

Springwell Solar Farm

Consultation Report

Appendix B-1 to B-3

EN010149/APP/5.2
November 2024
Springwell Energyfarm Ltd

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)
Planning Act 2008
Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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Appendix B-1- Summary of community engagement undertaken outside of formal consultation



Table B-1: Community engagement undertaken by the Applicant outside of formal consultation periods

Stakeholder	Purpose	Date
Pre-phase one consultation (December 2022 to January 2023)		
Cllr Tom Dyer, Assistant Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Environment and Planning	Virtual briefing for members of LCC's Executive on the Proposed Development and plans for non-statutory consultation.	5 January 2023
Near neighbours and BEL tenants	Door-knocking to give advance notice of the launch to residential properties closest to the Order limits. The Applicant knocked on the doors of 80 properties on Monday 9 January 2023, speaking to residents of 39 properties and leaving contact cards and a letter at the remaining properties.	9 January 2023
BEL tenants	In-person meeting arranged by BEL for tenants and friends of the Estate which was attended by the Applicant to introduce the Proposed Development.	9 January 2023
Near neighbour – Old School Cottage	Virtual meeting to discuss the Proposed Development and answer questions ahead of the start of the non-statutory consultation	20 January 2023
Near neighbour – The Maltings and Hill Top Farm	Virtual meeting to discuss the Proposed Development and answer questions ahead of the start of the non-statutory consultation	20 January 2023

Stakeholder	Purpose	Date
Cllr Amelia Bailey	Virtual meeting with Cllr Amelia Bailey to answer questions on the Proposed Development.	23 January 2023
Pre-phase two consultation (March 2023 to December 2023)		
RAF Digby	Virtual meeting to discuss future activity and collaboration in timing any future construction works.	30 March 2023
Lincolnshire Community Foundation	Virtual meeting to discuss approach to community benefit.	21 April 2023
Metheringham Primary School	Virtual meeting to discuss the early design of the Proposed Development, and the Applicant's approach to community engagement and community benefit.	25 April 2023
Dr Caroline Johnson MP	Virtual meeting to answer questions on the Proposed Development raised by constituents.	23 May 2023
Resident design workshop	Resident workshop to discuss outcomes of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment and seek initial feedback on updated proposals. Attended by eight residents from seven properties, focused on Springwell East.	12 June 2023
Resident design workshop	Resident workshop to discuss outcomes of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment and seek initial feedback on updated proposals. Attended by nineteen residents from twelve properties, focused on Springwell Central.	13 June 2023

Stakeholder	Purpose	Date
Resident design workshop	Resident workshop to discuss outcomes of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment and seek initial feedback on updated proposals. Attended by twenty people from twelve properties, focused on Springwell West.	15 June 2023
Digby the Tedder Primary School	Virtual meeting to discuss the early design of the Proposed Development, and the Applicant's approach to community engagement and community benefit.	6 July 2023
Cllr Amelia Bailey	Virtual meeting to brief Cllr Bailey on the resident design workshops and Stage 2 design of the Proposed Development.	27 July
Post-phase two consultation (February 2024 – August 2024)		
Councillor Amelia Bailey	Virtual meeting to discuss feedback from statutory consultation, and update on next steps.	29 February 2024
Councillor Amelia Bailey	Virtual meeting to discuss next steps of the DCO process and opportunities for engagement.	28 March 2024
Councillor Amelia Bailey	Virtual meeting to update on engagement and next steps towards DCO submission.	17 May 2024
Councillor Amelia Bailey	Virtual meeting to update on the design of the Proposed Development and provide a briefing on targeted consultation.	09 July 2024
Councillor Amelia Bailey	Virtual meeting to update on engagement and next steps towards DCO submission.	08 October 2024

Appendix B-2- Summary of stakeholder engagement undertaken outside of formal consultation



Table B-2: Stakeholder meetings undertaken by the Applicant outside of formal consultation periods

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
Pre-phase one consultation (December 2022 to January 2023)		
National Grid	Discussion on the grid connection agreement and proposed National Grid Navenby Substation.	28 October 2022
North Kesteven District Council	Meeting to introduce the Proposed Development, discuss planning process and timetable, including plans for public consultation.	12 December 2022
Lincolnshire County Council planning officers	Meeting to introduce the Proposed Development, discuss planning process and timetable, including plans for public consultation.	15 December 2022
National Grid	Discussion on the grid connection agreement and proposed National Grid Navenby Substation.	20 January 2023
Pre-phase two consultation (March 2023 to December 2023)		
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council officers	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Performance Agreements 	15 March 2023
National Grid	Technical engagement on proposed National Grid Navenby Substation.	20 March 2023

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
Ashby Walled Garden	Visit to Ashby Walled Garden by heritage consultant on request.	23 March 2023
North Kesteven Economic Development Manager	Meeting to outline initial ideas about community benefit and seek feedback on proposed approach.	29 March 2023
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council officers	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping, EIA engagement and survey works • Feedback from non-statutory consultation • Cumulative effects • Alternatives 	30 March 2023
National Grid	Meeting on public consultation and stakeholder engagement on the proposed National Grid Navenby Substation.	11 April 2023
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council officers	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project update • Scoping Report • SoCC • Surveys and technical engagement 	27 April 2023

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council officers	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Zonal Plan • Ward councillor engagement • Update on planned resident design workshops • Scoping Opinion 	11 May 2023
National Grid	Technical engagement on proposed National Grid Navenby Substation.	15 May 2023
Planning Inspectorate	Project Update Meeting	23 May 2023
National Grid	Meeting on public consultation and stakeholder engagement on the proposed National Grid Navenby Substation.	23 May 2023
Lincolnshire County Council	Transport topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details).	25 May 2023
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council officers	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on project evolution and design principles • LVIA 	1 June 2023

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Landscape topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details).	1 June 2023
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Site visit (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details).	13 June 2023
Exolum	Discussion on the Proposed Development and interaction with assets operated by Exolum.	16 June 2023
Natural England	Introductory meeting on the Proposed Development, ecology surveys, biodiversity and scoping.	20 June 2023
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Meeting to provide an update on survey work, the design process, biodiversity and proposed improvements to the PRoW network.	20 June 2023
Historic England	Introduction to the Proposed Development.	20 June 2023
Environment Agency	Introductory meeting on the Proposed Development.	22 June 2023
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Landscape topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details).	03 July 2023

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on residential design workshops. 	7 July 2023
National Grid	Meeting on public consultation and stakeholder engagement on the proposed National Grid Navenby Substation.	19 July 2023
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Project and timelines • National planning policy 	3 August 2023
Planning Inspectorate	Project Update Meeting	10 August 2023
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council officers	Fortnightly meeting with officers. Topics discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal discussions on SoCC • EIA engagement 	16 August 2023
Cadent Gas	Meeting to discuss Cadent Gas assets within the proposed site.	17 August 2023
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Services	Introduction on the Proposed Development as presented at phase one consultation and approach to collaborating on key documents.	24 August 2023

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
Natural England	Meeting to discuss ALC surveys and consideration of BMV land in the design of the Proposed Development.	11 September 2023
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft SoCC and informal comments received from host authorities • EIA engagement 	14 September 2023
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Ecology topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details).	14 September 2023
Lincolnshire County Council and Heritage Lincolnshire	Cultural heritage topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details).	15 September 2023
Anglian Water	Introductory meeting to discuss the Proposed Development and effects on Anglian Water assets (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 15: Water [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details).	25 September 2023
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included:	5 October 2023

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early results of environmental assessments, including ALC. 	
National Grid	Introduction to the Proposed Development and discussion around asset protection.	12 October 2023
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	A workshop hosted by LWT to discuss opportunities to collaborate with solar developers on biodiversity net gain.	16 October 2023
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	<p>Regular Planning and Communications meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics discussed included National Grid Substation • Introduction of the Proposed Development for new officers attending fortnightly call from LCC. 	19 October 2023
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	<p>Regular Planning and Communications meeting.</p> <p>Topics discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on WSI • Update on SoCC and public consultation • Design process 	02 November 2023
National Grid	National Grid Navenby Substation customer webinar.	7 November 2023
Planning Inspectorate	Project Update Meeting	7 November 2023

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to the site boundary to accommodate information received regarding National Grid Substation • Future engagement 	16 November 2023
Post-phase two consultation (February 2024 – October 2024)		
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback to statutory consultation • Next steps and Stage 3 design • NKDC Community Benefits Policy • Other developments in the area 	29 February 2024
National Grid	Technical engagement on proposed National Grid Navenby Substation.	01 March 2024
Environment Agency	Meeting to discuss water resources and flood risk (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 15: Water [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more detailed information)	07 March 2024
Planning Inspectorate	Project Update Meeting	13 March 2024

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
North Kesteven District Council	Cultural heritage topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details).	18 March 2024
CAA/Hill Top Farm Microlights	Meeting to discuss outputs of Glint and Glare Assessment.	20 March 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme up to DCO submission, including EIA assessments and engagement • Schedule of topic-specific engagement with specialists 	21 March 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Landscape topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details).	04 April 2024
Lincolnshire County Council	Transport topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details).	12 April 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from topic-specific meetings since the last meeting and upcoming engagement 	18 April 2024

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALC • National Grid update 	
CAA/Hill Top Farm Microlights	Meeting to discuss outputs of Glint and Glare Assessment.	01 May 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	<p>Regular Planning and Communications meeting.</p> <p>Topics discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from topic-specific meetings since the last meeting and upcoming engagement • Update on other projects in the area 	02 May 2024
Natural England	Meeting to discuss consultation feedback, including approach to agricultural land and ALC surveys.	03 May 2024
North Kesteven District Council	Ecology topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details)	09 May 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	<p>Regular Planning and Communications meeting.</p> <p>Topics discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from topic-specific meetings since the last meeting and upcoming engagement 	16 May 2024

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on highways and proposed highways improvements on Heath Road. 	
Lincolnshire County Council	Transport topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details).	29 May 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from topic-specific meetings since the last meeting and upcoming engagement. Wider solar NSIPs scheduled for determination. 	30 May 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Land, soils and groundwater topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 11: Land, Soils and Groundwater [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details)	31 May 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from topic-specific meetings since the last meeting and upcoming engagement. 	13 June 2024
Ministry of Defence	Meeting to discuss consultation feedback and proposed future engagement.	18 June 2024

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Landscape topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details).	19 June 2024
Cadent Gas	Meeting to discuss statutory consultation feedback and approach to draft protective provisions.	24 June 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from topic-specific meetings since the last meeting and upcoming engagement. • Introduction to the Proposed Development and team for new officers from NKDC. • Approach to targeted consultation. • Biodiversity strategy 	27 June 2024
Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership	Transport topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details)	05 July 2024
North Kesteven District Council	Climate topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 8: Climate [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details)	05 July 2024
Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership	Transport topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details).	08 July 2024

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Services	Meeting to discuss approach to fire safety.	09 July 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from topic-specific meetings since the last meeting and upcoming engagement. • Update on proposals for targeted consultation. 	11 July 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Ecology topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details)	23 July 2024
CAA/Hill Top Farm Microlights	Meeting to discuss outputs of Glint and Glare Assessment.	25 July 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequential test • Approach to cumulative assessment 	25 July 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included:	22 August 2024

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key headlines from targeted consultation • Discussion on Adequacy of Consultation 	
National Grid Electricity Transmission	Meeting to discuss DCO submission requirements and Statement of Common Ground.	04 September 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	<p>Regular Planning and Communications meeting.</p> <p>Topics discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Design Commitments and how feedback has helped to shape the design of the Proposed Development. • Pre-application consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development. 	12 September 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	<p>Regular Planning and Communications meeting.</p> <p>Topics discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft DCO 	19 September 2024
Anglian Water	Water topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 15: Water [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details) and update on draft Protective Provisions.	24 September 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	<p>Regular Planning and Communications meeting.</p> <p>Topics discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of draft Management Plans 	03 October 2024

Stakeholder	Purpose and topics discussed	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills and employment 	
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement that SoCG would be prepared and agreed during examination to allow LPAs to review Application. 	17 October 2024
National Grid	Technical engagement on proposed National Grid Navenby Substation, including update on draft Protective Provisions.	29 October 2024
Lincolnshire County Council	Transport topic meeting (see Environmental Statement Volume 1, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1] for more details).	30 October 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	Regular Planning and Communications meeting. Topics discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S56 process • Highways • Acceptance 	31 October 2024

Appendix B-3- Early engagement on Adequacy of Consultation



By email only

10 September 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

Springwell Solar Farm: pre-submission engagement on consultation process

I am writing regarding Springwell Solar Farm – a proposed new solar farm and battery storage facility located in North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The proposals also include infrastructure to connect Springwell Solar Farm to the National Grid and any necessary supporting site infrastructure and environmental mitigation, including landscaping.

As Principal Project Development Manager at EDF Renewables, I have recently taken over from [REDACTED] following his retirement, and I am looking forward to working with you on the Springwell project.

Springwell Solar Farm is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') under the Planning Act 2008 because the amount of electricity it would generate is over 50 megawatts ('MW'). This means we need to apply for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') to build and operate it.

Our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm have been shaped by an iterative programme of pre-application consultation and engagement. This has included two phases of formal consultation on the proposals, targeted consultation on improvements to the highways and footpath network in parallel with ongoing engagement with key stakeholders, including near neighbours, statutory consultees and the host authorities. A full summary of pre-application consultation and engagement undertaken in support of the proposals will be provided in the Consultation Report submitted as part of our DCO application.

Why we are writing to you

On 30 April 2024, the Planning Inspectorate published updated guidance on the NSIP pre-application process, which included the introduction of an Adequacy of Consultation Milestone ('AoCM'). The AoCM is intended to reduce the burden on local authorities during the acceptance stage through pre-submission engagement on the consultation process. Specifically, it is advised that the AoCM should:

- establish the consultation undertaken to date;
- confirm the approach set out in the Statement of Community Consultation; and
- summarise the consultation responses and the way in which they are shaping the application.

We recognise the value in working collaboratively with local authorities at this important stage in the DCO process. While it is understood that the



AoCM is expected to apply to projects that have not yet commenced formal consultation, we are keen to accommodate engagement with host authorities on some elements of the AoCM prior to submitting our DCO application. Records of this engagement will be sent to the Planning Inspectorate and published on the project page in line with the updated guidance.

As discussed at our meeting on 22 August 2024, our pre-submission engagement for the AoCM will focus on how consultation on Springwell Solar Farm has complied with the commitments set out in our Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') - including how feedback from host authorities helped to shape the SoCC. We are proposing to undertake this pre-submission engagement in parallel with our continued technical engagement with both North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council.

This letter sets out a list of meetings held, headline topics discussed and how this has influenced our approach to consultation. In the first instance, we would be grateful if you could review this summary ahead of discussion at our regularly programmed meetings. It is intended that we will use the meetings to share draft documents relevant to the AoCM and give an overview of the pre-application consultation and engagement undertaken to date. Discussion at these meetings will help to inform a written response from both local authorities on completion of the AoCM.

Summary of engagement

Engagement with the host authorities has helped to shape our approach to consultation. This has included a programme of fortnightly meetings between officers and members of the project team that focussed on planning and communications. Since its inception (15 March 2023), these meetings have provided the opportunity to discuss key elements of the Springwell project as it has evolved.

Through these meetings, we have built long-term working relationships with officers and have received valuable inputs that have shaped our proposals. We would like to thank officers for their continued engagement throughout the pre-application process.

This programme of meetings has complemented the technical engagement between specialist officers and members of the project team on environmental assessments.

The dates of planning and communication meetings, along with key topics discussed (where relevant to pre-application consultation) are included in the table below.

Date	Key points from discussion on consultation and engagement
15 March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to comms team and approach to pre-application consultation
30 March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headlines from phase one consultation and next steps• Approach to notifying communities of survey works
27 April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreement of approach to consultation on draft SoCC, following email on 12 April 2023 to ask for preferred approach (timings and preference for informal consultation). <p>Agreement that a draft SoCC would be provided for informal feedback and discussed at a dedicated meeting following Scoping.</p>

Date	Key points from discussion on consultation and engagement
11 May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ward councillor engagement • Update on planned resident design workshops
01 June 2023	No consultation/engagement discussion
07 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on residential design workshops
03 August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of timing of informal consultation period on draft SoCC.
16 August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on contents of the draft SoCC, following issue on 04 August 2023. Topics discussed included the boundary of the inner zone, locations of the deposit points, the location and timings of public events, seldom heard groups and date of formal SoCC consultation
14 September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on key changes made to the draft SoCC ahead of formal consultation (15 September – 13 October 2023) to take into account feedback from host authorities. Key changes included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revising the boundary of the inner zone to follow a 2-kilometre buffer around the proposed Site boundary, extending in some areas to consider the wider effects of the Proposed Development. ○ Changing the location of a deposit point from Waddington Bar Library to The Venue, Navenby because it was less distant from the proposed Site. ○ Adding an additional public event at The Venue, Navenby.
05 October 2023	No consultation/engagement discussion
19 October 2023	No consultation/engagement discussion
02 November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on matters arising from formal consultation on the draft SoCC. Key changes following formal consultation included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moving four public events forward to week 2 of the consultation to give consultees more time to engage before the end of the consultation period. ○ Update on timings for phase two consultation
16 November 2023	No consultation/engagement discussion
11 January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of phase two consultation
08 February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on progress of phase two consultation



Date	Key points from discussion on consultation and engagement
29 February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key headlines from phase two consultation
21 March 2024	No consultation/engagement discussion
18 April 2024	No consultation/engagement discussion
02 May 2024	No consultation/engagement discussion
16 May 2024	No consultation/engagement discussion
30 May 2024	No consultation/engagement discussion
13 June 2024	No consultation/engagement discussion
27 June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach to targeted consultation
11 July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on proposals for targeted consultation
25 July 2024	No consultation/engagement discussion
22 August 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key headlines from targeted consultation • Discussion on AoCM
12 September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Design Commitments and how feedback has helped to shape the design of Springwell.

We look forward to discussing the contents of this letter at our next meeting on Thursday 12 September.

Yours sincerely,


 Principal Project Development Manager,
 EDF Renewables UK



Your Ref : EN010149
Our Ref : 23/0254/NSIP
Contact : [REDACTED]
Email : [REDACTED]



By Email only to:

[REDACTED]

26 September 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Application by Springwell Energy Farm Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the Springwell Solar Park on land between Blankney, B1188, Scopwick, Ashby de la Launde, RAF Digby, B1191, A15 and Temple Bruer Parish, Lincolnshire

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone – response by North Kesteven District Council

I refer to your letter dated 10 September 2024 and further email dated 13 September 2024 enclosing your Draft Consultation Response Appendix D-4: Compliance with the SoCC (the main Consultation Report and other Appendices were not provided) and a slide presentation (dated 13.09.24) describing how the proposals have evolved since its inception.

The Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) Pre-Application Prospectus 2024 introduced the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) to allow early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the applicant at pre-application stage by the Planning Inspectorate. The written submission to the Inspectorate may include the views of local authorities.

This letter provides the views of North Kesteven District Council to EDF, as the developer for the Springwell Solar Farm, to help inform their written submission on the AoCM as part of the DCO submission process.

The guidance within the Prospectus sets out that the written submission should cover:

- The consultation undertaken to date,
- The approaches set out in the Statement of Community Consultation, and
- Summarises the consultation responses and the way in which they are shaping the application.

For the purposes of the AoCM, we note that, given the respective timescales for the release of the 2024 Prospectus and the advanced preparation of a DCO application for the solar farm; focus has primarily been on the first two matters. To this end, we have reviewed the Draft Consultation Response Appendix D-4: Compliance with the SoCC which you have kindly shared with us.

District Council Offices, Kesteven Street, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7EF

[REDACTED]

I can confirm that the project team has engaged with the Council throughout the pre-application process, particularly through fortnightly technical liaison meetings between officers and members of the project team which included discussions on the approach to consultation. The Council has been offered the opportunity to comment on the draft Statement of Community Consultation and our comments were taken on board prior to the statutory consultation being undertaken (Jan-Feb 2024). A similar level of engagement was carried out around the second statutory consultation exercise on proposed amendments to the red line (August 2024).

With regard to the third matter, I can confirm that we have not been party to detailed information about how the consultation responses have shaped the proposals nor the likely environmental impacts of the changes. However, through the fortnightly liaison meetings; we have been kept informed, albeit at a high level, of the amendments to the proposals in relation to technical matters such as impacts on land use/agricultural land impacts, public rights of way, flood risk, landscape and visual impact and ecology particularly where this have sought to overcome or minimise adverse environmental impacts highlighted through the consultation process with statutory and non-statutory consultees. These were summarised in a presentation by the project team on 12 September 2024.

The high level of engagement with the Council over the pre-application period is to be commended. We are satisfied that, at this stage and based on the information provided, an adequate level of consultation has been carried out subject to the following caveat.

This response is made without prejudice to the formal response that will be provided by the Council to the statutory Adequacy of Consultation requirements under s42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, once a DCO application has been made and the full Consultation report has been submitted, and to the scope of the Council's representations through its LIR and Written Representations once the application is accepted for examination.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

Sent by email:



27th September 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

Adequacy of Consultation Request – Application by Springwell Energy Farm Ltd for a Development Consent Order for Springwell Solar Farm in North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire

Thank you for your letter of 10 September 2024, and the follow up email on 13 September 2024, which included your Draft Consultation Response Appendix D-4: Compliance with the SoCC. Please note the main Consultation Report and other Appendices were not provided. Additionally, a slide presentation (dated 13th September 2024) detailed how the proposals have evolved since inception.

The Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) was introduced through the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) Pre-Application Prospectus in 2024, and aims to facilitate an earlier consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the applicant at pre-application stage by the Planning Inspectorate. The written submission to the Inspectorate may include the views of local authorities.

The Prospectus sets out that written submissions should cover:

- The consultation undertaken to date
- The approaches set out in the Statement of Community Consultation
- Summarises the Consultation responses and the way in which they are shaping the application.

In response to your request for a view from Lincolnshire County Council on the adequacy of consultation and having had regard to Section 42 (Duty to consult), 47 (Duty to consult the local community) and 48 (Duty to publicise) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended). I can confirm that Lincolnshire County Council is of the view that Springwell Solar Energy Ltd to date has carried out adequate pre-application consultation in accordance with the requirements as set out in Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act.

The Applicant commenced early engagement with Lincolnshire County Council from March 2023 and, regular meetings with the Planning Lead together with technical meetings with other specialist council officers and its consultants have taken place throughout the majority of the pre-application process. Springwell Energy Farm Ltd formally consulted the Council on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in September 2023.

There has been active engagement between the Springwell project team and Lincolnshire County Council throughout the pre-application process. This has included regular liaison meetings between council officers and the project team every two weeks. The approach to consultation has been a key topic of discussion at relevant times. The Council has been given the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft SoCC and our feedback was taken into account prior to the commencement of statutory consultation (PIER) in January 2024. The Council were also consulted in respect of consultation in advance of the second statutory consultation exercise in August 2024, on proposed amendments to the red line boundary.

The Council has not been provided with any specific detailed information on how the consultation responses have shaped the application, however, we have been kept up to date on amendments to the proposals through the 2 weekly liaison meetings, and have been invited to discuss our comments from the consultations and agree mitigation measures at topic based technical meetings in relation to highway, public rights of way, agricultural land, landscape and visual and ecology matters. A summary of the changes to the proposal was presented by the Springwell project team to Council officers on 12th September 2024.

Lincolnshire County Council is therefore satisfied that an appropriate level of consultation has been conducted at this stage.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]



springwellsolarfarm.co.uk