apply a

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		<p>package of mitigation measures to minimise dust emissions. These are detailed in the outline Construction Environment Management Plan (oCEMP) (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.3.5.1), which has been developed to consider and address specific issues relating to environmental issues arising during the construction period. Dust and road debris will be mitigated through careful management of vehicle egress from the site and include where required, wheel wash/dust suppression activities to mitigate any potential impacts on the local road network.</p>
4.8.	Request for traffic management (such as traffic lights) on the A41041 to help manage construction traffic and vehicle movements along this road.	Refer to Applicant response 4.4.2.
4.9.	Concern that traffic management will not be possible/enacted.	<p>4.9.1. The Applicant, as part of legal requirements set out in the DCO, will enforce all agreed traffic management procedures throughout the construction and operation of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>4.9.2. The Applicant will require all of its subcontractors to abide by and align with the agreed construction traffic management</p>

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		<p>process. This will be a requirement of the procurement process and failure to comply with agreed management activities will result in suspension or termination of the contract.</p>
4.10.	<p>Concern that roads through Hirst Courtney are not suitable to accommodate HGV's during construction</p>	<p>4.10.1. There are no proposed HGV routes through Hirst Courtney during construction of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>4.10.2. The traffic assessments show that there is likely to be very little impact on the wider local road network. The construction of a solar farm is not an intensive process in comparison to other large-scale developments. The process will be managed carefully to ensure minimal disruption to the surrounding road network.</p> <p>Refer to Applicant response 4.4.1. and 4.4.2.</p>
4.11.	<p>Concern that an increase in heavy traffic will lead to an increase in noise pollution</p>	<p>Refer to Applicant response 4.1.1 and 4.6.1.</p>
4.12.	<p>Concern that an increase in heavy traffic will lead to vibration damage to property.</p>	<p>Refer to Applicant response 4.1.1 and 4.6.1.</p>
4.13.	<p>Concern that an increase in heavy traffic will put pedestrians and animals at risk.</p>	<p>Refer to Applicant response 4.1.1, 4.6.1. and 4.7.1.</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
	Landscape and visual	
5.1.	Concern that there will be a negative visual impact for residents living in properties nearest to the site (general comment).	<p>5.1.1. The Applicant has set out why the Proposed Development is considered to be appropriate in scale and positioning within the context of the surrounding area in Chapter 7 – Landscape and Views (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.7) of the ES and its accompanying appendices, which assess the landscape and visual impacts of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Refer to Applicant response: 1.3.4 and 1.3.5.</p>
5.2.	Concern that the solar panels are proposed adjacent to the local roads, and that there should be more of an offset to reduce visual impact.	Refer to Applicant response 1.3.4, 1.3.5 and 2.2.1.
5.3.	Additional planting is required to screen the site but should be in keeping with the current landscape (similar to existing trees/shrubs/vegetation).	<p>5.3.1. The Applicant has incorporated a significant level of additional planting proposal throughout the site. This includes over 12ha of new woodland planting and over 11km of new hedgerows. The local area can expect a significant increase in green vegetation, from a palette of locally characteristic native species, which will help to preserve the local area’s rural nature.</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>5.3.2. Planting of parkland and hedgerow trees to enhance area of public access, as well as several areas of 15m wide native tree belts to create a green corridor and screen the site from Camblesforth have also been incorporated.</p> <p>5.3.3. A Hedgerow Improvement Strategy will also reinforce over 8km of existing hedgerows and 13km of new hedgerows (totalling approximately 60,000 hedgerow plants across the site.</p> <p>Refer to Applicant response: 1.3.4 and 1.3.5.</p>
5.4.	Preference to use landscaping, as well as planting to screen the Proposed Development from local residences.	<p>5.4.1. An earth bund is proposed to both screen and protect the BESS and on-site substation. This is set out in detail in the Landscape Strategy Plan (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.2.7.8-6.2.7.10)</p> <p>Refer to Applicant response 5.3.1, 5.3.2 and 5.3.3.</p> <p>Refer to Applicant response 1.3.4 and 1.3.5.</p>
5.5.	Concern at the visual impact of paths surrounded by high fences as this is not felt to be a pleasant walking or horse-riding	5.5.1 Due to security requirements, the Proposed Development requires security fencing. In locations where the Proposed Development fronts a Public Right of Way or road, stock deer

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	<p>environment. Preference to leave paths as they are (open/with views/without fencing).</p>	<p>proof fencing will be used. While up to 2 metres in height (posts being 2.1 metres) this type of fencing is visually permeable, so as to maintain a sense of openness. In some locations, this fencing will be accompanied by improved or new hedgerows.</p> <p>5.5.2. The Applicant has incorporated a significant level of additional planting proposal throughout the site. This includes planting specifically to enhance and protect the amenity of those using the rights of way and new proposed permissive path through the site. For example, the planting of parkland and hedgerow trees (including rare native species, such as black poplar) to enhance area of public access.</p> <p>Refer to Applicant response 1.3.4 and 1.3.5.</p>
<p>5.6.</p>	<p>Concern at impact of tall hedges along roads causing overshadowing (such as along the stretch of road (A1041 to Selby) (see also Cable Route).</p>	<p>5.6.1. Hedgerows will be grown and managed to a height of approximately 3m to screen the panels throughout the site. All hedgerows and planting mitigation around the site will be assessed and maintained on a regular basis to ensure appropriate levels of growth and that it remains effective as a screening mitigation.</p> <p>This is set out in detail in the Landscape Strategy Plan (Doc Ref:</p>

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		EN010140/APP/6.2.7.8- 6.2.7.10) and outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) (Doc Ref. EN010140/APP/6.3.7.7).
5.7.	Suggestion that a 4m growth in screening would be preferable.	Refer to Applicant response 5.6.1.
5.8.	Request hedges be grown to the same height as panels to help with screening.	Refer to Applicant response 5.6.1.
5.9.	<p>Preference for the screening trees and hedgerows to be well established to preserve the natural landscape of the area.</p> <p>Requirement for immediate screening, or screening from quick growing planting.</p> <p>Concern at the length of time taken for screening planting to establish.</p>	<p>5.9.1. The Applicant notes a desire for screening trees and hedgerows to be well established prior to the development of the solar farm, however it isn't possible to have established screening fully in place prior to the construction of the solar panels.</p> <p>5.9.2. Where possible, the Applicant will seek to undertake planting as soon as possible to allow screening to mature as quickly as possible. Making use of existing screening where available has also been identified, and enhancements will be made where required (for example through the Hedgerow Improvement Strategy).</p> <p>5.9.3. Landscape and visual mitigation (including approach to planting for screening) is set out in ES Chapter 7 (Doc Ref:</p>

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		EN010140/APP/6.1.7). Visualisations showing the extent of proposed screening from various viewpoints around the site at 'Year one' and 'Year 15' has been included within Figure 7.7 – Viewpoint Plan (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.2.7.7) of the ES as part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).
5.10.	Requirement for screening planting to reduce/prevent visibility of the solar panels from second floor windows of nearby properties.	Refer to Applicant response 5.6.1.
5.11.	Support for the approach taken to landscaping and screening the Proposed Development (as set out in the Landscape Strategy).	Noted.
5.12.	General comment stating that the proposed landscape and screening approach is not required as the area is not a 'scenic area'.	5.12.1. Noted. The Applicant has sought to retain or improve the visual amenity across the site wherever possible through the proposed visual mitigation, which includes extensive tree planting, hedgerow improvements, development of new grasslands and biodiversity improvements. This is set out in detail in the Landscape Strategy Plan (Doc Ref:

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		EN010140/APP/6.2.7.8- 6.2.7.10).
5.13.	Requirement for all nature highways from wooded areas remain intact and protected by the landscape strategy and planting approach. (see also Environment, ecology and biodiversity).	<p>5.13.1. The Proposed Development has been designed to protect and enhance biodiversity across the site. This includes protection of existing wildlife corridors and established woodland.</p> <p>5.13.2. It is also anticipated that significant biodiversity net gain can be achieved across the site through extensive additional planting and ecological enhancement proposed. This includes planting of wet meadow grasslands, tussocky native grasslands, hedgerow improvements and planting, woodland creation and wetland habitat creation.</p> <p>5.13.3. A full detailed explanation of the ecological mitigation and enhancement can be found in ES Chapter 8 - Biodiversity (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.8).</p>
5.14.	Concern at visual impact of security stock proof fencing around the site.	5.14.1. The site requires security fencing around the solar panels, which will be wooden post and wire, stock proof fencing. Stock proof fencing is a non-intrusive, visually permeable, fencing style that blends with the surrounding area, allows the passage of small animals through the gaps in the wire and is common to see in an agricultural or forestry management setting.

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5.15.	Request to use smaller (1m) panels instead of those proposed (up to 3m).	5.15.1. The nature of current technology means that panels of this size are not available for deployment at this scale.
5.16.	Detrimental change to the character of open fields and farmland.	Refer to Applicant response 1.3.4 and 1.3.5.
Environment, ecology and biodiversity		
6.1.	Concern at disruption to livestock, particularly grazing sheep and cows (general comment).	<p>6.1.1. The Proposed Development will mean that larger animals, such as cows, will not be able to graze the land occupied by the solar panels. Of the five farms making up the Site, only Stocks Hill Farm keeps livestock (cows). This livestock is split between Stocks Hill Farm and another farm nearby (within the same ownership), meaning livestock farming operations will not be affected by the Proposed Development.</p> <p>6.1.2. The Proposed Development creates opportunities for sheep grazing to be undertaken alongside the solar farm, as this is considered to be an appropriate and viable option for helping to manage the vegetation growth in and around panels. This means that continued agricultural use can be maintained on the Site, at the same time as hosting the solar farm.</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
6.2.	Suggestion for additional planting around the site to enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna.	<p>6.2.1 The Proposed Development has been designed to protect and enhance biodiversity across the site. This includes protection of existing wildlife corridors and established woodland.</p> <p>6.2.2. It is also anticipated that significant biodiversity net gain can be achieved across the site through extensive additional planting and ecological enhancement proposed. This includes planting of wet meadow grasslands, tussocky native grasslands, hedgerow improvements and planting, woodland creation and wetland habitat creation.</p> <p>6.2.3 A full detailed explanation of the ecological mitigation and enhancement can be found in ES Chapter 8 - Biodiversity (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.8).</p> <p>Refer to Applicant response 5.3.1 and 5.3.2.</p>
6.3.	Concern at a general negative impact on wildlife and biodiversity through the loss of habitats across the site.	<p>6.3.1 The Proposed Development will represent an improvement across the site in this respect. Significant habitat enhancement provision will deliver a quantifiable BNG and will be achieved through the inclusion of various ecological and habitat improvements that will be a direct benefit to local wildlife and biodiversity when compared to the site's existing heavy agricultural use.</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		Refer to Applicant response 6.2.3.
6.4.	Solar farms have a detrimental impact in the local environment due to the amount of land they take up, and the pollution caused by the panels themselves.	<p>6.4.1. The panels themselves will produce no pollution – solar energy generation is one of the cleanest, least carbon intensive forms of energy generation available.</p> <p>Refer to Applicant response 1.17.2. Refer to Applicant response 6.3.1. and 6.3.2.</p>
6.5.	Requirement to protect nature highways to and from wooded areas across the site. (see also Landscape and Visual).	Refer to Applicant response 6.2.1. and 6.2.2.
6.6.	Concern at impact of fencing across the site in restricting the free movement of deer/larger mammals.	6.6.1 The fencing is required across the site for the security of the solar farm, and to manage livestock movements. Deer are not a protect species and therefore consideration of their free movement through the solar farm site is not required. However, due to the nature of the solar farm design, there are many instances of green routes and buffer zones around the panels which afford larger wildlife the opportunity to navigate the area and access woodland or existing planting.
6.7.	General comment in support of approach to	Noted.

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
	improving and enhancing local biodiversity	
6.8.	General comment in opposition to approach to improving and enhancing local biodiversity	6.8.1. Noted. The Applicant has considered specific feedback on its approach to biodiversity and ecological management across the site from technical consultees and the final proposals – as set out in the ES – are deemed to be appropriate, proportionate, and effective in addressing identified potential biodiversity impacts and delivering a biodiversity net gain across the site.
6.9.	'Nature will adapt itself to the new proposals' without 'interference' from the Applicant.	Noted.
6.10.	Bats could be affected by noise and habitat loss.	6.10.1. Assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on bats has been assessed through the EIA process and the findings are set out in Chapter 8 – Biodiversity of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.8). Through embedded design mitigation and, where required, additional mitigation identified in the ES, there will no significant adverse impact on bats.
6.11.	Concern at impact on the local buzzard population through loss of habitat.	6.11.1. Assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on buzzards has been assessed through the EIA process and the findings are set out in Chapter 8 – Biodiversity of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.8).

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>Through embedded design mitigation and, where required, additional mitigation identified in the ES, there will no significant adverse impact on buzzards.</p>
6.12.	<p>Concern at impact on protected species, such as red kites or badgers.</p>	<p>6.12.1 Assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on protected species, such as red kite, badgers, has been assessed through the EIA process and the findings are set out in Chapter 8 – Biodiversity of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.8).</p> <p>Through embedded design mitigation and, where required, additional mitigation identified in the ES, there will no significant adverse impact on protected species.</p>
6.13.	<p>Concern at impact on other non-protected species including foxes or deer.</p>	<p>6.13.1 Assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on hedgehogs has been assessed through the EIA process and the findings are set out in Chapter 8 – Biodiversity of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.8).</p> <p>Through embedded design mitigation and, where required, additional mitigation identified in the ES, there will no significant adverse impact on non-protected species.</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
6.14.	Game birds, including partridges and pheasants, could leave the area as a result of the Proposed Development.	<p>6.14.1 Assessment of the Proposed Development’s impact on game birds has been assessed through the EIA process and the findings are set out in Chapter 8 – Biodiversity of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.8). The inclusion of additional grassland and woodland habitats throughout the site would represent a benefit to local game bird population, as would the general improvements to biodiversity across the site.</p> <p>Through embedded design mitigation and, where required, additional mitigation identified in the ES, there will no significant adverse impact on game birds.</p>
6.15.	Heron could migrate away from the area as a result of the Proposed Development.	<p>6.20.1 Assessment of the Proposed Development’s impact on heron has been assessed through the EIA process and the findings are set out in Chapter 8 – Biodiversity of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.8). The inclusion of wetland habitats throughout the site would represent a benefit to local heron population, as would the general improvements to biodiversity across the site.</p> <p>Through embedded design mitigation and, where required, additional mitigation identified in the ES, there will no significant</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		adverse impact on heron.
6.16.	Concern that sheep grazing could be killed by toxic fumes emitted from the BESS.	6.21.1. There is no evidence of risk of any poisonous gases as a result of the BESS operation or malfunction.
6.17.	Support for the 10m buffer between the boundary and fence line, which will be used for biodiversity enhancements and wildlife improvements.	Noted.
6.18.	Request for small animal pathways across the site, for free movement of hedgehogs/moles, etc.	<p>6.18.1. The Proposed Development has been designed to protect and enhance biodiversity across the site. This includes protection of existing wildlife corridors and established woodland.</p> <p>6.18.2. Fencing erected throughout the site would be wooden pole and wire stock proof fencing, designed to allow the free movement of small mammals, such as hedgehog or moles.</p> <p>6.18.3. It is also anticipated that significant biodiversity net gain can be achieved across the site through extensive additional planting and ecological enhancement proposed. This includes planting of wet meadow grasslands, tussocky native grasslands, hedgerow improvements and planting, woodland creation and wetland habitat creation.</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		6.18.4. A full detailed explanation of the ecological mitigation and enhancement can be found in Chapter 8 – Biodiversity of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.8).
6.19.	Request for introduction of owl boxes on surrounding trees.	<p>6.19.1. The following bird boxes are proposed as part of the Proposed Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least two barn owl nest boxes will be installed on suitable mature trees away from main roads surrounding the Site; • At least two tawny owl nest boxes positioned in woodland belts/mature hedgerow trees located within the Site; • At least two kestrel boxes positioned within mature hedgerow trees within the Site, in close proximity to areas of grassland to be created; and • At least 60 small open-fronted and hole-fronted bird nest boxes of various design, positioned within existing hedgerow habitats within the Site.
6.20.	Request not to overstock sheep on the site, which would have a negative impact on local	6.20.1. The Applicant notes this point and whilst the detail of sheep grazing density and rotation is not yet confirmed, appropriate stocking and consideration of habitat/ecological

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
	biodiversity.	management will be undertaken.
6.21.	The proposed hedgerow improvements and re-planting will result in a benefit to local wildlife.	6.21.1. Noted and agreed. The Proposed Development has been designed to protect and enhance biodiversity across the site.
	Noise and vibration	
7.1.	Concern at noise effects from the BESS and inverters on nearby properties. Continuous humming/buzzing noise will have a negative effect on local houses.	<p>7.1.1. Noise has been considered carefully through the EIA process and the site designed to minimise impacts for example by locating the substation and energy storage system in centre of the Site, behind an earth bund and away from sensitive receptors (residential properties).</p> <p>7.1.2. During construction, there are some potential noise impacts, however, as set out in Chapter 11 – Noise and Vibration of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.11), these effects are temporary, and not expected to exceed acceptable limits. Hours of operation during construction will be agreed with the local authority as part of the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).</p> <p>7.1.3. Under some, worst-case conditions, operational plant noise</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		may be audible at the nearest receptors however these effects are predicted to be negligible.
7.2.	Concern that there will be noise pollution twenty-four hours a day during operation.	Refer to Applicant response: 7.1.1, 7.1.2. and 7.1.3.
7.3.	Concern at noise and vibration particularly from construction traffic will affect nearby homes. (see also Construction)	Refer to Applicant response: 7.1.1, 7.1.2. and 7.1.3.
7.3.	Concern that noise could affect horses as they have sensitive hearing.	7.3.1. Noise has been considered carefully through the EIA process including impacts on wildlife within Chapter 8 – Biodiversity of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.8).
7.4.	Concern at noise levels during construction activities on the site. The World Health Organisation has expressed that noise from large solar farms can have a negative impact on children, the elderly, and those with learning difficulties.	<p>7.4.1. Noise has been considered carefully through the EIA process including impacts on local receptors (such as residential properties) within Chapter 11 – Noise and Vibration of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.11).</p> <p>7.4.2. Infrastructure that has potential to create noise impacts (such as the BESS and on-site substation) have been placed towards the centre of the site, away from residential properties, and with other identified mitigation proposed (such as</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>construction of an earth bund, landscaping and noise proof cladding).</p> <p>7.4.3. Under some, worst-case conditions, operational plant noise may be audible at the nearest receptors however these effects are predicted to be negligible.</p>
7.5.	The wind direction can have an effect on noise levels – bringing noise over longer distances.	Refer to Applicant response: 7.1.1, 7.1.2. and 7.1.3.
7.6.	Noise levels should be monitoring/measured during periods of fog/mist.	Refer to Applicant response: 7.4.1.
7.7.	Surrounding background noise levels (from the motorway and power station) will drown out any new noises from the Proposed Development.	<p>7.7.1. Noted. The existing background noise levels at the site including noise from surrounding roads and other nearby infrastructure has been considered within the noise assessment.</p> <p>7.7.2. Increases in road traffic noise levels due to construction traffic are predicted to be negligible to minor.</p>
7.8.	Concern at noise from pile-driving (to install the solar panels during construction).	Refer to Applicant response: 7.1.1, 7.1.2. and 7.1.3.

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
	Soils and Agricultural Land	
8.1.	The site is on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land and therefore should not be developed.	<p>8.1.1. The Applicant has undertaken an assessment of the land within the red line area of the proposed application and a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) study has been carried out.</p> <p>8.1.2. As part of the work undertaken through the EIA process, the Applicant is required to assess the amount of agricultural land being impacted and consider the impacts in the wider context. As part of this assessment, the Applicant is required to consult Natural England.</p> <p>8.1.3. One of the benefits of solar development is the protection and improvement of soil quality as it will no longer be subjected to intensive farming or use of pesticides and herbicides, allowing soil to naturally regenerate. At the end of its operational life the solar panels will be removed and the land will be available for arable agricultural use.</p> <p>8.1.4. The Applicant intends to continue to use the land for grazing as part of the management of the grass within the solar farm, and the construction and decommissioning of the infrastructure will have little impact on the land quality due to the nature of the proposals and construction methods utilised.</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		Further detailed information about land use can be found in ES Chapter 14 – Soils and Agricultural Land (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.14).
8.2.	General opposition to the use of agricultural land for use as a solar farm. Concern at the loss of land for food production.	<p>8.2.1. The latest Food Security Report (October 2023) states that the greatest threat to food security is climate change. National policy EN-1 identifies NSIP scale solar such as the Proposed Development as a critical national priority and therefore on that basis demonstrates that the use of appropriate sites for ground mounted solar will be necessary for the UK to meet its carbon reduction targets. This is set out in detail in the Planning Statement (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/7.1).</p> <p>8.2.2. This Application represents a viable and valuable opportunity to deliver against the UK’s renewable energy targets to assist in the fight against climate change, with national policy identifying nationally significant low carbon renewable energy as a critical national priority.</p> <p>8.2.3. The solar panels will be fixed to the ground on fully removeable piled frames which will be removed in the decommissioning phase. There are areas within the site where fixed equipment is proposed which will, for the purpose of assessment, be considered as permanent development. These</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>make up less than 3% of the site. The ALC grading and quantum of these areas has been considered and the significance of the loss assessed against the methodology in IEMA’s “A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environmental Impact Assessment” (2022). A Soil Resource Plan, as necessary tied in with a Soil Management Plan, can be used to avoid or reduce the impacts on agricultural land.</p> <p>8.2.4. Consideration of the site’s land use and an assessment of the Agricultural Land Classification can be found in Chapter 14 – Soils and Agricultural Land of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.14), with associated Appendices.</p> <p>Refer to Applicant response 8.1.2, 8.1.3 and 8.1.4.</p>
8.3.	<p>Concern that the Proposed Development will result in a deterioration of soil quality across the site. It is also anticipated that allowing the land to rest without intensive cropping or use of fertilisers will not improve soil quality as the Applicant suggests.</p>	<p>Refer to Applicant response 8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.1.3 and 8.1.4.</p>
8.4.	<p>Concern at contamination of land as a result</p>	<p>8.4.1. The escape of any harmful substances or poisonous gases</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
	<p>of accidents related to the BESS.</p>	<p>as a result of the BESS operation or malfunction is highly unlikely.</p> <p>BESS technology is inherently safe, with appropriate safeguards in place to mitigate malfunction or potential Thermal Runway.</p> <p>Thermal Runaway is the term used to describe an internal short-circuit in one of the battery cells that can lead to cell over-pressure and the venting of combustible gases. Should this gas ignite then the cell will increase in over-pressure and the resulting fire will be self-sustaining until all the material in the cell is expended.</p> <p>In the event of a BESS fire, several chemicals in gaseous form can be released and the composition and concentration of the plume (also referred to as the vapour cloud). In the event of a BESS fire, amongst the general gases released, are Carbon Monoxide (CO), Hydrogen Fluoride (HF), Oxygen and Hydrogen. The only BESS fire in the UK (Carnegie Road, Liverpool – Sept 2020) was monitored and the resultant composition of the plume was determined as being negligible in toxic gas concentration.</p> <p>In the event of a fire, fire crews will use the onsite water supply to cool battery units, until all the material in the cell is expended. Firefighting water will be retained onsite, within the lined earth bund, negating seepage into the groundwater network. This water will either be realised to the environment or tankered offsite,</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>depending the outcome of testing, to determine the presence of any harmful substances.</p> <p>8.4.2. BESS safety is discussed further in Appendix 3.1 BESS Safety Management Plan (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.3.3.1), Measures put in place to mitigate the risk of contamination arising from a BESS fire or water used to cool a BESS unit in the highly unlikely event of a fire is discussed in Chapter 9 – Water Environment (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.9). Contamination generally is discussed in Appendix 4.2 – Phase 1 Ground Conditions Assessment.</p>
8.5.	<p>Concern that the panels will cause too much shadow on the ground to allow grass to grow underneath, therefore making it difficult to graze sheep on the site.</p>	<p>8.5.1. The panels will not restrict the growth of grass underneath the panels – to the extent that modern solar panel technology incorporates dual facng photovoltaics to capture sunlight that is not captured by the upward facing panels to catch refracted light off the ground. The ability graze sheep under the panels has been tested and proven on many existing solar farms.</p>
8.6.	<p>Concern that the panels will leak toxic chemicals/metals to the land.</p>	<p>8.6.1. There is little risk of any harmful substances or poisonous gases as a result of the solar panels operation or malfunction. Consideration of the potential impact to and mitigation of the</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>leakage of harmful substances to the ground has been considered through the EIA process.</p> <p>8.6.2. Some potential risks have been identified during construction should there be spillage or pollution as a result of an accident, however these are considered manageable and temporary with good construction practices, and we have carefully considered how to minimise the potential for these impacts. Ongoing monitoring is proposed, and where required, additional mitigation measures will be agreed.</p>
8.7.	Support for the reduction in use of chemicals/fertilisers on the site due to intensive farming being paused for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.	Refer to Applicant response 1.17.2.
8.8.	The piling (to install the solar panels) will negatively disrupt/harm the soil condition across the site.	Refer to Applicant response 1.14.3, 1.14.4, 8.1.2, 8.1.3, 8.1.4. and 8.1.5.
8.9.	Use of concrete across the site will negatively affect soil quality.	Refer to Applicant response 1.14.3, 1.14.4, 8.1.2, 8.1.3, 8.1.4. and 8.1.5.

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
	Health & Safety (including fire risk)	
9.1.	<p>The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is not located in a sensible location. It should be further away from houses to reduce noise impact and for health and safety (concern at potential for fire and poisonous gases blowing from the prevailing westerly wind). (See also 'Noise' and 'Health and Safety')</p>	<p>9.1.1 Siting the BESS has been an important consideration of the Applicant to minimise impact to sensitive local receptors. For this reason the BESS has been co-located with the onsite 132kV substation towards the centre of the site, away from residential dwellings.</p> <p>9.1.2. This siting was driven by the desire to reduce visual impact, and potential noise from the operation of this infrastructure. The ES sets out how the siting of the BESS has been informed and associated mitigation (such as screening and noise reducing cladding) to limit potential noise impacts on any sensitive receptors, which will be within acceptable limits. This is discussed further in Chapter 7 – Landscape and Views and Chapter 11 – Noise and Vibration of the ES.</p> <p>9.1.3. The BESS and substation will be located behind a landscaped earth bund. This bund will screen both the substation and BESS from any potential sensitive receptors as well as protect it from potential flood waters. The perimeter of bund will also feature native woodland planting, which will act to provide additional noise and visual mitigation and extend tree canopy</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>cover.</p> <p>9.1.4. There is minimal concern from a health and safety perspective. BESS are inherently safe and have a very low risk of catching fire. In-built fire suppression systems ensure any risk of fire will be contained within the site. The Applicant has consulted with the relevant fire safety consultees and health and safety experts on this topic. Further details are included in Appendix 3.1 – Outline BESS Safety Management Plan to the ES.</p> <p>9.1.5. A noise assessment has been undertaken and demonstrates that noise associated with the BESS will not be noticeable at the nearest sensitive receptor.</p>
9.2.	Concern at risk of fire from the BESS and impact on local residents.	Refer to Applicant response 9.1.1, 9.1.2., 9.1.3, 9.1.4 and 9.1.5.
9.3.	Concern at risk from the BESS catching fire and emitting harmful gases.	Refer to Applicant response 9.1.1, 9.1.2., 9.1.3, 9.1.4 and 9.1.5.
9.4.	The development could be detrimental to local resident’s mental health, due to noise,	9.4.1 The Applicant has addressed these specific individual concerns in the ES. Health impacts associated with the Proposed

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	<p>loss of amenity and changing from a rural to an industrial landscape.</p>	<p>Development are discussed in Environmental Statement Appendix 2.6 - Population and Human Health Technical Note (Doc ref. EN010140/APP/6.3.2.6). Noise is discussed in Chapter 11 - Noise and Vibration of the ES (Doc ref. EN010140/APP/6.1.11).</p> <p>9.4.2. Landscape and amenity impacts, including proposed landscape interventions to reduce any impacts on the rural characteristics of the locality, are discussed in Chapter 7 - Landscape and Views of the ES (Doc ref. EN010140/APP/6.1.7).</p> <p>9.4.3. Each of these documents outline how identified issues have been mitigated through design or other interventions, to reduce any impacts to an acceptable level.</p>
<p>9.5.</p>	<p>Concern that the Proposed Development will have a negative impact on local residents through loss of access to the countryside/rural areas.</p>	<p>9.5.1. The Proposed Development has been designed to limit visual impact on the surrounding area through extensive landscaping and screening planting (as set out in the Landscape Strategy Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.2.7.8-10).</p> <p>9.5.2. The existing landscape is flat and dominated to the east by the Drax Power Station and associated infrastructure. However, significant landscape planting, including over 12ha of new</p>

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		<p>woodland planting, will enhance the existing natural environment. Coupled with the Hedgerow Improvement Scheme, which will see over 11km of new hedgerows planted – the local area can expect a significant increase in green vegetation, which will help to preserve the local area’s rural nature.</p> <p>9.5.3. In addition, the Proposed Development will result in improved access through the provision of a new permissive path, and the enhancement of areas around existing rights of way and footpaths. This will improve access to and through the site.</p>
9.6.	<p>Concern at the impact of additional traffic on local roads – potential road safety concerns. The A1041 specifically is noted as a dangerous road.</p>	Refer to Applicant response 4.3.1. and 4.7.1.
	Cable Route	
10.1.	<p>Concern at the stretch of road (A1041 to Selby) becoming too ‘hemmed in’ as a result of screening planting along the corridor as it is already a dark road. (see also Landscape and Visual).</p>	Refer to Applicant response 5.6.1.

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
10.2	General concern at disruption caused during construction along the route (including roundabout to Camblesforth). (see also Construction)	Refer to Applicant response 4.1.1.
10.3.	Preference for the cable to be laid in farmland alongside the road, rather than along the road itself – to avoid disruption.	<p>10.3.1. The Applicant is keen to seek appropriate opportunities to simplify the cable laying process and balance this against the desire to minimise disruption wherever possible. The route identified within the plans has been carefully assessed to deliver an appropriate approach to laying the cable in a timely manner.</p> <p>10.3.2. Further detail about exact engineering solution and information will be agreed in discussion with the highways authority and relevant landowners following consent, prior to commencement of the works.</p>
10.4.	Request for further detail about the cable route – not enough detail provided in the plans (it shows a route corridor, but not the specific positioning or engineering details of how the cable will be laid).	10.4.1 The cable laying route has been refined as far as possible to provide certainty to the route being taken, but to allow opportunity for micro siting in certain areas to respond to specific ground conditions and constraints. This approach also allows the selected contractor to implement innovative construction and design solutions, where possible.

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		Refer to Applicant response 10.3.2.
10.5.	General comment stating that the cable road along the road is not suitable.	Refer to Applicant response 10.3.1. and 10.3.2.
10.6.	Request that the cable route does not affect the existing treeline or planting along the road within the Cable Route Corridor.	10.6.1. Noted. The cable route works will not affect the treeline or planting along the route corridor.
10.7.	Suggestion that the cable route works can be used to improve walkways and access along the road through landscaping.	10.7.1. There are no plans to improve the walkways and access along the cable route corridor.
	Water environment	
11.1.	Concern at contamination of local water supply as a result of accidents related to the BESS.	<p>11.1.1. Noted. The Applicant has undertaken significant assessment and surveys to consider and mitigate any potential for water contamination as a result of the Proposed Development, taking climate change into account.</p> <p>11.1.2. BESS safety is discussed further in Appendix 3.1 BESS Safety Management Plan (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.3.3.1). Measures put in place to mitigate the risk of contamination arising from a BESS fire or water used to cool a BESS unit in the highly</p>

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		<p>unlikely event of a fire is discussed in Chapter 9 – Water Environment. Contamination generally is discussed in Appendix 4.2 – Phase 1 Ground Conditions Assessment.</p> <p>11.1.3. An earth bund will be constructed around the on-site substation and BESS, which will both screen and protect infrastructure, such as from floodwaters. This earth bund will also be lined and feature penstock, to capture any water used to cool the BESS units in a fire scenario, before it enters the local water supply. Following a fire incident, water used to the cool the BESS units would be tested for contaminants and only then released into the local water supply if safe. In the extremely unlikely scenario this water is not safe to be released into the environment, it would be tankered off-site.</p>
11.2.	Concern that there might be potential for an increase in flooding in the area as a result of the Proposed Development (general comment).	<p>11.2.1. Noted. The Applicant has undertaken significant assessment and surveys to consider and mitigate any potential for flood risk as a result of the Proposed Development, taking climate change into account.</p> <p>11.2.2. The scheme will be designed to be appropriately safe in the combined fluvial and tidal design flood without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Design mitigation measures employed to negate this include the appropriate sequential design of the site</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>to avoid (as best possible) areas of elevated flood risk and incorporation of flood resilience and resistance measures so that the equipment can remain operational during times of elevated flood risk. Pollution prevention measures, surface water management measures, appropriate design of watercourse crossings and, where necessary, floodplain compensation are also proposed.</p> <p>Flood risk is discussed further in Chapter 9 – Water Environment of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.9).</p>
11.3.	<p>The piling (to install the solar panels) will negatively affect the water sources and underground reservoirs across the site.</p>	<p>11.3.1. There will be no impact on water sources or underground reservoirs arising from the Proposed Development construction activities. The contractor will be required to undertake a Piling Risk Assessment prior to construction. There is potential for a high water table to be present, the Contractor will employ pileless construction techniques.</p>
11.4.	<p>Concern at impact of the Proposed Development on flooding around Temple Hirst, which has seen recent flooding since 2020.</p>	<p>Refer to Applicant response 11.21. and 11.2.2.</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
11.5.	Concern at impact on flooding across areas around the Proposed Development site (general comment).	Refer to Applicant response 11.21. and 11.2.2.
11.6.	Request for all drainage systems to be accessible for ongoing maintenance.	<p>11.6.1. Drainage infrastructure will require ongoing maintenance and so access will be retained throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Development. Future management of the Proposed Development will incorporate monitoring of drainage infrastructure across the site to keep waterways, ditches and water features clear and functioning effectively.</p> <p>11.6.2. Drainage infrastructure will require ongoing maintenance and so access will be retained throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Development. Future management of the Proposed Development will incorporate monitoring of drainage infrastructure across the site.</p> <p>11.6.3. Effective drainage management of the site will assist in managing flood risk to surrounding areas. This is set out in detail in Chapter 9 – Water Environment of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.9).</p>
11.7.	Request to protect drainage systems across the site which currently help protect surface	Refer to Applicant response 11.6.1, 11.6.2. and 11.6.3.

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
	floods to West Bank.	
11.8.	It is not felt that this is a flood risk area.	11.8.1. Noted. Chapter 9 – Water Environment of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.9) sets out the assessments undertaken across the site to confirm a detailed flood risk assessment (FRA). This has influenced the design of the Proposed Development and proposed ongoing management of the site.
11.9.	Concern at impact of the Proposed Development on flooding around Hirst Courtney. Disagreement with the information and reasoning set out in the PEIR.	Refer to Applicant response 11.6.1, 11.6.2. and 11.6.3.
11.10.	Concern at pollution risk to the water table as a result of the Proposed Development. Risks of flooding and disruption to septic tanks and other waste disposal.	Refer to Applicant response 11.1.1.
11.11.	Concern that without regular maintenance (currently performed by farmers on the land), flooding will become worse across and around the site.	Refer to Applicant response 11.6.1, 11.6.2. and 11.6.3.

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
11.12.	Over recent years, the land across the site has become wetter and slower to drain. Without crops growing (and absorbing the water), this is likely to become worse.	11.12.1. Chapter 9 – Water Environment of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.9) sets out the assessments undertaken across the site to confirm a detailed flood risk assessment (FRA). This has influenced the design of the Proposed Development and proposed ongoing management of the site.
11.13.	Concern that there could be potential damage to natural water courses.	Refer to Applicant response: 11.1.1.
	Construction	
12.1.	Concern at increased traffic during construction causing disruption to the local road network. (See also, 'Traffic and Access').	12.1.1. As discussed in Chapter 10 – Transport and Access of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.10), only 36 vehicle movements a day (to and from the Site) are anticipated during construction. During operation this is significantly less, at one to two vehicles a month. Refer to Applicant response: 4.5.1. Refer to Applicant response: 4.5.2.
12.2.	Concern that the identified roads for construction are unsuitable for construction vehicles (e.g. horse drawn carriages use	Refer to Applicant response: 4.5.1. Refer to Applicant response: 4.5.2.

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
	these roads)	
12.3.	Concern at noise and vibration particularly from construction will affect nearby homes. (see also Noise)	Refer to Applicant response: 7.1.1. Refer to Applicant response: 7.1.2. Refer to Applicant response: 7.1.3.
12.4.	Concern at length of time for construction activities to take place.	12.4.1. A detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) sets out a clear timeframe and phasing for construction activity. Construction period is expected to last approximately 12 months (approximately 260 working days). This is in line with similar such developments, and shorter than many construction projects of a similar scale.
12.5.	Concern at levels of dust created from construction traffic. (See also, Traffic and Access)	Refer to Applicant response: 4.6.1. Refer to Applicant response: 4.6.2. Refer to Applicant response: 4.6.3.
12.6.	Concern at the impact on local horses / stables during construction.	12.6.1 An Outline Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.3.5.1) has been developed to consider and address specific issues relating to environmental issues arising during the construction period. This includes potential impact to local receptors, such as residential properties

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		or businesses. It is not envisaged that any detrimental effects will be experienced by local livestock (including horses), however depending on the positioning of the stables/horses identified, this will be incorporated into consideration also.
12.7.	Concern at the cumulative impact of other developments in construction at similar times on local roads and for local people.	12.7.1 An assessment of other developments in the vicinity, and the potential cumulative impacts to the local road network has been included within the traffic and transport assessment. Refer to Applicant response: 4.5.1. Refer to Applicant response: 4.5.2.
	Decommissioning	
13.1.	Concern that decommissioning will not take place in 40 years/at the end of the Proposed Development lifetime.	13.1.1. The Proposed Development lifetime is 40 years, meaning that we would be looking at decommissioning the site in the 2060's. Whilst the exact details of the process will be agreed closer to the time, the decommissioning activity will likely mirror the construction process in duration and activity. 13.1.2. An Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.3.5.3) sets out how the Applicant intends to decommission the site. Decommissioning the site will be a legally binding agreement, with a bond in place to

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		ensure that even if the Applicant no longer operates at the end of the lifetime of the Proposed Development, land will be reinstated in line with the agreed plan.
13.2.	Concern that it is not possible to return the site to its current condition when it is decommissioned.	<p>13.2.1. It is a legal requirement for the Applicant to ensure that the site is returned to its current condition following decommissioning.</p> <p>Refer to Applicant response: 13.1.2.</p>
	Community Benefit	
14.1.	It is not felt that there will be any community benefit as a result of the proposals.	<p>14.1.1. Noted. This scheme represents an important contribution to meeting the UK’s legally binding target under the Climate Change Act 2008 to achieve a ‘net zero’ carbon by 2050. ‘Renewable energy developments deliver secure supply of low carbon electricity for local communities and the wider population that is generated domestically using the UK’s natural resources. Solar power represents a ‘clean’ source of energy as it does not release any harmful emissions or pollutants. Solar energy is also one of the cheapest forms of power generation in the UK and, in the future, can deliver lower energy bills for consumers by reducing the UK’s energy market’s reliance on foreign energy imports. This will help ensure a secure energy supply for future</p>

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		<p>generations.</p> <p>14.1.2. In addition, local benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local jobs and investment – The applicant is committed to using local labour and contractors wherever we can throughout the construction and ongoing operational life of the project. • Potential biodiversity enhancements including reinforcement of existing hedgerows and the planting of new hedgerows, native grasses and wildflowers within and adjacent to the solar farm itself. • Maintenance and enhancement of footpaths throughout the site as well as identified additional permissive footpaths to improve connectivity in the local area. • Community Benefit Contribution – A contribution to a community benefit fund is being considered to assist with local schemes, initiatives, and worthy causes.
14.2.	Suggestion to hold educational visits (e.g. 'Woodland Nature Days') to promote ownership and responsibility of designated biodiverse areas.	Refer to Applicant response 14.1.1. and 14.1.2.

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
14.3.	Suggestion of utilising footpaths for diversity walks and 'Health Walks Selby'.	Refer to Applicant response 14.1.1. and 14.1.2.
14.4.	Request that a donation of £200,000 to charity is made as part of the community benefit package.	Refer to Applicant response 14.1.1. and 14.1.2.
14.5.	Request that community benefit is a yearly donation, rather than a one-off sum.	Refer to Applicant response 14.1.1. and 14.1.2.
14.6.	Request for financial support for Carlton Village Hall.	Refer to Applicant response 14.1.1. and 14.1.2.
14.7.	Request for financial support for Carlton Cricket Pavilion.	Refer to Applicant response 14.1.1. and 14.1.2.
14.8.	Request for financial support for Carlton cemetery.	Refer to Applicant response 14.1.1. and 14.1.2.
14.9.	Request for subsidised electricity for those living in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Either through payments to pout towards energy bills, or provision of free	Refer to Applicant response 14.1.1. and 14.1.2.

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
	solar panels/battery storage for local households.	
14.10.	Request for financial support for Camblesforth Village Hall.	Refer to Applicant response 14.1.1. and 14.1.2.
14.11.	Request for financial support for Camblesforth Chapel.	Refer to Applicant response 14.1.1. and 14.1.2.
14.12.	Suggestion to use community benefit donations to build a community centre in Camblesforth.	Refer to Applicant response 14.1.1. and 14.1.2.
14.13.	Suggestion to improve the path behind Camblesforth Hall for pedestrians, dog walkers, runners.	Refer to Applicant response 14.1.1. and 14.1.2.
14.14.	Suggestion for using Community Benefit payments for local road improvements.	Refer to Applicant response 14.1.1. and 14.1.2.
14.15.	The supply of broadband to local areas (such as Hagg Bush Lane) would be beneficial.	Refer to Applicant response 14.1.1. and 14.1.2.
	Socio-economic considerations	

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
15.1	Concern that noise levels would affect work for those working from home/on things that require quiet surroundings (such as filming). (see also 'Noise').	Refer to Applicant response 7.1.1, 7.1.2 and 7.1.3.
15.2.	Concern that local agricultural jobs will be lost (farmers, fruit pickers, labourers, mechanics), which won't be replaced by new jobs as a result of the Proposed Development.	15.2.1. The Applicant is committed to using local labour and contractors wherever we can throughout the construction and ongoing operational life of the project. As a result, Chapter 13 - Socio-economics of the ES (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/6.1.13) confirms that 200 jobs will be created through the delivery of the Proposed Development.
Security		
16.1.	Concern that the Proposed Development will result in a decrease in security leading to a potential increase in crime, particularly to private property.	16.1.1. The Applicant has noted several pieces of feedback relating to concerns over security of residential properties surrounding the site. The Proposed Development should represent an improvement to security for surrounding properties, as access the site will be managed with additional security fencing, as well as inward facing remote monitoring (CCTV). Increased activity across the site by maintenance operatives will also serve to dissuade anti-social or criminal behaviour.

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
16.2.	Concern that offset strips adjacent to private property are considered carefully to avoid illicit use. Preference to either fence up to adjacent boundary, or install security features, such as gates to prevent misuse of this land.	Refer to Applicant response 16.1.1.
16.3.	The amenity of neighbouring property can be seriously harmed by secured boundaries and intrusive CCTV.	16.3.1 The Applicant notes this feedback and will work with neighbouring properties wherever possible to reduce impact to their boundaries. All CCTV will be inward facing only and will not affect the amenity or privacy of any neighbouring property.
	Consultation	
17.1.	Disappointment that the Applicant did not attend parish council meetings during the consultation period.	17.1.1. Noted. The Applicant engaged extensively with surrounding Parish Councils throughout the pre-application process. This is set out in further detail in the body of this Consultation Report. This included specific invitation to surrounding Parish Councils to attend a preview meeting at the consultation event in Camblesforth Hall. Ongoing correspondence and sharing of information, answering queries

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
		and provision of additional hard copy materials for Parish Council use was also undertaken.
17.2.	The feedback form did not ask appropriate questions.	17.2.1. Noted. The feedback form was designed to align with the Consultation Summary Document and posed questions aligned to the various topics discussed and summarised from the PEIR information. A 'free comment' section was also included to allow those that wished to comment on other issues to share their feedback.
17.3.	The maps presented did not have adequate detail to be able to fully view the Proposed Development.	17.3.1. The maps and plans presented were prepared in line with best practice for presentation of planning drawings. Additional illustrative maps and plans were also created for use during the consultation, however full detailed maps were also provided at consultation events, and as part of the PEIR documents.
17.4.	Lack of Proper Consultation: The majority of people within the affected areas have busy lives and may not have the time &/or the capacity to sufficiently understand and appreciate the negative impact these proposals will have until it is too late. Holding a small number of meetings for local people	17.4.1. As set out in this Consultation Report, the Applicant designed a consultation programme to allow flexibility and accessibility for those wishing to engage in the process. For those that were unable to attend the in person meetings, a full virtual consultation exhibition was made available online, which contained all the same information as in person events.

Issue reference	Issue/query raised	Regard had by the Applicant
	<p>at inconvenient times in the village hall is a completely inadequate and unrealistic mechanism for effective consultation.</p>	<p>17.4.2. Several modes of contact were provided for those wishing to ask questions, including via freephone, email, free-post, or online form.</p> <p>17.4.3. The consultation period extended beyond the 28 day minimum period required to allow all those with an interest in the proposals to review and respond to the consultation materials.</p>

14.4. Parish and town councils

14.4.1. Throughout the period of statutory consultation, regular correspondence was sent to parish councils to encourage them to participate in the statutory consultation and provide formal feedback on the Proposed Development.

14.4.2. In addition, to encourage participation from the parish councils and their communities, the Applicant posted hard copies of the Consultation Summary Document, Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR, Feedback Forms and USBs to each of the neighbouring parish councils to distribute to members of their communities who were not able to access documents.

14.4.3. Table 14.2 below provides an overview of the correspondence with the parish councils announcing the SoCC and throughout the statutory consultation period.

Table 14.2: Correspondence with Parish Councils

Parish Council	Type	Date	Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camblesforth • Carlton • Hirst Courtney • Temple Hirst • Long Drax • Burn • Drax • Barlow • Brayton • Rawcliffe • Snaith & Cowick 	Host and Neighbouring	11 October 2023	SoCC announcement, dates of Statutory Consultation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camblesforth • Carlton • Hirst Courtney • Temple Hirst • Long Drax • Burn • Drax • Barlow 	Host and Neighbouring	25 October 2023	Statutory Consultation announcement including formal notifications to host parishes.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brayton • Rawcliffe • Snaith & Cowick 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camblesforth • Carlton • Hirst Courtney • Temple Hirst • Long Drax • Burn • Drax • Barlow • Brayton • Rawcliffe • Snaith & Cowick 	Host and Neighbouring	15 November 2023	Update following consultation events – offer of hard copies of consultation documents which were then posted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camblesforth • Carlton • Hirst Courtney • Temple Hirst • Long Drax • Burn • Drax • Barlow • Brayton • Rawcliffe • Snaith & Cowick 	Host and Neighbouring	21 November 2023	Further opportunity to submit comments and questions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camblesforth • Carlton • Hirst Courtney • Temple Hirst • Long Drax • Burn • Drax • Barlow • Brayton 	Host and Neighbouring	5 December 2023	Extension to the consultation – opportunity to address outstanding queries.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rawcliffe • Snaith & Cowick 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camblesforth • Carlton • Hirst Courtney • Temple Hirst • Long Drax • Burn • Drax • Barlow • Brayton • Rawcliffe • Snaith & Cowick 	Host and Neighbouring	6 December 2023	Consultation summary including responses received and encourage formal response.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camblesforth • Carlton • Temple Hirst • Burn • Drax • Barlow • Brayton • Rawcliffe • Snaith & Cowick 	Parish Councils yet to respond	14 December 2023	Feedback summary and final reminder to submit a formal response.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hirst Courtney • Long Drax 	Parish Councils who responded	14 December 2023	Acknowledgment of consultation response.

14.5. Statement of compliance

14.5.1. This section demonstrates that all requirements for summarising the Section 47 consultation responses received during the statutory consultation and having regard to those responses under Section 49 of the 2008 Act have been met.

14.5.2. It can be concluded from an analysis of this information that the comments, views and impacts identified through the statutory consultation have influenced the development of the Proposed Development, as set out in Chapter 15 of this Report.

14.5.3. In response to the feedback received during the statutory consultation and other design developments, several changes were made to the Proposed Development. These are summarised in this chapter of the report.

Table 14.1: Overview of changes made following statutory consultation

Change since statutory consultation	Anticipated impact of change
Reduction in the scale of solar panels through removal of land and placement of panels close to local receptors (residential dwellings)	Visual impact - reduction in visual impact to the closest residential dwellings. These changes are outlined further in Chapter 7 of the ES and Landscape Views plans.
Significant enhancements in the level of planting of vegetation and trees for screening	Visual impact - reduction in visual impact of the Site from the surrounding areas. These changes are outlined further in Chapter 7 of the ES and Landscape Views plans.
Adjustments to the development boundary to reflect land ownership.	Land and property - clarification of land ownership and access arrangements. Further details of land ownership and access arrangements have been outlined in the Book of Reference.
Re-establishment of a strong pattern of hedgerows and tree belts, as well as extensive areas of native wildflower grassland planting and wetland habitats	Ecology - significant habitat enhancement provisions will deliver a quantifiable BNG. Further details of the ecological improvements can be found in Chapter 8 of the ES.
Creation of a new permissive path through the Proposed Development	Community - improved connectivity across the Site and surrounding villages of Camblesforth and Hirst Courtney. Further details of this can be found in Chapter 10 of the ES.

15. Additional targeted consultation

- 15.1.1. The Applicant has had regard to Paragraphs 49 to 52 of the DCLG preapplication guidance which urges applicants to make every reasonable effort to ensure that the Book of Reference is up to date at the time of submission. However, the guidance at Paragraph 51, acknowledges that land interests change over time and that new or additional interests may emerge after an applicant has concluded statutory consultation but just before an application is submitted.
- 15.1.2. As a result of ongoing diligent inquiries and updates to the environmental assessment the Applicant identified new land interests ahead of DCO submission. This chapter provides details of the targeted consultation undertaken by the Applicant prior to DCO submission.
- 15.1.3. As the proposals have developed, changes have been made that have meant that the number of land interests affected by the proposed development has changed and/or the type and extent of proposed acquisition has changed. Furthermore, some changes have led to new or different likely effects to land and property. Therefore, as part of ongoing land referencing exercises and diligent inquiries, new interests were identified.
- 15.1.4. Following identification of these four additional interested parties, a letter was issued on 11 June 2024 to formally notify them of the development which included accompanying information as well as the Section 48 notice (Appendix 12.1) that was provided to landowners as part of the 2023 statutory consultation. A copy of this letter can be found in Appendix 15.1.
- 15.1.5. A letter to identified Category 3 parties dated 11th June 2024 was also issued to those parties which had recently taken ownership of an interest in land potentially indirectly impacted by the proposals. A copy of this letter can be found in Appendix 15.2.
- 15.1.6. Details of these additional land interests have been included and outlined in the Book of Reference.

16. Ongoing communication and engagement

16.1. Introduction

- 16.1.1. Following the closure of the statutory consultation the Applicant will continue to seek an ongoing dialogue with relevant consultees in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.
- 16.1.2. Where additional information of relevance has been deemed useful to share, further updates will be communicated with relevant consultees and stakeholders.
- 16.1.3. The Applicant has also undertaken regular updates with relevant consultees and this dialogue will continue where further technical input is required.
- 16.1.4. The Applicant is committed to ongoing dialogue with the local community and stakeholders as the Proposed Development application is submitted. Future engagement will be accompanied, where appropriate, with updates to the project website and ongoing dialogue with the relevant parish councils.
- 16.1.5. Communications methods will remain open for local community to use to contact the Applicant, including via Freepost, Freephone and email. The project website will be updated at key milestones throughout the forthcoming examination and construction processes.

17. Conclusion

17.1. Concluding comments

- 17.1.1. The Applicant has undertaken pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development in accordance with the requirements set out in the 2008 Act, secondary legislation and Government and PINS advice. The Applicant has consulted the local community, local authorities, landowners and those with an interest in the application site, those prescribed by the relevant regulations and others whose views the Applicant considered important.
- 17.1.2. All responses received to the non-statutory and statutory consultation periods were given full consideration and influence on the Proposed Development where appropriate. Where the Applicant has not been able to take forward a recommendation for a change to the Proposed Development, this has been explained within this report or the appendices.
- 17.1.3. Non-statutory engagement has played an important role in the early development and refinement of the proposals prior to the statutory consultation period.
- 17.1.4. Engagement with local representatives and the host local authorities began at an early stage in the process through discussion relating to the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). This early consideration meant that the most appropriate methods of engaging with local consultees and communities was agreed prior to the commencement of the statutory consultation period. Careful consideration was given to identify those living in the vicinity of the Proposed Development and those that may be affected by the wider impacts of the development.
- 17.1.5. A wide range of methods were adopted in order to communicate appropriately with the community. The Applicant has sought to make consultation materials easy to understand and accessible and has encouraged members of the community to participate and make their views known through feedback forms, at public exhibitions, and via the virtual consultation exhibition, the project website, emails, phone calls and written responses.
- 17.1.6. Issues have been raised about all aspects of the Proposed Development and each of these pieces of feedback have been carefully considered by the Applicant.

- 17.1.7. As a result of feedback received from stakeholders and the community a number of changes and refinements have been made to the Proposed Development. Following feedback from the non-statutory consultation, the Site was reduced from 757 ha to 476 ha and a decision was made to connect the Site to the grid at Drax Power Station with underground cables. Changes to the Proposed Development following statutory consultation includes alterations to the development boundary, enhancements to landscaping to reduce visual impacts as well as the creation of a new permissive footpath through the Site. There will also be significant habitat enhancement provisions, delivering a quantifiable BNG. These will be managed for the benefit of wildlife over a minimum period of 30 years, providing biodiversity gains for a wide variety of species.
- 17.1.8. The Applicant will continue to provide information and maintain ongoing communication with the local communities and stakeholders through the period following submission of the application. This will be through further written correspondence, website updates and via the Freephone information line and direct project email address.

18. Final Statement of compliance

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
Planning Act 2008		
Section 42	Duty to consult The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application:	
	(a) such persons as may be prescribed;	The Applicant consulted all relevant persons prescribed under the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. See Appendix 10.1 for the full list).
	(aa) the Marine Management Organisation;	<i>Not applicable</i>
	(b) each local authority that is within Section 43;	The Applicant consulted with each local authority identified under Section 43 (see Chapter 10 of the Consultation Report for the full list).
	(c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London; and	<i>Not applicable</i>
	(d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.	The Applicant consulted all persons identified under Section 44, being persons with a relevant interest in land affected by the project (see the Book of Reference for the full list).
Section 45	Timetable for consultation under Section 42 (1) The applicant must, when consulting a person under Section 42, notify the person of the deadline for the receipt by the applicant of the person's response to the consultation.	All consultees were informed of the deadline for responses in a cover letter notifying the commencement of consultation. See a copy of the letter at Appendix 10.6. The letter stated that the consultation process would run from 26 October 2023 to 7 December 2023.
	(2) A deadline notified under subsection (1) must not be earlier than the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after	The consultation ran from 26 October until 7 December, providing a period of 42 days for responses.

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	the day on which the person receives the consultation documents.	
	(3) In subsection (2) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the person by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the person.	The consultation documents provided for the Section 42 consultation included the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), plans, a PEIR Non-Technical Summary Document, a Consultation Summary Document, and the questionnaire which were all accessible via an online link. A hard copy of the Section 48 notification was also included alongside a cover letter.
Section 46	Duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed application (1) The applicant must supply the Secretary of State with such information in relation to the proposed application as the applicant would supply to the Secretary of State for the purpose of complying with Section 42 if the applicant were required by that section to consult the Secretary of State about the proposed application.	The Applicant notified PINS of the proposed application on 24 October 2023 by way of a formal cover letter with a link to access the consultation documents. See Appendix 10.4.
	(2) The applicant must comply with subsection (1) on or before commencing consultation under Section 42.	The letter was sent to PINS on 24 October 2023 before the date of commencement of the formal consultation on 26 October 2023.
Section 47	Duty to consult local community (1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.	The Applicant prepared a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which set out how the Applicant proposed to consult the local community. Further details on the process for preparing the SoCC can be found in Chapter 11 of the Consultation Report. The SoCC is attached to this Consultation Report at Appendix 11.3.
	(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is	The Applicant consulted the following Section 43 local authorities:

	<p>within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Yorkshire Council • East Riding of Yorkshire Council • City of York Council • Doncaster City Council • Wakefield Council • Leeds City Council • Ribble Valley Borough Council • Lancaster City Council • Westmorland and Furness Council • Durham County Council • Darlington Borough Council • Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council • Middlesbrough Council • Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council • Pendle • Lancashire County Council • Yorkshire Dales • North York Moors
	<p>(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority’s response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.</p>	<p>Statutory consultation with the relevant local authorities on the SoCC ran from 15 May 2023 to 19 June 2023 allowing 28 days for the Local Authorities to respond.</p>
	<p>(4) In subsection (3) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).</p>	<p>The consultation documents comprised a cover letter (email), and draft SoCC. See Appendix 11.1.</p>
	<p>(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).</p>	<p>The Applicant considered all relevant comments received on the draft SoCC. For more information on how comments were addressed see Chapter 11 of this Consultation Report. A table outlining the changes made to the SoCC following consultation is included in Table 11.2.</p>
	<p>(6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must— (a) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people</p>	<p>The final SoCC was published on 12 October 2023.</p> <p>A notice was placed in the Yorkshire Post, Selby Times, Goole Times and Pontefract & Castleford Express and could be viewed, in</p>

	<p>living in the vicinity of the land, (b) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and (c) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.</p>	<p>print or digitally. A copy of the notice can be seen in Appendix 11.4 (Doc Ref: EN010140/APP/5.2.11.4). A copy of the notices as published in situ can be seen in Appendix 11.5.</p> <p>Hard copies of the SoCC were placed on deposit and made available to view free of charge in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selby Library, 52 Micklegate, Selby YO8 4EQ • Snaith Library, 27 Market Place, Snaith, Goole DN14 9HE • Goole Library, Carlisle Street, Goole DN14 5DS
	<p>(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.</p>	<p>The Applicant's consultation process was carried out in accordance with the SoCC, as explained in Chapter 11 of the Consultation Report.</p>
<p>Section 48</p>	<p>Duty to publicise</p> <p>(1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.</p>	<p>The Applicant prepared and published a Section 48 Notice in the manner prescribed under the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. The published notice is provided at Appendix 12.1.</p>
	<p>(2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.</p>	<p>The deadline was included in the Section 48 Notice as 23.59 on 7 December 2023.</p>
<p>Section 49</p>	<p>Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity</p> <p>(1) Subsection (2) applies where the applicant—</p> <p>(a) has complied with sections 42, 47 and 48, and</p>	<p>The Applicant has had regard to all relevant responses to consultation in accordance with Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48. Please see Chapters 13 and 14 of this Consultation Report.</p>

	<p>(b) proposes to go ahead with making an application for an order granting development consent (whether or not in the same terms as the proposed application).</p> <p>(2) The applicant must, when deciding whether the application that the applicant is actually to make should be in the same terms as the proposed application, have regard to any relevant responses.</p>	
	<p>(3) In subsection (2) “relevant response” means—</p> <p>(a) a response from a person consulted under section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by section 45 in that person’s case,</p> <p>(b) a response to consultation under section 47(7) that is received by the applicant before any applicable deadline imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under section 47, or</p> <p>(c) a response to publicity under section 48 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed in accordance with section 48(2) in relation to that publicity.</p>	<p>Section 42 responses are considered in Chapter 13 of the Consultation Report. Appendix 13.1 also provides a breakdown analysis of the comments received and regard had by the Applicant.</p> <p>Section 47 and 48 responses are considered in Chapter 14 of this Consultation Report. Table 14.1 contains all issues raised during the consultation alongside a note of the regard had by the Applicant to each issue. Appendix 14.1 also provides a detailed breakdown analysis of the comments.</p> <p>This has been prepared following guidance set out in PINS Advice Note 14: Compiling the Consultation Report.</p>
<p>Section 50</p>	<p>Guidance about preapplication procedure</p>	<p>The Applicant has complied with the guidance set out in DCLG Guidance on pre-application consultation (see below). The Applicant has also had regard to the Planning Act 2008: guidance on the pre-application process; and</p>

	<p>(1) Guidance may be issued about how to comply with the requirements of this Chapter.</p> <p>(2) Guidance under this section may be issued by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>(3) The applicant must have regard to any guidance under this section.</p>	<p>Advice Notes prepared by the Planning Inspectorate.</p>
<p>DCLG: Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015)</p>		
<p>17</p>	<p>When circulating consultation documents, developers should be clear about their status, for example ensuring it is clear to the public if a document is purely for purposes of consultation.</p>	<p>Consultation Documents were all identified as such either within the title of the document (e.g. Consultation Summary Document), or within the body of the text contained with the document.</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>Early involvement of local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees can bring about significant benefits for all parties, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping the applicant identify and resolve issues at the earliest stage, which can reduce the overall risk to the project further down the line as it becomes more difficult to make changes once an application has been submitted; • enabling members of the public to influence proposed projects, feedback on potential options, and encouraging the community to help shape the proposal to maximise local benefits and minimise any downsides; • helping local people understand the potential nature and local impact of the proposed project, 	<p>The Applicant undertook significant non-statutory consultation, beginning in 2022, prior to the statutory consultation period in October-December 2023. Early engagement and non-statutory consultation was undertaken in order to help inform the development of the proposals prior to the formal consultation period. In addition, further additional targeted non-statutory engagement was undertaken following the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>Throughout the pre-application period, the Applicant sought ongoing community engagement and liaison was undertaken with communities, including harder to reach groups. This engagement served to assist in informing communities about the project, as well as encourage participation in the process. It also allowed the Applicant to consider ways in which local benefit could be identified for the region and affected communities.</p>

	<p>with the potential to dispel misapprehensions at an early stage;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enabling applicants to obtain important information about the economic, social and environmental impacts of a scheme from consultees, which can help rule out unsuitable options; • enabling potential mitigating measures to be considered and, if appropriate, built into the project before an application is submitted; and • identifying ways in which the project could, without significant costs to promoters, support wider strategic or local objectives. 	<p>Further information on the Applicant's approach to this can be found in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report.</p>
20	<p>Experience suggests that, to be of most value, consultation should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • based on accurate information that gives consultees a clear view of what is proposed including any options; • shared at an early enough stage so that the proposal can still be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed; and • engaging and accessible in style, encouraging consultees to react and offer their views. 	<p>The Applicant has sought to provide, and consult upon, clear information at key points through the development of the proposals.</p> <p>The Applicant decided to undertake various phases of non-statutory consultation to ensure that consultees had adequate opportunities to obtain a clear view of what is proposed both before and following the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>Consultation documents (such as the Consultation Summary Document) were produced to supplement the technical documents during the consultation process. All consultation materials were designed to provide accessible information to encourage participation in the process.</p>
24	<p>Government recognises that major infrastructure projects and the communities and environment in which they are located will vary considerably. A 'one-size fits-all' approach is not, therefore, appropriate. Instead, applicants, who are best placed to understand</p>	<p>The Applicant has worked closely with relevant local authorities throughout the process. This includes during the development of the SoCC, which was developed following discussion with relevant local authorities following the earlier stages of informal consultation.</p>

	<p>the detail of their specific project, and the relevant local authorities, who have a unique knowledge of their local communities, should as far as possible work together to develop plans for consultation. The aim should be to ensure that consultation is appropriate to the scale and nature of the project and where its impacts will be experienced.</p>	<p>This is set out in Chapter 11 of this Consultation Report.</p>
25	<p>Consultation should be thorough, effective and proportionate. Some applicants may have their own distinct approaches to consultation, perhaps drawing on their own or relevant sector experience, for example if there are industry protocols that can be adapted. Larger, more complex applications are likely to need to go beyond the statutory minimum timescales laid down in the Planning Act to ensure enough time for consultees to understand project proposals and formulate a response. Many proposals will require detailed technical input, especially regarding impacts, so sufficient time will need to be allowed for this. Consultation should also be sufficiently flexible to respond to the needs and requirements of consultees, for example where a consultee has indicated that they would prefer to be consulted via email only, this should be accommodated as far as possible.</p>	<p>The formal consultation period was 42 days, which is longer than the statutory minimum.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement and preparation for the statutory consultation period was undertaken to prepare consultees for the process as far as possible. Non-statutory consultation also allowed consultees an opportunity to be involved and understand the project prior to the statutory consultation period.</p>
26	<p>In addition, applicants may also wish to strengthen their case by seeking the views of other people who are not statutory consultees, but who may be significantly affected by the project.</p>	<p>Additional consultees were invited to participate in the statutory consultation. These were included in the Section 42 or Section 47 mailing and are included in Appendices 8.1 and 10.1.</p>

27	<p>Where an applicant proposes to include non planning consents within their Development Consent Order, the bodies that would normally be responsible for granting these consents should make every effort to facilitate this. They should only object to the inclusion of such non planning consents with good reason, and after careful consideration of reasonable alternatives. It is therefore important that such bodies are consulted at an early stage. In addition, there will be a range of national and other interest groups who could make an important contribution during consultation. Applicants are therefore encouraged to consult widely on project proposals.</p>	<p>The Applicant is not seeking any non-planning consents for this project.</p>
28	<p>From time to time a body may cease to exist but, for legislative timetabling reasons, may still be listed as a statutory consultee. In such situations the Secretary of State will not expect strict compliance with the statutory requirements. Applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have with the original body. Where there is no obvious successor, applicants should seek the advice of the Inspectorate, who may be able to identify an appropriate alternative consultee. Whether or not an alternative is identified, the consultation report should briefly note any cases where compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.</p>	<p>The Applicant reviewed the consultee list on a regular basis to ensure that contact details were up to date.</p>
29	<p>Applicants will often need detailed technical input from expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the social,</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken extensive engagement with expert bodies and technical consultees throughout the pre-application process. This ongoing dialogue began in 2022</p>

	<p>environmental, design and economic impacts of projects, and other important matters. Technical expert input will often be needed in advance of formal compliance with the preapplication requirements. Early engagement with these bodies can help avoid unnecessary delays and the costs of having to make changes at later stages of the process. It is equally important that statutory consultees respond to a request for technical input in a timely manner. Applicants are therefore advised to discuss and agree a timetable with consultees for the provision of such inputs.</p>	<p>(Scoping). This is described in detail in relevant chapters of the Environmental Statement (ES).</p>
<p>35</p>	<p>“The applicant has a duty under section 47 of the Planning Act to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation, and then to conduct its consultation in line with that statement. Before doing so, the applicant must consult on their Statement of Community Consultation with each local authority in whose area the proposed development is situated. This may require consultation with a number of different local authorities, particularly for long linear projects.”</p>	<p>The Applicant prepared a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which set out how the Applicant proposed to consult the community. Further details on the process for preparing the SoCC can be found in Chapter 11 of this Consultation Report. The SoCC is attached to this Consultation Report at Appendix 11.3.</p> <p>The Applicant consulted with the following section 43 local authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Yorkshire Council • East Riding of Yorkshire Council • City of York Council • Doncaster City Council • Wakefield Council • Leeds City Council • Ribbles Valley Borough Council • Lancaster City Council • Westmorland and Furness Council • Durham County Council • Darlington Borough Council • Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council • Middlesbrough Council • Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council • Pendle Council • Lancashire County Council • Yorkshire Dales

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North York Moors <p>Statutory consultation with the relevant local authorities on the SoCC ran from 15 May to 19 June 2023. The consultation documents comprised a cover letter (email), and draft SoCC. See Appendix 11.1.</p>
36	<p>Even where it is intended that a development would take place within a single local authority area, it is possible that its impacts could be significantly wider than just that local authority's area – for example if the development was located close to a neighbouring authority. Where an applicant decides to consult people living in a wider area who could be affected by the project (e.g. through visual or environmental impacts, or through increased traffic flow), that intention should be reflected in the Statement of Community Consultation.</p>	<p>Due to the nature of the project, the Applicant consulted with relevant neighbouring authorities on issues such as traffic and transport. This approach is reflected and recorded in the SoCC.</p>
37	<p>The Planning Act requires local authorities to respond to the applicant's consultation on their proposed Statement of Community Consultation within 28 days of receipt of the request. However, prior to submitting their draft Statement of Community Consultation applicants may wish to seek to resolve any disagreements or clarifications about the public consultation design. An applicant is therefore likely to need to engage in discussions with local authorities over a longer period than the minimum requirements set out in the Act.</p>	<p>Chapter 11 of the Consultation Report sets out how the Applicant consulted with relevant local authorities on the consultation approach and development of the SoCC. Informal discussion on this point also took place prior to the formal Draft SoCC consultation period.</p>
39	<p>Topics for consideration at such pre-consultation discussions might include:</p>	<p>Chapter 11 of this Consultation Report sets out how the Applicant consulted with relevant local authorities on the consultation approach and development of the SoCC.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the size and coverage of the proposed consultation exercise (including, where appropriate, consultation which goes wider than one local authority area); • the appropriateness of various consultation techniques, including electronic-based ones; • the design and format of consultation materials; • issues which could be covered in consultation materials; • suggestions for places/timings of public events as part of the consultation; • local bodies and representative groups who should be consulted; and • timescales for consultation. 	
41	<p>Where a local authority raises an issue or concern on the Statement of Community Consultation which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to explain in their consultation report their course of action to the Secretary of State when they submit their application.</p>	<p>Chapter 11 of this Consultation Report sets out how the Applicant consulted with relevant local authorities on the consultation approach and development of the SoCC. Table 11.2 in the Report shows requested amendments to the SoCC wording, as well as whether or not these changes were adopted. The Applicant had regard to all responses received and made amendments to the wording of the SoCC in response to the majority of requested changes. Where changes were not made, this has been clearly and directly responded to by the Applicant.</p>
42	<p>Where a local authority decides that it does not wish to respond to a consultation request on the Statement of Community Consultation, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to ensure that all affected communities are consulted. If the applicant is unsure how to proceed, they are encouraged to seek advice from</p>	<p>The Applicant is satisfied that it has made reasonable efforts to consult with all those who may have a legitimate interest or might be affected by the proposed development. In addition, local community engagement via the parish councils has taken place throughout the process in order to raise the profile of the project and encourage participation in the consultation process. This engagement and feedback from informal consultation phases fed</p>

	<p>the Inspectorate. However, it is for the applicant to satisfy themselves that their consultation plan allows for as full public involvement as is appropriate for their project and, once satisfied, to proceed with the consultation. Provided that applicants can satisfy themselves that they have made reasonable endeavours to consult with all those who might have a legitimate interest or might be affected by a proposed development, it would be unlikely that their application would be rejected on grounds of inadequate public consultation.</p>	<p>into the development of the consultation process as outlined in the SoCC.</p>
43	<p>Local authorities are also themselves statutory consultees for any proposed major infrastructure project which is in or adjacent to their area. Applicants should engage with them as early as possible to ensure that the impacts of the development on the local area are understood and considered prior to the application being submitted to the Secretary of State.</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook early engagement with the relevant local authorities from the outset of the project development. Chapters 8 and 11 of this Consultation Report set out the engagement undertaken with these authorities in order to understand the most appropriate way to engage with affected local communities. Ongoing engagement has taken place throughout the pre-application process.</p>
49	<p>Applicants will also need to identify and consult people who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question, or who could be affected by a project in such a way that they may be able to make a claim for compensation. This will give such parties early notice of projects, and an opportunity to express their views regarding them</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted both non-statutorily and statutorily under Section 42 of the 2008 Act with individuals who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question.</p>
50	<p>It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the application that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests and applicants should make every reasonable effort to ensure that the Book of</p>	<p>The Applicant has carried out significant research and is satisfied that it has undertaken extensive due diligence in order to ensure that all land interests have been identified. The Applicant will engage with any new interests to help them understand how they can engage with the Development Consent Order process.</p>

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	Reference (which records and categorises those land interests) is up to date at the time of submission.	A description of engagement with landowners is included in Chapters 8 and 10 of this Consultation Report.
51	However, it is understood that land interests change over time and that new or additional interests may emerge after an applicant has concluded statutory consultation but just before an application is submitted. In such a situation, the applicant should provide a proportionate opportunity to any new person identified with a land interest to make their views known on the application. Where new interests in land are identified very shortly before the intended submission of an application, despite diligent efforts earlier in the process it may be difficult at that stage for applicants to consult and take account of any responses from those new interests before submitting their application as intended. If this situation arises applicants should be proactive and helpful in ensuring that the person understands how they can, if they so wish, engage with the process if the application is accepted for examination.	Any newly identified landowner was afforded adequate opportunity to consider and respond to the project proposals throughout the pre-application process. Should any new land interests be identified following the pre-application consultation and before the application submission, the applicant will engage with those parties to explain how they are able to engage with the application if it is accepted for examination.
52	Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.	Any newly identified landowner was afforded adequate opportunity to consider and respond to the project proposals throughout the pre-application process. The Applicant undertook additional non-statutory targeted consultation (including with all identified landowners) following the statutory consultation following a revision to a portion of the red line boundary.
53	Local people have a vital role to play at the pre application stage. People should have as much influence as is realistic and possible over decisions which	The Applicant is committed to early and meaningful consultation with local communities in the areas in which it operates. Chapter 9 of this Consultation Report sets out the

	<p>shape their lives and communities. It is therefore critical that they are engaged with project proposals at an early stage. Because they live, work and socialise in the affected area, local people are particularly well placed to comment on what the impact of proposals on their local community might be; or what mitigating measures might be appropriate; or what other opportunities might exist for meeting the project's objectives.</p>	<p>Applicant's approach to consultation with local communities.</p>
<p>54</p>	<p>In consulting on project proposals, an inclusive approach is needed to ensure that different groups have the opportunity to participate and are not disadvantaged in the process. Applicants should use a range of methods and techniques to ensure that they access all sections of the community in question. Local authorities will be able to provide advice on what works best in terms of consulting their local communities given their experience of carrying out consultations in their area.</p>	<p>The Applicant sought to engage with 'Hard to Reach' groups, which focused on inclusive engagement with representatives of seldom heard groups or individuals. Further information on this can be found in Chapter 11 of this Consultation Report.</p>
<p>55</p>	<p>Applicants must set out clearly what is being consulted on. They must be careful to make it clear to local communities what is settled and why, and what remains to be decided, so that expectations of local communities are properly managed. Applicants could prepare a short document specifically for local communities, summarising the project proposals and outlining the matters on which the view of the local community is sought. This can describe core elements of the project and explain what the potential benefits and impacts may be. Such documents should be written in clear, accessible, and non-</p>	<p>The Applicant set out the scope of consultation during the statutory consultation period on the SoCC. A Consultation Summary Document was produced in order to provide an accessible summary of the proposals for the local community. This document contained direct information and questions about the matters on which the views of the local communities were being sought. These questions were also reflected in the consultation questionnaire.</p> <p>Residents were encouraged to contact the project team on the Freephone information line if they had any specific requirements or queries about the consultation process or materials.</p>

	<p>technical language. Applicants should consider making it available in formats appropriate to the needs of people with disabilities if requested. There may be cases where documents may need to be bilingual (for example, Welsh and English in some areas), but it is not the policy of the Government to encourage documents to be translated into non-native languages.</p>	
56	<p>Applicants are required to set out in their Statement of Community Consultation how they propose to consult those living in the vicinity of the land. They are encouraged to consider consulting beyond this where they think doing so may provide more information on the impacts of their proposals (e.g. through visual impacts or increased traffic flow).</p>	<p>The Applicant set out how it proposed to consult with local communities and those living within the vicinity of the land in its SoCC. This is detailed in Chapter 11 of this Consultation Report. The SoCC is also included at Appendix 11.3 of this Consultation Report.</p>
57	<p>The Statement of Community Consultation should act as a framework for the community consultation generally, for example, setting out where details and dates of any events will be published.</p> <p>The Statement of Community Consultation should be made available online, at any exhibitions or other events held by applicants. It should be placed at appropriate local deposit points (e.g. libraries, council offices) and sent to local community groups as appropriate.</p>	<p>The SoCC set out the details of the statutory consultation and was made available online, and at the public exhibition events during the statutory consultation period. It was also sent to identified Section 47 stakeholders and placed on deposit at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selby Library, 52 Micklegate, Selby, YO8 4EQ • Snaith Library, 27-29 Market Place, Snaith, DN14 9HE • Goole Library, Carlisle Street, Goole DN14 5DS <p>Chapter 11 of this Consultation Report sets this out in detail.</p>
58	<p>Applicants are required to publicise their proposed application under section 48 of the Planning Act and the Regulations¹⁵ and set out the detail of what this publicity must entail. This publicity is an integral part of the public consultation</p>	<p>The Section 48 notification was published in relevant publications on the following dates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) For two successive weeks in a local newspaper (The Selby Times) on 26 October and 3 November 2023. (b) Once in an additional local newspaper (Goole Times) on 26 October 2023.

	<p>process. Where possible, the first of the two required local newspaper advertisements should coincide approximately with the beginning of the consultation with communities. However, given the detailed information required for the publicity in the Regulations, aligning publicity with consultation may not always be possible, especially where a multi-stage consultation is intended.</p>	<p>(c) Once in a national newspaper (The Times) on 26 October 2023. (d) Once in the London Gazette on 26 October 2023.</p> <p>The copies of the newspaper notices are provided at Appendix 12.2.</p>
68	<p>To realise the benefits of consultation on a project, it must take place at a sufficiently early stage to allow consultees a real opportunity to influence the proposals. At the same time, consultees will need sufficient information on a project to be able to recognise and understand the impacts.</p>	<p>The Applicant has involved consultees and the local community in the development of its proposals from the earliest stages. Initial engagement took place in line with the Scoping request and continued through stages of non-statutory and statutory consultation in 2022 and 2023.</p>
69	<p>Applicants will often also require detailed technical advice from consultees and it is likely that their input will be of the greatest value if they are consulted when project proposals are fluid, followed up by confirmation of the approach as proposals become firmer. In principle, therefore, applicants should undertake initial consultation as soon as there is sufficient detail to allow consultees to understand the nature of the project properly.</p>	<p>The Applicant has involved consultees and the local community in the development of its proposals from the earliest stages. Initial engagement took place in line with the Scoping request and continued through stages of non-statutory and statutory consultation in 2022 and 2023.</p>
70	<p>To manage the tension between consulting early, but also having project proposals that are firm enough to enable consultees to comment, applicants are encouraged to consider an iterative, phased consultation consisting of two (or more) stages, especially for large projects with long development periods. For</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook informal consultation prior to the statutory consultation phase. Informal engagement and consultation has taken place throughout the process to ensure that consultees and local communities have adequate information at an appropriate time to influence the proposals.</p>

	<p>example, applicants might wish to consider undertaking non-statutory early consultation at a stage where options are still being considered. This will be helpful in informing proposals and assisting the applicant in establishing a preferred option on which to undertake statutory consultation.</p>	
71	<p>Where an iterative consultation is intended, it may be advisable for applicants to carry out the final stage of consultation with persons who have an interest in the land once they have worked up their project proposals in sufficient detail to identify affected land interests.</p>	<p>The Applicant involved landowners in the consultation process from the earliest points at which it was identified that their land would fall within the redline boundary for the project. At the point of undertaking the statutory consultation in October 2023, all landowners were notified of the proposals under Section 42.</p> <p>Further information on this can be found in Chapter 10 of this Consultation Report. Should changes occur to the red line boundary consideration will be given as to whether additional consultation is required.</p>
72	<p>The timing and duration of consultation will be likely to vary from project to project, depending on size and complexity, and the range and scale of the impacts. The Planning Act requires a consultation period of a minimum of 28 days from the day after receipt of the consultation documents. It is expected that this may be sufficient for projects which are straightforward and uncontroversial in nature. But many projects, particularly larger or more controversial ones, may require longer consultation periods than this. Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the proposed project. It is also important that consultees do not withhold information that might affect a project, and that they respond in</p>	<p>The formal consultation period was 42 days, which is longer than the statutory minimum.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement and preparation for the statutory consultation period was undertaken to prepare consultees for the process as far as possible. Non-statutory consultation also allowed consultees an opportunity to be involved and understand the project prior to the statutory consultation period.</p>

	<p>good time to applicants. Where responses are not received by the deadline, the applicant is not obliged to take those responses into account.</p>	
73	<p>Applicants are not expected to repeat consultation rounds set out in their Statement of Community Consultation unless the project proposals have changed very substantially. However, where proposals change to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was consulted on, further consultation may well be needed. This may be necessary if, for example, new information arises which renders all previous options unworkable or invalid for some reason. When considering the need for additional consultation, applicants should use the degree of change, the effect on the local community and the level of public interest as guiding factors.</p>	<p>As a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation and other design developments, several changes were made to the Proposed Development. These are summarised in Chapter 15 of this Consultation Report.</p> <p>Refinements to the proposals have been made, but the project has not altered materially through the process, so there has been no requirement to repeat any statutory consultation rounds.</p>
74	<p>Where a proposed application changes to such a large degree that the proposals could be considered a new application, the legitimacy of the consultation already carried out could be questioned. In such cases, applicants should undertake further reconsultation on the new proposals, and should supply consultees with sufficient information to enable them to understand the nature of the change and any likely significant impacts (but not necessarily the full suite of consultation documents), and allow at least 28 days for consultees to respond.</p>	<p>The Applicant has consulted upon the proposals as set out in the SoCC. Refinements have been made, but the project has not altered materially through the process, so there has been no requirement to repeat any statutory consultation rounds.</p>

75	<p>If the application only changes to a small degree, or if the change only affects part of the development, then it is not necessary for an applicant to undertake a full reconsultation. Where a proposed application is amended in light of consultation responses then, unless those amendments materially change the application or materially changes its impacts, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. Instead, the applicant should ensure that all affected statutory consultees and local communities are informed of the changes.</p>	<p>As a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation and other design developments, several changes were made to the Proposed Development. These are summarised in Chapter 15 of this Consultation Report.</p> <p>Refinements to the proposals have been made, but the project has not altered materially through the process, so there has been no requirement to repeat any statutory consultation rounds.</p>
76	<p>In circumstances where a particular issue has arisen during the preapplication consultation, or where it is localised in nature, it may be appropriate to hold a non-statutory, targeted consultation. A developer's Statement of Community Consultation should be drafted so that it does not preclude this approach. A more bespoke approach can be adopted, which may allow developers to respond with more agility to the issue at hand. If adopting this approach, the emphasis should be on ensuring that relevant individuals and organisations are included.</p>	<p>As a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation and other design developments, several changes were made to the Proposed Development. These are summarised in Chapter 15 of this Consultation Report.</p> <p>Refinements to the proposals have been made, but the project has not altered materially through the process, so there has been no requirement to repeat any statutory consultation rounds.</p>
77	<p>Consultation should also be fair and reasonable for applicants as well as communities. To ensure that consultation is fair to all parties, applicants should be able to demonstrate that the consultation process is proportionate to the impacts of the project in the area that it affects, takes account of the anticipated level of local interest, and takes</p>	<p>As a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation and other design developments, several changes were made to the Proposed Development. These are summarised in Chapter 15 of this Consultation Report.</p> <p>Refinements to the proposals have been made, but the project has not altered materially through the process, so there has been no</p>

	<p>account of the views of the relevant local authorities.</p>	<p>requirement to repeat any statutory consultation rounds.</p>										
<p>80</p>	<p>Therefore, the consultation report should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline; - set out specifically what the applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance or advice published by Government or the Inspectorate; - set out how the applicant has taken account of any response to consultation with local authorities on what should be in the applicant's statement of community consultation; - set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses); - provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed; 	<p>This Consultation Report has been drafted to ensure that these elements are addressed and reflected within the body of the Report. To summarise, the table below shows where this point can be found within the Consultation Report:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="863 629 1426 2002"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="863 629 1267 696">Requirement</th> <th data-bbox="1267 629 1426 696">Reference</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="863 696 1267 949"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline; </td> <td data-bbox="1267 696 1426 949"> <p>Chapters 2 & 3</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="863 949 1267 1424"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - set out specifically what the applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance or advice published by Government or the Inspectorate; </td> <td data-bbox="1267 949 1426 1424"> <p>Chapters 10 - 12</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="863 1424 1267 1749"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - set out how the applicant has taken account of any response to consultation with local authorities on what should be in the applicant's statement of community consultation; </td> <td data-bbox="1267 1424 1426 1749"> <p>Chapter 11</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="863 1749 1267 2002"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses); </td> <td data-bbox="1267 1749 1426 2002"> <p>Chapters 13 & 14</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Requirement	Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline; 	<p>Chapters 2 & 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - set out specifically what the applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance or advice published by Government or the Inspectorate; 	<p>Chapters 10 - 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - set out how the applicant has taken account of any response to consultation with local authorities on what should be in the applicant's statement of community consultation; 	<p>Chapter 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses); 	<p>Chapters 13 & 14</p>
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	<p>- provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to a project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts;</p> <p>- where the applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with this guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken; and</p> <p>- be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects addressed. However, it need not include full technical explanations of these matters.</p>	<p>- provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed;</p>	<p>Chapter 15</p>
		<p>- provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to a project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts;</p>	<p>Chapters 13 & 14</p>
		<p>- where the applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with this guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken; and</p>	<p>Chapters 10 - 12</p>
		<p>- be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects addressed. However, it need not include full technical explanations of these matters.</p>	<p>Chapters 10 - 12</p>
<p>81</p>	<p>It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results of the consultation exercise; how the information received by applicants has been used to shape and influence the project; and how any outstanding issues will be addressed before an</p>	<p>The Applicant has issued newsletters to the local community at stages throughout the pre-application phase. These have included information about how the Proposed Development has been refined since the previous correspondence.</p> <p>Ongoing website updates have also allowed for</p>	

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	application is submitted to the Inspectorate.	a regular update to interested parties about how the plans have evolved.
83	The consultation report may not be the most appropriate format in which to respond to the points raised by various consultee groups and bodies. Applicants should therefore consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full consultation report for those interested. If helpful, this could be supplemented by events in the local area.	<p>The Applicant has produced a summary feedback report which sets out the feedback received from the community and how key issues have been considered. This can be found in Appendix 14.1.</p> <p>Ongoing website updates have also allowed for a regular update to interested parties about how the plans have evolved.</p> <p>Stakeholders also received a written update to include information about how the Proposed Development has been refined since the previous correspondence.</p>
84	A response to points raised by consultees with technical information is likely to need to focus on the specific impacts for which the body has expertise. The applicant should make a judgement as to whether the consultation report provides sufficient detail on the relevant impacts, or whether a targeted response would be more appropriate. Applicants are also likely to have identified a number of key additional bodies for consultation and may need to continue engagement with these bodies on an individual basis.	<p>Technical responses have been dealt with in detail in the Environmental Statement (ES), and where appropriate have been cross referenced by the Consultation Report. Technical consultees have been engaged with on a regular basis throughout the process.</p> <p>Engagement with these bodies will continue through the development of the project as appropriate.</p>
93	For the pre-application consultation process, applicants are advised to include sufficient preliminary environmental information to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the project. The information required may be different for different types and sizes of projects. It may also vary depending on the audience of a particular consultation. The preliminary environmental	The Applicant produced a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). This was available to view at public consultation events. A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR was also produced and made available at the public consultation events. The SoCC set out how to access the PEIR, either online or upon request, and the Applicant undertook the consultation in line with this. The SoCC can be viewed at Appendix 11.3.

	<p>information is not expected to replicate or be a draft of the environmental statement. However, if the applicant considers this to be appropriate (and more cost-effective), it can be presented in this way. The key issue is that the information presented must provide clarity to all consultees. Applicants should be careful not to assume that non-specialist consultees would not be interested in any technical environmental information. It is therefore advisable to ensure access to such information is provided during all consultations. The applicant's Statement of Community Consultation must include a statement about how the applicant intends to consult on preliminary environmental information.</p>	
95	<p>When considering whether a project has the potential to significantly affect the integrity of certain European protected wildlife sites, the applicant must provide a report which should include the site(s) that may be affected, together with sufficient information to enable the Secretary of State, as decision maker, to conclude whether an appropriate assessment is required, and, if so, to undertake such an assessment.</p>	<p>The Applicant has undertaken consultation in line with this recommendation and has engaged with a wide range of expert consultees throughout the pre-application process. This activity is set out in detail in the ES.</p>
96	<p>It is the applicant's responsibility to consult with the relevant statutory bodies and, if they consider it necessary, with any relevant non-statutory nature conservation bodies, in order to gather evidence for such a report (to support a Habitats Regulations Assessment). This consultation should take place as early as possible in the preapplication</p>	<p>As noted above, the Applicant undertook extensive consultation and engagement with relevant bodies. This is set out within the ES and cross referenced as appropriate within this Consultation Report.</p>

	<p>process. One way of doing this is for an applicant to agree an evidence plan. The Planning Inspectorate can also comment on the applicant's draft report in advance of formal submission of the application if it is provided in good time. Further advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments for major infrastructure projects is available from the Inspectorate's Advice Note 10.</p>	
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