



**Pear tree Hill Solar Farm
EN010157**

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

August 2024

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.0 This Adequacy of Consultation Report ('the Report') has been prepared by RWE Renewables UK Solar & Storage Ltd ('we' or 'the Applicant') as part of the development of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for Peartree Hill Solar Farm ('the Proposed Development').
- 1.1.1 The Proposed Development is defined as a NSIP under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008¹ ('PA 2008'), as it comprises:
- The construction or extension of an electricity generating station (Part 3, Section 14(1)(a)); and
 - Its capacity is more than 50 MW (Part 3, Section 15(2)(c)).
- 1.1.2 Therefore, an application for a DCO for the Proposed Development will be made to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero pursuant to the PA 2008. The DCO will include the necessary rights and powers to ensure construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, including compulsory acquisition powers (if required).
- 1.1.3 In April 2024, the Government introduced new guidance:
- (1) Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects² ('the Guidance') (published 30 April 2024)
 - (2) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus³ ('the Prospectus') (published 16 May 2024)
- 1.1.4 Both the Guidance and the Prospectus sets out the requirements and expectations in the preparation of an application for development consent.

¹ The Planning Act 2008, available online <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>

² Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. Available online <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>

³ Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. Available online [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus)

- 1.1.5 The Guidance and Prospectus introduce a new early adequacy of consultation milestone (AoCM), aimed at providing the Applicant with an opportunity to submit to the Planning Inspectorate a document setting out the consultation undertaken to date, confirming that the approaches set out in the Statement of Community Consultation have been met and providing a summary of consultation responses received and how these responses are shaping the proposed application. To inform the AoCM a written submission should be prepared by the Applicant to enable the Planning Inspectorate to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant to date on the Proposed Development with the objective of minimising the risk of non-acceptance at application acceptance stage.
- 1.1.6 The Guidance states: *“This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application.*
- “The adequacy of consultation milestone should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as a short statement of the elements of consultation which have been carried out compared with the components set out in the Programme Document and the SoCC. The statement should include the views and any relevant supporting material from local authorities if available.”*
- 1.1.7 The AoCM is a non-statutory requirement.
- 1.1.8 Under section 55(4)(b) of the PA 2008, at the acceptance stage, the Planning Inspectorate will seek the formal views from local authorities about the adequacy of consultation.
- 1.1.9 The Applicant has taken a proactive approach to pre-application engagement with consultees and local communities which has helped the Applicant understand concerns and shape proposals ahead of submission. This Report provides an overview of the engagement and consultation activity to date and how it has met with the requirements the PA 2008.

1.2 Peartree Hill Solar Farm

- 1.2.0 The Proposed Development is a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating and storage facility with an export capacity of 320 megawatts (MW) and associated infrastructure, located in East Riding of Yorkshire.

- 1.2.1 The Proposed Development comprises areas of solar PV modules connected by a series of underground cables. The Proposed Development would establish a grid connection via underground cabling to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation, which would transfer the electricity to the national electricity network.
- 1.2.2 The Proposed Development comprises the following main elements:
- Solar PV modules and associated mounting structures;
 - On-site supporting equipment including inverters, transformers, and switchgear;
 - A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS);
 - Two on-site substations to connect the solar PV modules to distribution and transmission networks;
 - Low voltage and 33 kilovolts (kV) interconnecting cabling within the land areas to connect the solar PV modules together and to connect the solar PV modules to the two on-site substations;
 - 132 kV underground cabling connecting the on-site substations to the National Grid Creyke Beck Substation;
 - Associated infrastructure including access tracks, parking, security measures, gates and fencing, lighting, drainage infrastructure and storage containers;
 - Works at National Grid Creyke Beck Substation to facilitate the connection of the 132 kV underground cabling in to the Substation;
 - Highways works to facilitate access for construction vehicles;
 - Environmental mitigation and enhancement measures; and
 - Temporary development during the construction phase of the Proposed Development including construction compounds, parking and temporary access roadways.
- 1.2.3 The Proposed Development also falls within the definition of 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development' as defined within the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (hereafter, 'EIA Regulations')². An Environmental Statement will therefore be submitted alongside the DCO application. A request for a scoping opinion was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on Thursday 9 November 2023.

2 Overview of consultation and engagement to date

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.0 The Applicant has conducted extensive pre-application consultation in preparing its DCO application. This included early engagement with stakeholders and the community to introduce the Proposed Development, a period of non-statutory consultation and a period of statutory consultation intended to meet the requirements set by the PA 2008 and EIA Regulations, all prior to the submission of a DCO application.
- 2.1.1 The main stages of consultation undertaken were:
- **Autumn 2023:** A four-week non-statutory public consultation took place between Monday 9 October and Monday 6 November 2023. The initial non-statutory consultation served to introduce the local community to the Proposed Development and to provide an early opportunity to shape the evolving design. Throughout the four-week consultation period, 102 responses were received.
 - **Spring 2024:** A statutory consultation which ran for 6 weeks from Wednesday 15 May to Wednesday 26 June 2024. The consultation set out the detailed elements of the Proposed Development, including changes made since the non-statutory consultation, along with a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') which presented the preliminary findings of the environmental impact assessment of the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.2 Key local stakeholders, including all host parish councils, host and neighbouring MPs and key East Riding of Yorkshire councillors, were informed of the proposals ahead of the non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation, with invitations to be briefed/updated on the proposed development. Meetings were conducted from September 2023, through the non-statutory consultation period to November 2023 and then in the run-up and during statutory consultation, as outlined in **Table 2.1** below.
- 2.1.3 At statutory consultation, Riston Parish Council requested a public meeting in addition to the parish council briefing. The Applicant delivered a public session in Riston Village Hall on Monday 24 June 2024.

Table 2.1: Meetings with local representatives

Stakeholder	Date of Meeting
The office of David Davis, MP for Haltemprice and Howden	Wednesday 20 September 2023
The office of Graham Stuart, MP for Beverley and Holderness	Wednesday 18 October 2023
Councillor Leo Hammond (Cabinet member for Planning, Communities and Public Protection) and the Director of Planning and Development Manager), East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Friday 13 October 2023
Woodmansey Parish Council	Monday 16 October 2023
Tickton and Routh Parish Council	Monday 16 October 2023
Catwick Parish Council	Wednesday 18 October 2023
Cottingham Parish Council	Tuesday 24 October 2023
Leven Parish Council	Tuesday 7 November 2023
Cllr Philip Redshaw, Cottingham North Ward, East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Monday 15 April 2024
The office of Graham Stuart, MP for Beverley and Holderness	Monday 15 April 2024
Cllr John Holtby and Cllr Samantha Whyte, Mid-Holderness ward, East Riding of Yorkshire	Friday 03 May 2024
Cllr Hammond, Cabinet member Planning, Communities and Public Protection, East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Wednesday 08 May 2024
Cllr Amanda Talbot, Mid Holderness ward, East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Wednesday 08 May 2024
Tickton and Routh Parish Council	Monday 20 May 2024
Skidby Parish Council	Tuesday 04 June 2024
Cottingham Parish Council	Tuesday 04 June 2024
Riston Parish Council	Wednesday 05 June 2024
Catwick Parish Council	Wednesday 19 June 2024
Beverley Town Council	Monday 08 July 2024

- 2.1.4 As part of the development of the technical design and environmental assessment work, engagement has taken place with a number of statutory consultees since Summer 2023, including East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Historic England, Environment Agency and Natural England. This engagement helped shape the PEIR and will inform the Environmental Statement. A summary of engagement undertaken with relevant environmental bodies will be included in the Environmental Statement and Consultation Report.
- 2.1.5 A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) setting out how the Applicant proposed to consult with people living in the vicinity of the proposals was produced for the statutory consultation in accordance with the PA 2008. The Applicant consulted with the host local authority, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, about what was to be in the SoCC prior to its publication. The Applicant also consulted Hull City Council, as a neighbouring authority which has the cable route going close to its boundary line. Details of how the consultation was delivered in line with the SoCC are shown in **Section 3**.
- 2.1.6 The Applicant is currently analysing responses received as part of the statutory consultation and will produce a Consultation Report as part of the DCO application. The Consultation Report will be in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008 and the recently updated Planning Inspectorate guidance 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report'.
- 2.1.7 The Applicant will continue to engage statutory bodies on any outstanding issues and the current liaison plan includes a monthly meeting with East Riding of Yorkshire Council.
- 2.1.8 As part of design refinements after the statutory consultation, the Applicant has identified some small changes to the red line boundary around the selected cable corridor. These are needed to facilitate access points for construction. A targeted consultation is planned for September 2024 to consult on these changes. All impacted land interests will be notified with details of the changes. The parish councils and highways authority, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, will also be consulted. The targeted consultation will be in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC. Consultees will be given 28 days to provide their comments by email to the Applicant. All feedback will be considered and captured in the Consultation Report.

2.2 Non-statutory consultation

- 2.2.0 A four-week non-statutory public consultation took place between Monday 9 October and Monday 6 November 2023. Over the course of the non-statutory consultation, the project team held three face-to-face public exhibitions and two webinars. The consultation was advertised through a mixture of direct mailings, newspaper and social media adverts and posters sent to local parishes. Dedicated information channels were established for those who had questions about the Proposed Development or needed to get in contact with the project team.
- 2.2.1 Over 100 responses were received from during the non-statutory consultation in Autumn 2023. All issues raised were considered and responded to as part of our non-statutory Consultation Report, published in January 2024 on the project website⁴.
- 2.2.2 **Table 2.2** below outlines the key changes to the scheme which were implemented as a result of the feedback received at non-statutory consultation and presented at statutory consultation.

Table 2.2: Key changes in response to feedback received at non-statutory consultation

⁴ Peartree Hill Solar Farm Non-Statutory Consultation Report <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2024/05/Non-Statutory-Consultation-Report-January-2024.pdf>

Feedback	Response
<p>The Applicant received comments regarding the size of the Land Areas presented at non-statutory consultation and concerns regarding potential visual impact.</p>	<p>Within the Land Areas, the Applicant reduced the area proposed for solar panels, and associated infrastructure for statutory consultation. This enabled the addition of appropriate buffers to homes, villages and environmental features closest to the site. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Area A: the environmental mitigation and enhancement area in the northern part of the Land Area was increased, which minimised any potential impacts on identified below-ground archaeology. • Land Area B: an area (0.44 hectares) in the southern part of Land Area B was removed from being solar development. • Land Area C: solar areas proposed to be set back to reduce visual impact on local properties. • Land Area D: solar areas proposed to be set back to reduce visual impact on local properties and solar panels removed near Meaux Deserted Medieval Village to protect its setting. • Land Area E: two fields removed from solar development and instead proposed to be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement, reducing the impact on nearby properties. • Land Area F: solar panels removed from areas to minimise potential impacts on below-ground archaeology.
<p>The Applicant received comments on land use and ensuring impacts on ecology are mitigated.</p>	<p>The Applicant increased the areas that are proposed for ecological mitigation, ecological enhancement and land retained for agricultural use. The illustrative masterplan shows proposed locations for outdoor classrooms, wildflower meadows and amenity spaces</p>
<p>The Applicant received comments about the visual impact of the solar farm.</p>	<p>The Applicant progressed plans to include new planting across the site to screen views of solar infrastructure from residential areas, roads and footpaths.</p>

<p>The Applicant received comments outlining the desire for Peartree Hill Solar Farm to include public rights of way, bridleways and new permissive paths.</p>	<p>The Applicant progressed plans to include new permissive paths within the Proposed Development, which could provide up to 7km of new walking routes.</p>
<p>The Applicant received comments outlining the importance of locating battery energy storage and on-site substations with consideration to location, visibility and noise.</p>	<p>The Applicant progressed the site configuration to consider siting the two on-site substations in Land Areas C and E, alongside battery storage, adjacent to existing vegetation which provides screening.</p>

2.3 Statutory consultation

- 2.3.0 A six-week statutory public consultation took place between Wednesday 15 May and Wednesday 26 June 2024. In accordance with the SoCC, the Applicant held four face-to-face public exhibitions and two webinars. A suite of consultation material was developed including a consultation brochure, newsletter, PEIR and non-technical summary of the PEIR. All materials were available on the Applicant's website.⁵
- 2.3.1 Consultation was undertaken in line with the requirements of the PA 2008, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Notices about the consultation were published in a local newspaper and national newspaper and section 42 consultees were identified and were sent a consultation pack including a section 42 letter, consultation brochure, consultation newsletter, section 47/48 notice, feedback form and return envelope.

⁵ Peartree Hill Solar Farm documents page: <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/documents/>

- 2.3.2 Schedule 1 to the APFP Regs was amended so that from 30 April 2024, 'relevant' (for 'relevant parish council' for example) is defined as: "*(a) "relevant" , in relation to a body (except a Northern Ireland Department), shall mean the body which has responsibility for the location where the proposals may or will be sited or has responsibility for an area which neighbours that location."* [PINS Advice Note 3 \(EIA notification and consultation\)](#) was revised in May 2024 but does not update the position on the 'relevance test' in light of the new changes introduced and what the Planning Inspectorate interprets 'responsibility for an area which neighbours that location' to be. The Applicant therefore decided to take a precautionary approach and consulted all parish councils that have a boundary with a parish council in which the Proposed Development is located. In addition, any Internal Drainage Board, Highways Authority, statutory undertaker, police authority, ambulance authority and fire and rescue authority within 1km of the Proposed Development were consulted with under section 42 of the PA 2008 on Monday 24 June 2024. To ensure these consultees had sufficient time to consider the proposals the consultation was extended until 11.59pm on Friday 26 July.
- 2.3.3 The Consultation Report will outline how the Applicant identified and consulted with the relevant prescribed bodies and local authorities as required under section 42 and how it publicised the application in the prescribed manner in line with the requirements of section 47 and 48 of the PA 2008.
- 2.3.4 A printing error was identified in the consultation brochures sent as part of the section 42 pack on 13 May 2024. The incorrect land area plan was printed on page 11 for 'Land area B: Land North West of Long Riston.'
- 2.3.5 The below actions were undertaken to address this:
- The consultation brochure was updated so that the correct version was available on the project website www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk from the start of consultation (Wednesday 15 May 2024).
 - A correction letter was sent to all consultees and key stakeholders, who had received the initial letter, on Wednesday 15 May 2024 alongside a corrected version of page 11 from the consultation brochure with the correct land area plan for Land Area B.
 - New copies of the corrected consultation brochure were printed for deposit locations and in time for the all in-person consultation events.
 - Whilst the new copies of the consultation brochure were being printed, the Applicant manually added an insert into the consultation brochures left at deposit points of the corrected page 11 and clearly indicated with a label that page 11 within the consultation brochure has an error.
- 2.3.6

2.4 Landowner engagement

- 2.4.0 As part of the initial project development phase, the Applicant identified and engaged with landowners on the proposed parcels which could host the solar farm. As part of the non-statutory consultation, three indicative cable route corridor options - which would link the solar farm to the National Grid Creyke Beck substation, near Cottingham – were presented. Landowners within these corridors were identified and sent a letter at the start of the non-statutory consultation informing them that one of the presented options passes through land they own or occupy and inviting them to comment on the proposals.
- 2.4.1 Ahead of the statutory consultation, the Applicant carried out diligent inquiry in order to identify all persons who fall within the categories set out in section 44 of the PA 2008 for the Proposed Development. Such persons will be listed in the Book of Reference which will be submitted as part of the DCO application. All land interests have been consulted about the proposed scheme in accordance with section 42 of the PA 2008, which will be described in the Consultation Report. Any interests that were identified following the start of the consultation period were given 30 days in which to provide responses to ensure that they had sufficient time to consider the proposals.

3 Statement of Community Consultation

3.1 Development of the SoCC

- 3.1.0 A Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was prepared, consulted on and published following the process as prescribed in section 47 of the PA 2008, prior to starting statutory consultation for the Proposed Development.
- 3.1.1 The Applicant's approach to consultation and engagement with the local community started with the Applicant's initial meeting with the host authority in August 2023. In this meeting, the Applicant shared a high-level timeline for consultation and discussed the two-stage consultation approach. Alongside issuing notes from this meeting, the Applicant shared the draft Communications and Engagement Strategy with officers for information.
- 3.1.2 Following the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant began the preparation of the SoCC. The draft SoCC provided information about the Proposed Development, the developer, details of the proposed development, the Applicant, non-statutory engagement and outlined the statutory consultation process, including how the public can participate and respond.
- 3.1.3 The purpose of the SoCC was to establish how the Applicant would consult and engage with the local communities likely to be affected by the Proposed Development.

3.2 Consultation on the SoCC

- 3.2.0 The Applicant identified East Riding of Yorkshire Council as the relevant host local authority under section 43(1) of the PA 2008. Hull City Council was also identified as a non-statutory consultee as a neighbouring authority which has a cable route option going close to its boundary line.
- 3.2.1 An early draft was sent to both local planning authorities on Monday 22 January 2024. Any comments were requested by Friday 5 February 2024. No comments were received from either local planning authority on the early draft.
- 3.2.2 In line with the requirements of the PA 2008, the Applicant undertook formal consultation on the SoCC with East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the host local authority and neighbouring authority Hull City Council and took regard of comment received. The SoCC was sent on Thursday 29 February 2024.

3.2.3 Comments were received by East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 8 March 2024. A copy of the response is included in Appendix A. No comments were received from Hull City Council.

3.2.4 The following table outlines the comments received from East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the changes made to the SoCC.

Table 3.1: Amendments to the draft SoCC

Paragraph	Comment	Change made
6.4.2. What we are consulting on	From experience of other schemes, the more detail you can provide the public, the better. Those whose houses are close by will want to know what will be located close to their house, how tall panels will be. what road improvements are proposed etc, what landscaping is proposed etc. Will you also consult on supporting docs such as TA/Ecology information for consulting with He and NE etc?	<p>No change made. The Applicant did not have a draft Traffic Assessment to share at the PEIR stage.</p> <p>The PEIR (which was issued as part of the statutory consultation) included Transport and Ecology chapters with corresponding figures and appendices.</p> <p>The Applicant has been sharing traffic data and preliminary assessments with key stakeholders including East Riding of Yorkshire Council Highways and Natural England to date and will continue to do so.</p>
6.5 Consultation events	Suggest an event at Cottingham/Creyke Beck way in addition if possible as these are all east and some of the PCZ stretches further west	An additional consultation event was held at Cottingham Civic Hall, Market Green, Cottingham

3.2.5 On 11 April 2024 an updated final version of the SoCC was issued to East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council.

3.2.6 The consultation dates were subsequently amended to Wednesday 15 May to Wednesday 26 June 2024 and the SoCC amended to reflect the change.

3.2.7 In addition, two other changes were made to the SoCC:

- Statutory notices to publicise the SoCC and consultation, in accordance with section 48 and section 47 of the PA 2008, will be published as a joint notice.

- Amendment to the local papers the notice was placed in. The Beverley and Holderness Gazette does not exist therefore notices will be placed in the Hull Daily Mail and Yorkshire Post which both cover the area of the Proposed Development.

3.2.8 An updated version of the SoCC was issued to East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council on 29 April 2024.

3.2.9 Copies of the emails and draft SoCC sent to the local authorities will be included in the Consultation Report.

3.3 Publicity under Section 47 of the Act

3.3.0 In compliance with the publicity requirements of section 47(6) of the PA 2008, the SoCC was made available for viewing for the duration of the consultation, as detailed below:

- Adverts publicising locations where the SoCC could be viewed were placed in the following newspapers:
 - Hull Daily Mail on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024
 - Yorkshire Post on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024
 - Guardian on 14 May 2024
 - London Gazette on 14 May 2024
- A paper copy of the SoCC was also placed at Beverley Library and Leven Library and Tickton Village Hall from 15 May 2024.
- Available at each of the four consultation events held.
- Viewable on the project website, from 15 May 2024.

3.4 Adherence with the SoCC

3.4.0 The following table shows how the 2024 statutory consultation was undertaken in compliance with the published SoCC, as per the requirements of section 47(7) of the PA 2008.

3.4.1 The Consultation Report and its supporting appendices will include all evidence of compliance.



Table 3-2 SoCC Commitments and evidence of compliance

SoCC Reference	Commitment made	Evidence of compliance
6.1.1.	<p>We will undertake a statutory consultation in accordance with section 47 of the PA 2008 for six weeks starting on Wednesday 15 May 2024. The deadline for accepting consultation responses is 11.59pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024. All responses to the consultation must be received by the closing date.</p>	<p>The Applicant ran the Statutory Consultation (in compliance with Section 47) between Wednesday 15 May and Wednesday 26 June 2024.</p> <p>For any consultees sent the consultation materials after the start of the consultation, the deadline for those responses was extended to allow 30 days in which to provide their responses</p>
6.1.3	<p>As well as the community consultation in accordance with Section 47, this consultation will also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with prescribed bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and National Highways (under Section 42 of the PA 2008). • Consultation with host and neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (under Section 43 of the PA 2008). • Consultation with any persons with an interest in the land affected by The Project (under Section 44 of the PA 2008); and general public consultation on the Project (under Section 48 of the PA 2008) 	<p>All statutory consultees were notified of the consultation. Details of this will be included in the Consultation Report.</p>

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<p>6.2.2 and 6.2.3</p>	<p>We have identified a primary consultation zone (PCZ) for the purpose of communicating with the local community under section 47 of the PA 2008. The PCZ has been identified by extending a minimum distance of approximately two kilometres from the proposed Site Boundary – within which the solar PV panels, energy storage system and on-site substation and supporting infrastructure would be located. The PCZ also extends one kilometre from the cable route corridor connecting to Creyke Beck substation.</p> <p>The PCZ has been amended beyond these criteria, in certain areas, to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existing physical features, such as main roads• Capturing entire communities rather than excluding small numbers of properties• Where we propose to undertake additional works to enable construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications	<p>The PCZ included over 11,000 addresses and covered all main settlements around the panel areas and cable route. The PCZ was developed using all the principles bulleted in the SoCC.</p>
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<p>6.2.4 and 6.2.5</p>	<p>Within the PCZ, we will be consulting any person or group likely to be directly impacted by the Proposed Development by virtue of their living or working in proximity to the site.</p> <p>This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parish councils representing parishes within the PCZ, Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering the PCZ • elected representatives in local authorities within the PCZ and • relevant local interest groups, such as residents' associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups 	<p>A stakeholder list was created, and those individuals and organisations were informed of the start of consultation by email and/or letter.</p> <p>A reminder email was also sent to stakeholders on Wednesday 12 June informing them that there were two weeks until the end of the consultation.</p> <p>The general election was called during the statutory consultation. Due to the pre-election period, the Applicant decided not to engage prospective parliamentary candidates.</p>
<p>6.2.6</p>	<p>We are also committed to making sure that individuals and organisations outside of the PCZ are given the opportunity to participate in the statutory consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant accepted all responses to consultation and promoted the consultation outside the PCZ.</p>

6.3.1	During the statutory consultation, we will use a range of methods to ensure an inclusive, meaningful and open consultation. We will use a range of digital and non-digital methods of communication to ensure that our consultation can be accessed by all members of the community.	<p>The Applicant used a range of digital and non-digital methods throughout the consultation through events, feedback mechanisms, and mailings.</p> <p>All information was available on the project website https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/</p> <p>Hard copies of materials could be requested and were also available to take away in hard copy from the in-person consultation events and deposit points.</p> <p>Respondents could submit feedback through both online and hard-copy feedback questionnaires, as well as writing or emailing a written response directly to the Applicant. People could also provide comments by phone.</p> <p>Four in person consultation events were held and two webinars.</p>
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<p>6.3 Table 2</p>	<p>Inside the consultation zone All homes and businesses within the PCZ will receive a 4-page consultation newsletter with high-level details about the Proposed Development and consultation programme, as well as project's contact details.</p> <p>Consultation events will be held at locations within the PCZ.</p> <p>Where possible, relevant groups and organisations such as parish councils and local interest groups, will be notified of consultation opportunities.</p> <p>We have also identified a list of local community spaces within the PCZ that will be directly mailed a poster to put up, advertising how people can get involved in the consultation.</p>	<p>The 4-page consultation newsletter was sent to all those within the PCZ by second class post on 11 May 2024.</p> <p>Four consultation events were held during the statutory consultation.</p> <p>A stakeholder list was created, and those individuals and organisations were informed of the start of consultation by email and/or letter.</p> <p>The Applicant offered meetings to parish councils impacted by the Proposed Development. In total, the Applicant delivered six presentations to parish councils and held an additional public meeting at Riston Village Hall.</p> <p>The Applicant identified local poster points, including parish councils, shops and village halls.</p> <p>The poster locations identified were sent a poster advertising the consultation by first class post on 14 May 2024, including the time and location of events and where to submit feedback.</p>
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	<p>Outside of the primary consultation zone We will raise awareness of the consultation using a number of methods, including via local news media, social media advertising, and direct communication with organisations such as regional environmental, religious or health organisations located outside of the PCZ.</p>	<p>A press release was sent about the consultation on 15 May 2024 and reminder press release sent on 5 June 2024.</p> <p>The Applicant used social media advertising to promote the consultation, the reach of the paid posts was set to approximately 15km from Proposed Development to help capture those outside the primary consultation zone/</p> <p>A stakeholder list was created, and those individuals and organisations were informed of the start of consultation by email and/or letter.</p>
	<p>Consultation events We will be holding four in-person events at locations spread across the PCZ. These events will be advertised in the consultation newsletter, the consultation brochure, on social media, on posters, in local news media and in a public notice.</p> <p>These events will run for periods of at least four hours between 11 am and 7pm on a mixture of weekdays and weekends to accommodate different availability.</p>	<p>The Applicant held four in-person events at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottingham Civic Hall • Leven Village Hall • Tickton Village Hall • Wawne Village Hall <p>The events were advertised through the statutory notices, stakeholder letters, an email publicising the launch of consultation, the consultation leaflet, press release, social media and posters.</p> <p>The events took place for at least four hours between 11am and 7pm and included a Saturday event.</p>

<p>Webinars</p> <p>Two webinars will be held for any member of the public to join. One webinar will be held at the start of the consultation and one towards the end of the consultation to provide an alternative option for those who may not be able to attend the in-person events. These will be held in the evening.</p> <p>Individuals can register for these events via the website. The webinars will be held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 28 May 2024 • Wednesday 12 June 2024 <p>A recording of the webinar will be made available online for those unavailable to attend.</p>	<p>The Applicant held two webinars over the consultation period at the stated dates and times in the SoCC. Those interested could register for the webinar through a link on the project website.</p> <p>In total, 14 people registered for the webinars and seven attended across the two events.</p> <p>The recordings of the webinars were uploaded to the project website https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/documents/</p>
<p>Project information line and email</p> <p>Members of the public will be able to call and speak to a member of the communications team on the information line (01482 695 004), email (info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk) or write in (Freepost PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM). The project team will aim to respond to all enquiries within five working days.</p>	<p>The contact channels were managed throughout the consultation period. The Applicant aimed to respond to all enquiries within 5 working days.</p> <p>At the start of the consultation, due to the volume of enquiries some responses were responded outside of 5 working days.</p>

	<p>Deposit and information points Hard copies of the consultation materials including: this SoCC, the consultation brochure, and PEIR will be available to view at the following deposit locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beverley Library, Champney Road, Beverley, HU17 8HE • Leven Library, Recreation Hall, East Street, Leven, Beverley HU17 5NG <p>We will check on a weekly basis that consultation documentation remains at the information points throughout the consultation period. The consultation brochure and feedback form will be available to collect from the deposit locations above. Where possible the consultation brochure and feedback form will also be left at the event venues within the PCZ, so community groups using these spaces will be able to take hard copies away.</p>	<p>Consultation material was made available from the start of consultation at Beverley Library and Leven Library. The Applicant regularly contacted the libraries to ensure the deposit points had enough materials available.</p> <p>Consultation material, including the PEIR, was also available to view at Tickton Village Hall.</p> <p>Consultation material was also given out at parish council briefings.</p>
	<p>Project website A dedicated website (www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk) will be live for people to find out more information about the proposals and to provide feedback. All consultation documents will be presented on the website and available for download, free of charge from the document library. Information will be consistent with materials available at the deposit locations and consultation events.</p>	<p>The project website was updated with consultation material and also a link to the online survey. All material was made available on the project website from the start of consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024.</p>

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<p>6.4.1</p>	<p>We will present proposals for the Proposed Development including how they have been informed by our environmental assessments and consultation to date.</p>	<p>The consultation brochure included a section titled 'you said, we did' which provided an overview of the changes made as a result of feedback received at non-statutory consultation.</p> <p>In addition, on the project website showed before and after area plans to allow people to see changes in the proposals.</p>
<p>6.4.2</p>	<p>We will be seeking feedback on the ongoing evolution of the proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm. These proposals will be explained in the following materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) – the PEIR sets out the preliminary findings from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It also includes photomontages of the Proposed Development from various locations around the site. ● PEIR Non-Technical summary – providing a summary of the findings from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). ● Consultation Brochure – this brochure will provide an overview of the proposals including a summary of each land area and the cable route. ● Maps – The maps will set out the site areas 	<p>The PEIR, Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR, Consultation Brochure and maps were all available at deposit points, at consultation events and on the project website throughout the consultation.</p>

6.4.3	<p>All of the statutory consultation documents will be available on the project website. Additionally, as part of our statutory notices, we will publicise information on how to request hard copies of the PEIR.</p> <p>Hard copies of the consultation brochure will be available at no extra charge. A hard copy of the PEIR can be requested for a charge £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs. Requests for hardcopies can be made by email: info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk or calling 01482 695 004.</p>	<p>All consultation material was made available on the project website from the start of consultation on Wednesday 15 May 2024.</p> <p>Information on how to request hard copies of materials was included in statutory notices, in the consultation brochure and consultation newsletter.</p> <p>We received request for hard copies from 3 people, including Swine Parish Council and Catwick Parish Council.</p> <p>There were no requests for hard-copies of the PEIR.</p>
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<p>Table 4</p>	<p>Consultation newsletter A 4-page newsletter publicising the consultation and outlining a high-level overview of the Proposed Development details of the consultation programme, including the location, dates and times of the public consultation events and signposting to the project website. The consultation newsletter will also be issued to wider consultees via email to local interest groups and sent to statutory parties in the post. The consultation newsletter will also be available to view and download on the project website.</p>	<p>The consultation newsletter was developed in line with information in the SoCC. The 4-page consultation newsletter was sent to all those within the PCZ by 2nd class post on 11 May 2024.</p> <p>A copy of the newsletter was included in the pack of materials sent to key stakeholders, including elected members, hard-to-reach groups, local schools and other key organisations, on 11 May 2024 and to statutory consultees 13 May 2024 to key stakeholders.</p> <p>The newsletter was available to view on the website from 15 May 2024.</p> <p>Copies of the document were available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points</p>
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	<p>Consultation brochure</p> <p>A consultation brochure will be published at the start of consultation, providing a summary of the proposals we are consulting on, an outline of the environmental assessment work, details of how people can take part, and how feedback will be used to influence and shape the proposals.</p> <p>Printed copies of this brochure will be available to take away at all consultation events, at deposit locations, and on request by contacting the communications team.</p> <p>The brochure will also be available for download from the project website</p>	<p>The consultation brochure was developed in line with information in the SoCC.</p> <p>A copy of the brochure was included in the pack of materials sent to key stakeholders, including elected members, hard-to-reach groups, local schools and other key organisations, on 11 May 2024 and to statutory consultees 13 May 2024 to key stakeholders.</p> <p>The brochure was available to view on the website from 15 May 2024.</p> <p>Copies of the document were available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points.</p>
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<p>Feedback form A feedback form will be prepared to gather feedback on all aspects of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The feedback form will be available for completion online via the project website and will be accessible throughout the 6-week consultation period.</p> <p>Printed feedback forms will also be available (free of charge) on request by contacting the communications team, in hard copy at consultation events, and at the deposit points, along with freepost envelopes.</p> <p>The feedback form will also be available to download from the website, complete in pen and return to Freepost PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM.</p>	<p>The feedback form was available to complete on the website from 15 May 2024.</p> <p>It was also available to download from the website.</p> <p>A copy of the feedback form was included in the pack of materials sent to key stakeholders, including elected members, hard-to-reach groups, local schools and other key organisations, on 11 May 2024 and to statutory consultees 13 May 2024 to key stakeholders.</p> <p>Copies of the document were available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points</p>
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	<p>Exhibition banners</p> <p>Pull up banners will be created to display information about the proposals and provide an overview of the key components of the Proposed Development. The banners will be designed to assist the understanding of the Proposed Development at the public exhibitions and will allow for further discussions with members of the project team during public information events and other meetings. Members of the public will also be available to view the banners on the project website.</p>	<p>12 pull-up banners were produced for the consultation events.</p> <p>The banners were available to view on the website from 15 May 2024.</p>
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	<p>Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)</p> <p>The PEIR will contain a description of the Proposed Development, and a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development, based on the initial information available at that time. It will also set out how we propose to mitigate the impacts of and maximise the benefits of the Proposed Development. The PEIR can be downloaded free of charge from the project website.</p> <p>A printed copy of the full PEIR will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events. A hard copy can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs.</p>	<p>The PEIR was developed in line with information in the SoCC.</p> <p>The PEIR was available to view on the website from 15 May 2024.</p> <p>No requests were received for a hard-copy of the PEIR.</p>
	<p>Non-technical summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report</p> <p>The non-technical summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report will be developed. It will be available to view on the project website, at consultation events and at deposit points.</p>	<p>The non-technical summary of the PEIR was available to view on the website from 15 May 2024.</p> <p>Copies of the document were available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points.</p>

	<p>Technical maps and plans of the project</p> <p>Additional technical maps and plans for the Proposed Development will also be available on the project website and at the consultation events and deposit locations. Requests for hard copies of the technical documents will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply (up to a maximum of £350 for one full suite of documents) to be paid for by the recipient.</p>	<p>The illustrative masterplan and plans of land areas were available to view on the website from 15 May 2024. In addition, a feature was added to the website allowing people to compare the plans presented at non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation.</p> <p>Technical plans and maps were also available at all consultation events. There were no requests for printed copies of the maps.</p>
	<p>Project Website</p> <p>A dedicated consultation website including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online downloadable copies of all the statutory consultation material, including: The PEIR, consultation brochure, exhibition banners, non-tech summary of PEIR and feedback form • Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) • Online Feedback Form • Webinar sign-up form • Contact details 	<p>Information about the consultation events was added to the website on 8 May 2024, including the ability to sign up for webinars.</p> <p>The project website peartreehillsolar.co.uk was updated with consultation information, material and the online feedback form from 15 May 2024.</p>
	<p>Publication of the consultation</p> <p>We will publish a public notice with details of the consultation within both a local newspaper and a national newspaper, pursuant to section 48 of the Act.</p>	

	<p>Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) This SoCC document will be made available online as part of the consultation website, available at consultation events, at deposit points and in hard copy on request. We will also publish a notice in a local newspaper to explain where this statement can be inspected, pursuant to section 47 of the Act.</p>	<p>Statutory notices were placed in the following newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hull Daily Mail on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024 • Yorkshire Post on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024 • Guardian on 14 May 2024 • London Gazette on 14 May 2024 <p>Consultation material, including the PEIR, was also available to view at Tickton Village Hall.</p> <p>The SoCC was available to view on the project website on 15 May 2024. It was also available to view at all consultation events and at the deposit points.</p>
	<p>Materials in alternative formats Upon request, all documents will be available in alternative accessible formats, such as braille, speaking text and alternative languages. All requests should be made to the communications team</p>	<p>No requests were made for alternative formats of the consultation material.</p>

<p>6.5.1 to 6.5.3</p>	<p>Four public consultation events will be held for communities to find out information about the Project and speak to members of the project team. The consultation events will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ if a suitable location in the PCZ is not available.</p> <p>Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available in print format at each consultation event. There will be a series of banners to present the proposals for the Proposed Development, including maps.</p> <p>Those attending will be encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposals.</p> <p>The events will be held at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 21 May 2024, 1pm-7pm, Cottingham Civic Hall Market Green, Cottingham, HU16 5QG • Wednesday 22 May 2024, 1pm-7pm, Leven Village Hall North Street, Leven, Beverly, HU17 5NF • Saturday 1 June 2024, 11am-3pm, Tickton Village Hall Main Street, Tickton, East Yorkshire, HU17 9RZ 	<p>The Applicant held four consultation events over the consultation period at the stated locations, dates and times in the SoCC.</p> <p>In total, 153 people attended the events.</p> <p>At the events, attendees could view the exhibition banners, maps of the proposals, PEIR and SoCC. Attendees could take copies of the consultation brochure, newsletter, non-technical summary of the PEIR and feedback form.</p> <p>The Applicant ensured project team members with a wide variety of technical expertise were in attendance at each event so as to enable more detailed and technical discussions with stakeholders.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 3 June 2024, 1pm-6.30pm, Wawne Village Hall 36 Main Street, Wawne, Hull, HU7 5XH 	
Table 7	<p>Consultation Newsletter Consultation newsletters will be posted to all homes and businesses in the PCZ ahead of the statutory consultation period. The newsletter will also be issued to statutory consultees in the mail, and to wider consultees via email, including local interest groups.</p>	<p>The consultation newsletter was developed in accordance with information in the SoCC.</p> <p>A copy of the newsletter was included in the pack of materials sent to key stakeholders, including elected members, hard-to-reach groups, local schools and other key organisations, on 11 May 2024 and to statutory consultees 13 May 2024 to key stakeholders.</p> <p>The newsletter was available to view on the website from 15 May 2024.</p> <p>Copies of the document were available to take away at the consultation events and deposit points.</p> <p>27% of those that completed the feedback survey stated they found out about the consultation through the project newsletter.</p>
	<p>Press releases To raise awareness of the Proposed Development and the consultation programme, both within and beyond the PCZ, we will share a press release with local media outlets at the start of consultation. This will be sent to the following local and regional media outlets</p>	<p>A press release was sent to regional news organisations on 15 May 2024. A reminder press release was sent on 5 June 2024.</p>

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	<p>Stakeholder briefings</p> <p>We will issue communications to key political stakeholders, representing wards, constituencies and parishes within the consultation zone. This will provide information about the proposals and consultation programme and invite them to take part in the consultation via in-person or online meetings.</p> <p>We will consider invitations to, or requests for, meetings with other local groups or special interest organisations on a case-by case basis.</p>	<p>A stakeholder list was created and those individuals and organisations were informed of the start of consultation by email and/or letter.</p> <p>All parish councils impacted by the Proposed Development were contacted ahead of the start of consultation offering a briefing. Follow-up contact was made during the consultation to reiterate the offer.</p> <p>The project team provided briefings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tickton and Routh Parish Council• Skidby Parish Council• Cottingham Parish Council• Riston Parish Council• Catwick Parish Council• Beverley Town Council <p>In addition, Riston Parish Council asked to hold an additional public meeting for residents. This was held on Monday 24 June.</p> <p>The project team also offered briefings to ward members, the cabinet member Planning, Communities and Public Protection at East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the MP for Beverley and Holderness.</p>
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	<p>Emails and Letters</p> <p>We will send both emails and letters about the consultation programme to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs; • key elected representatives at the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council • host and neighbouring parish councils; • host and neighbouring local authorities; • local interest groups, such as environmental groups. <p>Host parish councils will receive hard copies of the consultation brochure as part of the mailing to statutory consultees.</p>	<p>A key stakeholder list was created and those individuals and organisations were informed of the start of consultation by letter (11 May 2024) and/or by email (15 May 2024). These recipients received a consultation pack including a letter, consultation newsletter, brochure, feedback form and return envelope.</p> <p>On 15 May 2024 we sent an email about the start of consultation to all those who had previously taken part in the non-statutory consultation and those who had registered for email updated on the website.</p> <p>Neighbouring parish councils were missed off the original consultation list, as such a letter was sent to them on Monday 24 June including a copy of the consultation brochure, newsletter, copy of the statutory notice, feedback form and return envelope. The deadline for receiving responses was extended to Friday 26 July 2024.</p>
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	<p>Statutory notices Statutory notices to publicise the SoCC and consultation, in accordance with section 48 and section 47 of the Act, will be published as a joint notice once in a national newspaper (The Guardian) and the London Gazette and twice (across two successive weeks) in local circulating papers The Hull Daily Mail and Yorkshire Post.</p>	<p>Statutory notices were placed in newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hull Daily Mail on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024• Yorkshire Post on 8 May 2024 and 15 May 2024• Guardian on 14 May 2024• London Gazette on 14 May 2024
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	<p>Information Posters</p> <p>Posters including details of the consultation, how to access information about the Proposed Development and how to get involved, will be displayed at well-used public locations within and outside of the PCZ, including libraries, shops and civic buildings. These will be hosted in agreement with relevant organisations and venues. Information posters will be sent to all host and neighbouring parish councils, to be used on local noticeboards, and to help raise awareness of the consultation.</p>	<p>An A4 and A3 poster was produced for the statutory consultation including details of the consultation dates, events and how people can provide feedback.</p> <p>The poster was sent on 14 May 2024 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catwick Parish Council,• Riston Parish Council,• Tickton and Routh Parish Council,• Wawne Parish Council,• Leven Parish Council• Woodmansey Parish Council• Swine Parish Council• Brandesburton Parish Council• Cottingham Parish Council• Skidby Parish Council• Beverley Town Council• Beverley Library• Leven Library• Crown and Anchor Tickton Beverley• Micro Pig Bar• Tastie Butties• Nags Head
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tickton Post Office and Store • Walkington Post Office • Costcutter, Wawne Village Shop
	<p>Social Media Advertising We will raise awareness of the consultation via the project Facebook page. The page is used to provide updates about the proposals and consultation programme. Paid for social media advertising will be used to publicise the consultation programme and proposals, helping to engage younger people and those outside of the PCZ.</p>	<p>The project Facebook page was used to promote the consultation. Paid for advertising was used to boost key posts.</p> <p>In total, there were five boosted posts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post 1: 13,996 reach and 485 post engagements • Post 2: 19,032 reach and 509 post engagements • Post 3: 13,110 reach and 183 post engagements • Post 4: 10,739 reach and 200 post engagements • Post 5: 9,345 reach and 410 post engagements
<p>6.6.2</p>	<p>Any activity(ies) that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond our control, where possible, will be substituted with similar activity(ies) and communicated in local newspapers (via press release) circulating in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Any activity changes will also be published on the project website.</p>	<p>There were no activities in the SoCC that needed to be substituted.</p>

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6.7.1 and 6.7.2	<p>Ongoing engagement with relevant stakeholders will be undertaken ahead of the launch of the consultation, including local authorities, MPs, and statutory parties such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Historic England and with local interest groups, residents and landowners who get in touch.</p> <p>All relevant parish councils, elected members for councils and MPs will be contacted and will be kept informed about the Proposed Development. They will also be encouraged to share information about the consultation with members of their constituency/local community.</p>	<p>Technical engagement with statutory consultees has been ongoing through non-statutory and statutory consultation.</p> <p>All parish councils impacted by the Proposed Development were contacted ahead of the start of consultation offering a briefing. Follow-up contact was made during the consultation to reiterate the offer.</p> <p>The project team provided briefings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tickton and Routh Parish Council• Skidby Parish Council• Cottingham Parish Council• Riston Parish Council• Catwick Parish Council• Beverley Town Council <p>In addition, Riston Parish Council ask to hold an additional public meeting for residents. This was held on Monday 24 June.</p>
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<p>6.8.1 and 6.8.2</p>	<p>We are committed to ensuring that our consultation is accessible and inclusive for all stakeholders, including ‘under-represented’ or ‘seldom heard’ groups and individuals who may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation methods.</p> <p>These groups and individuals that may find it harder to be involved in the consultation, and/or need additional support to access materials, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geographically isolated communities• Young People• Old People• Disabled people and those with learning disabilities• People who do not have English as a first language	<p>The Applicant included hard to reach groups within their consultee outreach. A list of hard-to-reach organisation was created, including religious organisations and disability groups. These organisations were sent consultation packs including a letter, brochure, newsletter, feedback form and return envelope. Letters were sent on 11 May 2024.</p> <p>They were also emailed about the consultation on 15 May 2024 and a reminder on 12 June 2024.</p>
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<p>Table 8</p>	<p>Older people Directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all stakeholders within the PCZ and providing details of how to access and request paper copies of the consultation documents. Providing options to engage with the project team and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by freepost and the information phonenumber. Providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and offering alternative formats such as large print (upon request). Offering feedback to be provided via a freepost address so feedback can be easily provided by post. Consultation events at four locations within the PCZ, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.</p>	<p>The consultation leaflet was posted to the PCZ to land on doorsteps on 13 May 2024 which included how to contact the project team through a number of channels.</p> <p>The Applicant used a range of digital and non-digital methods throughout the consultation.</p> <p>A freepost address was available for those who wanted to write and a phonenumber was available to contact the project team.</p> <p>No requests were made for alternative accessible formats.</p> <p>Four in person events were held.</p>
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	<p>Disabled people and those with learning disabilities</p> <p>Providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as large print (upon request). Providing options to engage with the project team and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by freepost and the information phonenumber. Consultation events at four locations within the PCZ, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses. Two online webinars, so anyone who may not be able to attend an in-person event can have the opportunity to ask questions of the project team. Ensure all event spaces have disabled access and facilities, and the layout of the consultation room provide space for those with wheelchairs to move around.</p>	<p>The Applicant used a range of digital and non-digital methods throughout the consultation.</p> <p>A freepost address was available for those who wanted to write and a phonenumber was available to contact the project team.</p> <p>No requests were made for alternative accessible formats.</p> <p>Four in person events were held and two webinars.</p> <p>A review of the event spaces ahead of booking was made to ensure they were accessible. The exhibitions were set up to allow those with limited mobility or in wheelchairs to move around. All events had the option for people to sit and talk to a project member if they preferred or needed to.</p>
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	<p>Geographically isolated communities Directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all stakeholders within the PCZ and providing details of how to access and request paper copies of the consultation documents. Offering feedback to be provided via an online form and via the freepost address so feedback can be easily provided from all locations. Webinars for people to join and find out about the Proposed Development. Advertising the availability of the project phonenumber for stakeholders with further questions to speak with the project team, regardless of location</p>	<p>The consultation leaflet was posted to the PCZ on 11 May 2024, which included how to contact the project team through a number of channels.</p> <p>A freepost address was available for those who wanted to write and a phonenumber was available to contact the project team.</p> <p>Two webinars were held for those who were unable to attend other events.</p> <p>Social media advertising included an area 15km around the Proposed Development to help capture to more isolated communities.</p>
	<p>Young People Online engagement methods, including social media advertising, to encourage young people to complete online feedback forms and engage with the consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant used a range of digital methods throughout the consultation, including social media.</p> <p>Local primary and secondary schools and Sixth Forms and Colleges near the Proposed Development were sent consultation packs including a letter, brochure, newsletter, feedback form and return envelope. Letters were sent on 11 May 2024.</p>

<p>6.9.1.</p>	<p>Information channels will be available throughout the consultation for members of the community and other stakeholders to get in touch with the project team, ask questions, request further information or request copies of the consultation materials and documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk (24/7) • 01482 695004 (9am–5:30pm weekdays (with a voicemail facility to take messages outside these hours)) • info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk (24 hour (emails will be monitored between 9am–5:30pm weekdays and responded to within 10 working days)) • Freepost PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM (24 hour (mailbox will be monitored between 9am-5:30pm on weekdays)) 	<p>All consultation material and the feedback form were available from 15 May 2024.</p> <p>The community relations team were available by email and phone from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail was in place to capture details and the team would call back.</p>
<p>6.9.2</p>	<p>Requests for consultation information to meet specific requirements will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required. This will include materials such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments, or an alternative language to for those for whom English is not their first language, to enable them to take part in the consultation.</p>	<p>No requests were made for alternative accessible formats.</p>

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7.1.1 and 7.1.2	<p>Feedback to the consultation must be submitted by 11:59pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024. Responses received after this date may not be considered.</p> <p>Consultation responses can be made in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completing the feedback form online which can be accessed via the project website from Wednesday 15 May: (www.peartreehill-solar.co.uk) • Attending a consultation event and completing a printed feedback form which can be handed into the team in-person or taken away and sent to us via a freepost (using Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM). Feedback forms can also be collected from our community deposit locations or requested from the community relations team• Emailing into info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk• Writing to us at Freepost PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM (no stamp is required)	<p>The Applicant accepted any feedback submitted online, by email, and by freepost up to and including 26 July 2024. This extension was due to additional consultees being identified during the consultation.</p>
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<p>8.1.1 to 8.1.4</p>	<p>When our statutory consultation closes, we will have regard to all comments received. All feedback, including ongoing engagement with communities and stakeholders, is important to us and will help to influence our design for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Once we have reviewed and finalised our Application, we will produce a Consultation Report, which will set out how the feedback from the pre-application consultation has shaped and influenced our proposed application.</p> <p>The Consultation Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero as part of the DCO application.</p> <p>Any comments received could be made public but no personal information will be published. Any personal data received as part of the consultation will be stored and protected in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. The privacy notice for those visiting the project website is available at: www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk.</p>	<p>A summary of the feedback received at statutory consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to this will be included in the Consultation Report.</p>
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9.1.1	If, following the statutory consultation we consider it is necessary to undertake further targeted or supplementary consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.	<p>As part of design refinements after the statutory consultation, the Applicant identified some small changes to the red line boundary around the selected cable corridor, needed to facilitate access points for construction. A targeted consultation is planned for September 2024 to consult on these changes.</p> <p>Due to the nature of these change a proportional approach to consultation is being developed. All impacted land interests will be notified with details of the changes. The relevant parish councils and highways authority, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, will also be consulted. Consultees will be given 28 days to provide their comments by email to the Applicant. All feedback will be considered and captured in the Consultation Report.</p>
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10.1.1 to 10.1.3	<p>Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Peartree Hill Solar Farm and our consultation programme. You can get in touch with members of our communications team using any of the communications lines listed below.</p> <p>Should you require any documents in large print or audio then please contact us using the details provided. Every effort has been made to ensure that information is accurate at the time of going to print.</p> <p>Our communications channels are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email: info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk• Call: 01482 695 004• Write to: Freepost PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM (you do not need a stamp)	<p>The community relations team was available by email and phone from 9am - 5:30pm throughout the consultation. If a phone call was missed due to staff availability, a voicemail was in place to capture details, and the team would call back.</p>
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4 Next steps

4.1 Updating stakeholders

- 4.1.0 On 15 August 2024, the Applicant sent an update email to all those who had responded to the consultation and those who had signed-up on the website for updates on the Proposed Development. The email provided an overview of the number of responses received and next steps before DCO application. It also included a link to the Applicant's Programme Document, hosted on the Applicant's project website, a requirement outlined in new Guidance and Prospectus on NSIPs. The Programme Document sets out the timetable and activities undertaken during pre-application on a project.
- 4.1.1 The Applicant is continuing to engage statutory bodies on any outstanding issues.
- 4.1.2 East Riding of Yorkshire Council has provided responses from the Building Conservation Team, Environmental Control Specialist, Humber Historic Environment Record, Highways, Sustainable Development, Nature Conservation and the Drainage teams. The Applicant is also undertaking monthly meetings with the authority.

4.2 Consultation responses

- 4.2.0 The Applicant is currently analysing responses received as part of the statutory consultation and will produce a Consultation Report as part of the DCO application. The Consultation Report will be in accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008.
- 4.2.1 The Consultation Report will evidence that consultation responses have been taken into account during the preparation of the application.
- 4.2.2 Changes to the design of the Proposed Development that have identified to date as a result of the statutory consultation response include:
- Solar PV modules to be removed from Area A Land South of High and Low Baswick following feedback on ecological receptors in the area from statutory parties and the community, as well as the results of flooding and transport assessments.
 - Additional permissive paths will be included based on feedback from statutory consultation.

- Option 1 cable route has been selected as the preferred route linking the solar farm to Creyke Beck substation.

4.2.3 The Applicant has also identified some small changes to the red line boundary following the selection of Option 1 cable route corridor, needed to facilitate access points for construction. A targeted consultation consistent with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC is planned for September 2024 to consult on these changes. All impacted land interests will be notified with details of the changes. The relevant parish councils and highways authority, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, will also be consulted. Consultees will be given 28 days to provide their comments by email to the Applicant. All feedback will be considered and captured in the Consultation Report.

4.2.4 The project has not finalised the design at the point of submission of this Report. A full list of design changes as a result of the consultation will be included in the Consultation Report.

4.3 DCO application

4.3.0 Prior to the submission of the DCO application, the Applicant will publish a 'you said, we did' document outlining how the feedback received at statutory consultation has informed the Proposed Development. This will be uploaded to the project website and emailed to key stakeholders and all those who took part in the consultation. The aim of this document is to provide a more public facing and accessible summary of the consultation outcomes for those interested in the Proposed Development.

Appendix A: East Riding of Yorkshire Council Response to draft SoCC

Sent: 08 March 2024 14:05
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Peartree Hill Solar Farm - Request for comments on Statement of Community Consultation

Hi Laura

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this. I have very limited comments to make but have included a couple of points as tracked changes attached.

Thanks

Anna

[REDACTED]
Planning Team Leader (Strategic)

Web: www.eastriding.gov.uk

Twitter: www.twitter.com/East_Riding

Facebook: www.facebook.com/eastridingcouncil

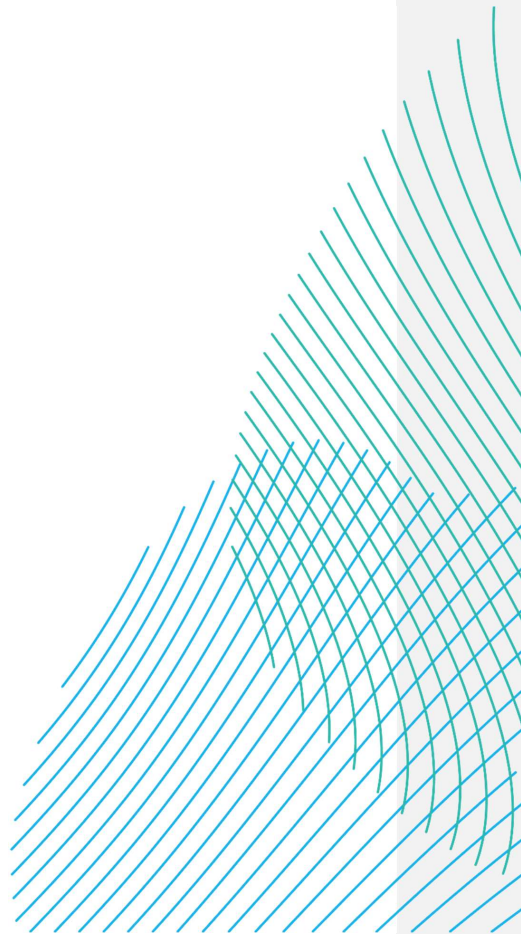


Figure 1 Email proving East Riding of Yorkshire Council's response to draft SoCC

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**Peartree Hill Solar Farm
Statement of Community
Consultation (draft)**

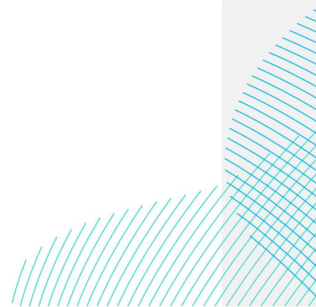
February 2024



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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1 RWE Renewables UK Solar & Storage Ltd (“we” or “the Applicant”) is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”) in connection with its proposals for a new solar energy and storage scheme known as Peartree Hill Solar Farm (“the Proposed Development”)
- 1.1.2 The purpose of this SoCC is to set out how we intend to consult people living in the vicinity of the Proposed Development about the proposals.
- 1.1.3 Understanding the views of the local community, local authorities and other stakeholders helps to ensure we identify valuable information and the feedback received will help shape the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.4 This SoCC explains the consultation being undertaken before submission for our application for development consent. It includes:
- A description of the consenting process we must follow
 - What we will be consulting on
 - Who we will consult
 - How we will consult
 - How people can respond to the consultation
 - How we will use the consultation feedback responses
- 1.1.5 Anticipated to generate up to 320MW of energy, the Proposed Development is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (“NSIP”), as defined by the Planning Act 2008 (“the 2008 Act”) and requires consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, via a Development Consent Order (“DCO”).
- 1.1.6 This SoCC has been prepared in accordance with section 47(1) of the Act, which requires applicants to prepare a statement explaining how they will consult with the local community regarding their proposals, and to carry out pre-application consultation in accordance with this statement.
- 1.1.7 As the Proposed Development is an ‘EIA Development’ (meaning that it is subject to an environmental impact assessment or “EIA”), this SoCC also sets out how we intend to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information, in accordance with Regulation 12 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”)





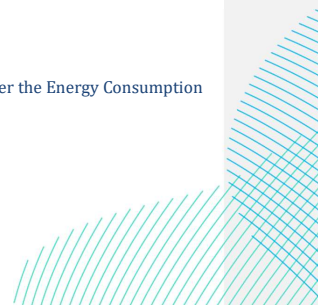
- 1.1.8 In addition to our obligations under section 47, section 42 of the 2008 Act clearly sets out how to consult with prescribed consultees, local authorities and persons with an interest in land. None of the section 42 consultees are excluded from any of the community consultation activities set out in this document.

2. Peartree Hill Solar Farm

2.1 The Proposed Development

- 2.1.1 The Proposed Development is located to the east of Beverley within the administrative boundaries of East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The Proposed Development will connect into the National Grid Creyke Beck substation located in Cottingham via an underground cable.
- 2.1.2 The Proposed Development comprises an area of approximately 2,000 acres and is made up of six land areas where solar panels and battery storage energy systems are proposed. These land areas will also include associated infrastructure, areas for ecological mitigation and enhancement, and new community assets. The land areas are:
- Area A: Land South of High and Low Baswick
 - Area B: Land North West of Long Riston
 - Area C: Land West of Arnold
 - Area D: Land South of the A1035
 - Area E: Land East of Weel
 - Area F: Land North of Wawne
- 2.1.3 The Proposed Development would make a meaningful contribution to the local, and national climate commitments generating up to 320MW of renewable energy, enough to power approximately 136,000 homes.¹
- 2.1.4 The renewable energy produced by the Proposed Development would be equivalent to displacing over 11,200,000 tonnes of CO₂ from equivalent fossil fuel energy, which equates to taking 166,000 cars off the road for a year.

¹ Based on the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published September 2022, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)



2.2 Environmental Impact Assessment

- 2.2.1 The Proposed Development constitutes an 'environmental impact assessment ('EIA') development' as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
- 2.2.2 An Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') is therefore being prepared to ensure the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development are properly understood and whether appropriate mitigation measures should be put in place to control or reduce environmental effects. The DCO application will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement containing the findings of the EIA.
- 2.2.3 An EIA Scoping Opinion was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 20 December 2023. Together with the Applicant's Scoping Report, this identifies the environmental issues relevant to the Proposed Development and suggests any potential mitigation measures. The Scoping Opinion is available to view on the Planning Inspectorate website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN010157/EN010157-000009-PHSF%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf>
- 2.2.4 In accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which sets out initial information on the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Development and any proposed mitigation, will be prepared and will help consultees to take an informed view on these matters.
- 2.2.5 The Applicant will invite feedback on the information presented in the PEIR as part of the statutory consultation. Feedback received will be considered before the DCO application and EIA are finalised for submission.

3. The consenting process

- 3.1.1 As the Proposed Development will have a generating capacity of more than 50MW, Peartree Hill Solar Farm will be classified as an NSIP and under the 2008 Act requires the Applicant to submit an application for a DCO.
- 3.1.2 If the application for the DCO is accepted, the Planning Inspectorate will appoint an examining authority to scrutinise our application and who would make a recommendation on the application to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero. The Secretary of State makes the final decision on a DCO application.



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- 3.1.3 Before submitting an application, the Act requires us to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land and prescribed stakeholders.
- 3.1.4 Pre-application consultation is a key requirement for applications for Development Consent Orders for major infrastructure projects under the 2008 Act. The 2008 Act requires us to consult with persons with an interest in the proposed land and certain bodies as prescribed under section 42 of the 2008 Act; the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act (the subject of this SoCC); and to publicise the proposals locally and nationally under section 48 of the 2008 Act and regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“EIA Regulations”). It also provides a fixed role as consultees for those local authorities which host the Proposed Development.
- 3.1.5 The obligations under section 42 and section 48 of the 2008 Act are not included in this SoCC.
- 3.1.6 Further information on the DCO application process can be obtained from the Planning Inspectorate which has published a range of advice notes which intend to inform applicants, consultees, the public and others about a range of matters in relation to the Planning Act 2008 process. This includes advice note eight, which provides more detail on the NSIP planning process. All advice notes can be found on the Planning Inspectorate’s website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>.
- 3.1.7 As part of our development of the SoCC, we provided both East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the host local authority for the Proposed Development, and Hull City Council, as a neighbouring authority which has the cable route going close to its boundary line, with an early draft of the document. These were sent on Monday 22 January 2024.
- 3.1.8 In line with the requirements of the 2008 Act, we undertook formal consultation on the SoCC with East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the host local authority and neighbouring authority Hull City Council and took regard of comment received. The SoCC was sent on Thursday 29 February 2024.
- 3.1.9 An overview of the DCO process is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: The DCO Process



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4. About RWE

4.1 The Applicant

RWE Renewables UK Solar & Storage Ltd

- 4.1.1 RWE is one of the world's leading renewable energy companies and is the UK's second largest power producer and third largest renewable generator supplying around 12% of UK electricity.
- 4.1.2 In the UK, we currently operate:
- 10 offshore wind farms
 - 33 onshore wind farms
 - 21 hydro plants
 - 1 biomass plant
- 4.1.3 RWE has recently acquired JBM Solar. Established in 2012, JBM Solar has a proven track record of securing consent for over 1GW of clean, green solar energy schemes in the UK and Ireland.
- 4.1.4 The Applicant is dedicated to generating electricity using sustainable and environmentally friendly resources such as wind, water, the sun and biomass.
- 4.1.5 The Applicant has a decade-long history of working closely with landowners, communities, and stakeholders such as local authorities and community groups to help deliver projects that deliver renewable energy, while working with both the community and local wildlife.

5. Engagement to date

- 5.1.1 The Applicant undertook a non-statutory consultation on the Proposed Development between Monday 9 October and Monday 6 November 2023.
- 5.1.2 The non-statutory consultation had the following aims:
- to introduce the Proposed Development to the public, providing an overview of the Proposed Development and the national need for solar
 - present the early plans, including the land parcels and cable route options
 - to give stakeholders and the community the opportunity to provide feedback on our early-stage proposals



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- to outline the next steps for the Proposed Development
- 5.1.3 Over the course of the non-statutory consultation, the project team held three face-to-face public exhibitions and two webinars. The consultation was advertised through a mixture of direct mailings newspaper and social media adverts and posters sent to local parishes. Dedicated information channels were established for those who had questions about the Proposed Development or needed to get in contact with the project team. This engagement is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of engagement activities to date

Activity	Total
Community Newsletters issued	11,516
In-person exhibitions	3
Stakeholder Briefings	8
Webinars	2
Website Visitors	400

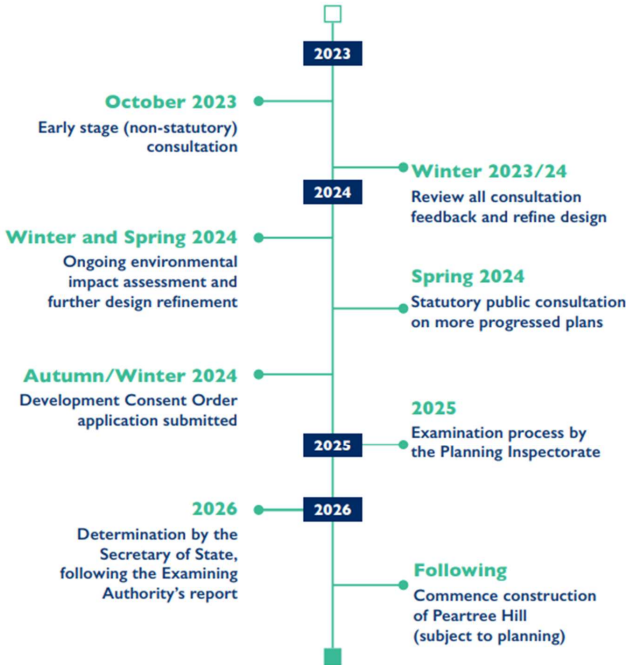
- 5.1.4 There were a number of ways for members of the public and those interested in the consultation to provide feedback. These included:
- Completing an online feedback form on the website (www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk)
 - Completing a paper feedback form or sending written comments by post (Freepost PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM)
 - Emailing feedback to the email address (info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk)
 - Calling the information line (01482 695004)
- 5.1.5 In total, throughout the four-week non-statutory consultation period, 102 responses were received.
- 5.1.6 In addition to the non-statutory consultation period, the Proposed Development has engaged with key stakeholders through meetings and other forms of discussion on a regular basis. These stakeholders include East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.
- 5.1.7 More information about the non-statutory consultation can be found in the Non-Statutory Consultation Report which is part of the documents that are currently available on the website, <https://peartreehillsolar.co.uk/>. Archive documents from the non-statutory consultation will remain available on the project's website. Paper copies will be available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in paragraph 6.4.3.



5.2 Timeline for Proposed Development

5.2.1 Figure 2 sets out an indicative timeline for each stage of the Proposed Development from consultation through to the Secretary of State decision.

Figure 2 Indicative Proposed Development timeline



6. Statutory Consultation under section 47 of the 2008 Act

6.1 How we will consult on the proposed application

- 6.1.1 We will undertake a statutory consultation in accordance with section 47 of the 2008 for six weeks starting on Monday 29 April 2024. The deadline for accepting consultation responses is 11.59pm on Monday 10 June 2024. All responses to the consultation must be received by the closing date.
- 6.1.2 This consultation will provide an opportunity for people in the local community and interested parties to have their say about our proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm.
- 6.1.3 As well as the community consultation in accordance with Section 47, this consultation will also include:
- Consultation with prescribed bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and National Highways (under Section 42 of the 2008 Act).
 - Consultation with host and neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (under Section 43 of the 2008 Act).
 - Consultation with any persons with an interest in the land affected by the Proposed Development (under Section 44 of the 2008 Act); and general public consultation on the Proposed Development (under Section 48 of the 2008 Act)

6.2 Who are we consulting?

- 6.2.1 We will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC. Our consultation process is open to anyone with an interest in our proposals for Peartree Hill.

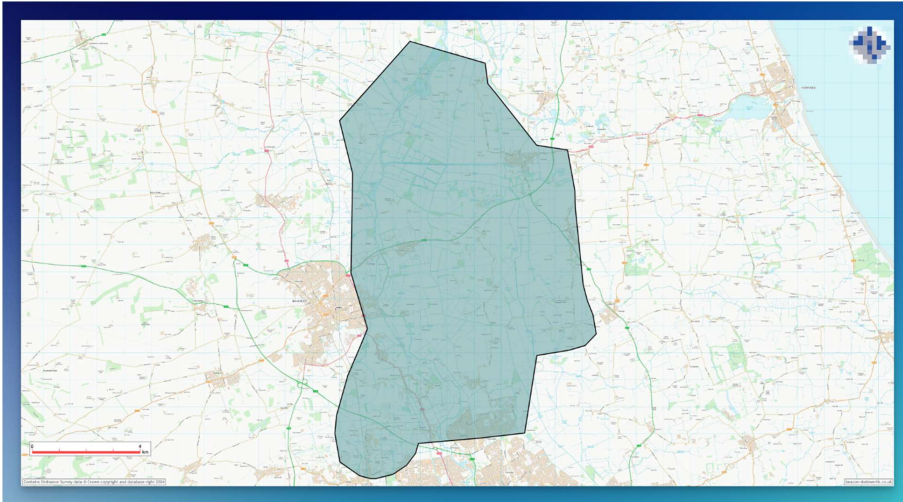


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- 6.2.2 We have identified a primary consultation zone (PCZ) (shown in Figure 3) for the purpose of communicating with the local community under section 47 of the 2008 Act. The PCZ has been identified by extending a minimum distance of approximately two kilometres from the proposed Site Boundary (Appendix 1) – within which the solar PV panels, energy storage system and on-site substation and supporting infrastructure would be located. The PCZ also extends one kilometre from the cable route corridor connecting to Creyke Beck substation.
- 6.2.3 The PCZ has been amended beyond these criteria, in certain areas, to consider:
- Existing physical features, such as main roads
 - Capturing entire communities rather than excluding small numbers of properties
 - Where we propose to undertake additional works to enable construction transport, equipment areas or road modifications
- 6.2.4 Within the PCZ, we will be consulting any person or group likely to be directly impacted by the Proposed Development by virtue of their living or working in proximity to the site.
- 6.2.5 This will include:
- parish councils representing parishes within the PCZ, Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies within and bordering the PCZ
 - elected representatives in local authorities within the PCZ and
 - relevant local interest groups, such as residents' associations, community groups and groups with particular specialisms, such as environmental groups
- 6.2.6 We are also committed to making sure that individuals and organisations outside of the PCZ are given the opportunity to participate in the statutory consultation.



Figure 3: Primary Consultation Zone for Peartree Hill Solar Farm



6.3 Approach to community consultation

- 6.3.1 During the statutory consultation, we will use a range of methods to ensure an inclusive, meaningful and open consultation. We will use a range of digital and non-digital methods of communication to ensure that our consultation can be accessed by all members of the community.
- 6.3.2 Table 2 below sets out the approaches that will be used to publicise the consultation on the proposals and Preliminary Environmental Information.

Table 2: Statutory consultation methods for Peartree Hill Solar Farm



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Method	Detail
Inside the primary consultation zone	<p>All homes and businesses within the PCZ will receive a 4-page consultation newsletter with high-level details about the Proposed Development and consultation programme, as well as project's contact details.</p> <p>Consultation events will be held at locations within the PCZ.</p> <p>Where possible, relevant groups and organisations such as parish councils and local interest groups, will be notified of consultation opportunities.</p> <p>We have also identified a list of local community spaces within the PCZ that will be directly mailed a poster to put up, advertising how people can get involved in the consultation.</p>
Outside of the primary consultation zone	<p>We will raise awareness of the consultation using a number of methods, including via local news media, social media advertising, and direct communication with organisations such as regional environmental, religious or health organisations located outside of the PCZ.</p>
Consultation Events	<p>We will be holding three in-person events at locations spread across the PCZ. These events will be advertised in the consultation newsletter, the consultation brochure, on social media, on posters, in local news media and in a public notice.</p> <p>These events will run for periods of at least four hours between 11 am and 7pm on a mixture of weekdays and weekends to accommodate different availability.</p> <p>Details of the events is available in table 6.</p>
Webinars	<p>Two webinars will be held for any member of the public to join. One webinar will be held at the start of the consultation and one towards the end of the consultation to provide an alternative option for those who may not be able to attend the in-person events. These will be held in the evening.</p> <p>Individuals can register for these events via the website. The webinars will be held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday 8 May 2024• Tuesday 4 June 2024 <p>A recording of the webinar will be made available online for those unavailable to attend.</p>
Project information line and email	<p>Members of the public will be able to call and speak to a member of the communications team on the information line (01482 695 004), email (info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk) or write in (Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM).</p> <p>The project team will aim to respond to all enquiries within five working days.</p>

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Deposit and information points	<p>Hard copies of the consultation materials including: this SoCC, the consultation brochure, and PEIR will be available to view at the following deposit locations (times identified in Table 3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beverley Library, Champney Road, Beverley, HU17 8HE• Leven Library, Recreation Hall, East Street, Leven, Beverley HU17 5NG <p>We will check on a weekly basis that consultation documentation remains at the information points throughout the consultation period.</p> <p>The consultation brochure and feedback form will be available to collect from the deposit locations above. Where possible the consultation brochure and feedback form will also be left at the event venues within the PCZ, so community groups using these spaces will be able to take hard copies away.</p>
Project website	<p>A dedicated website (www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk) will be live for people to find out more information about the proposals and to provide feedback.</p> <p>All consultation documents will be presented on the website and available for download, free of charge from the document library. Information will be consistent with materials available at the deposit locations and consultation events.</p>

Table 3: Details of the deposit locations

Location	Address	Opening times
Beverley Library	Champney Road, Beverley, HU17 8HE	Monday 9:30 am - 5 pm Tuesday 9:30 am - 8 pm Wednesday 9:30 am - 5 pm Thursday 9:30 am - 8 pm Friday 9:30 am - 5 pm Saturday 9 am - 4 pm Sunday Closed
Leven Library	Recreation Hall, East Street, Leven, Beverley HU17 5NG	Wednesday 10:30am-12:30pm, 3:30-7pm

6.4 What are we consulting on?

- 6.4.1 We will present proposals for the Proposed Development including how they have been informed by our environmental assessments and consultation to date.



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6.4.2 We will be seeking feedback on the ongoing evolution of the proposals for Peartree Hill Solar Farm. These proposals will be explained in the following materials:

- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) – the PEIR sets out the preliminary findings from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It also includes photomontages of the Proposed Development from various locations around the site.
- PEIR Non-Technical summary – providing a summary of the findings from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- Consultation Brochure – this brochure will provide an overview of the proposals including a summary of each land area and the cable route.
- Maps – The maps will set out the site areas

6.4.3 All of the statutory consultation documents will be available on the project website. Additionally, as part of our statutory notices, we will publicise information on how to request hard copies of the PEIR. Hard copies of the consultation brochure will be available at no extra charge. A hard copy of the PEIR can be requested for a charge £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs. Requests for hardcopies can be made by email: info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk or calling 01482 695 004.

Commented [AW1]: From experience of other schemes the more detail you can provide the public, the better. Those who's houses are close by will want to know what will be located close to their house, how tall panels will be. what road improvements are proposed etc, what landscaping is proposed etc. Will you also consult on supporting docs such as TA/Ecology information for consulting with He and NE etc?

Table 4: Statutory consultation materials for Peartree Hill Solar Farm



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Consultation Materials	
Material	Detail
Consultation newsletter	<p>A 4-page newsletter publicising the consultation and outlining a high-level overview of the Proposed Development details of the consultation programme, including the location, dates and times of the public consultation events and signposting to the project website.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter will also be issued to wider consultees via emailed to local interest groups and sent to statutory parties in the post.</p> <p>The consultation newsletter will also be available to view and download on the project website.</p>
Consultation Brochure	<p>A consultation brochure will be published at the start of consultation, providing a summary of the proposals we are consulting on, an outline of the environmental assessment work, details of how people can take part, and how feedback will be used to influence and shape the proposals.</p> <p>Printed copies of this brochure will be available to take away at all consultation events, at deposit locations, and on request by contacting the communications team.</p> <p>The brochure will also be available for download from the project website</p>
Feedback Form	<p>A feedback form will be prepared to gather feedback on all aspects of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The feedback form will be available for completion online via the project website and will be accessible throughout the 6-week consultation period.</p> <p>Printed feedback forms will also be available (free of charge) on request by contacting the communications team, in hard copy at consultation events, and at the deposit points, along with freepost envelopes.</p> <p>The feedback form will also be available to download from the website, complete in pen and return to Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM.</p>



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Exhibition Banners	<p>Pull up banners will be created to display information about the proposals and provide an overview of the key components of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The banners will be designed to assist the understanding of the Proposed Development at the public exhibitions and will allow for further discussions with members of the project team during public information events and other meetings.</p> <p>Members of the public will also be available to view the banners on the project website.</p>
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	<p>The PEIR will contain a description of the Proposed Development, and a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development, based on the initial information available at that time.</p> <p>It will also set out how we propose to mitigate the impacts of and maximise the benefits of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The PEIR can be downloaded free of charge from the project website. A printed copy of the full PEIR will be available to view (but not take away) at the consultation events. A hard copy can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs.</p>
Non-technical summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report	<p>The non-technical summary of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report will be developed. It will be available to view on the project website, at consultation events and at deposit points.</p>
Technical maps and plans of the Project	<p>Additional technical maps and plans for the Proposed Development will also be available on the project website and at the consultation events and deposit locations.</p> <p>Requests for hard copies of the technical documents will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply (up to a maximum of £350 for one full suite of documents) to be paid for by the recipient.</p>
Project Website	<p>A dedicated consultation website (see Table 5 for detail).</p>
Publication of the consultation	<p>We will publish a public notice with details of the consultation within both a local newspaper and a national newspaper, pursuant to section 48 of the Act.</p>
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	<p>This SoCC document will be made available online as part of the consultation website, available at consultation events, at deposit points and in hard copy on request.</p> <p>We will also publish a notice in a local newspaper to explain where this statement can be inspected, pursuant to section 47 of the Act.</p>



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Materials in alternative formats	Upon request, all documents will be available in alternative accessible formats, such as braille, speaking text and alternative languages. All requests should be made to the communications team by email: info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk or phone: 01482 695 004.
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Table 5: The Project website and features

Function	Rationale
Online downloadable copies of all the statutory consultation material, including: The PEIR, consultation brochure, exhibition banners, non-tech summary of PEIR and feedback form	To ensure the exhibition material is accessible to those who may not be able to get to an in-person event or a deposit location. This will ensure that the consultation is fully accessible to everyone who wants to participate.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	To provide answers to frequently asked questions without the need to contact the project team or attend an in-person event.
Online Feedback Form	To enable members of the public to submit their feedback online and reduce the carbon footprint of consultation activity.
Webinar sign-up form	To enable members of the public to sign-up to webinars.
Contact details	To provide details of how to contact the project team for any further questions.

6.5 Consultation Events

- 6.5.1 Three public consultation events will be held for communities to find out information about the Project and speak to members of the project team. The consultation events will be held at suitable, publicly accessible venues that are within or near to the PCZ if a suitable location in the PCZ is not available.
- 6.5.2 Copies of all relevant consultation materials will be made available in print format at each consultation event. There will be a series of banners to present the proposals for the Proposed Development, including maps.
- 6.5.3 Those attending will be encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposals.
- 6.5.4 Table 6 outlines the dates, times and locations of each of the consultation events.



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Table 6: Details of the consultation events

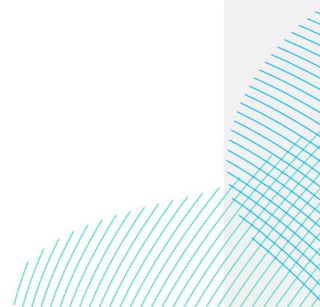
Date	Time	Location
Monday 13 May 2024	1pm-7pm	Wawne Village Hall 36 Main Street, Wawne, Hull, HU7 5XH
Saturday 18 May 2024	11am -3pm	Tickton Village Hall Main Street, Tickton, East Yorkshire, HU17 9RZ
Wednesday 22 May 2024	1pm-7pm	Leven Village Hall North Street, Leven, Beverely, HU17 5NF

Commented [AW2]: Suggest one Cottingham/Creyke Beck way in addition if possible as these are all east and some of the PCZ stretches further west

6.6 Promoting the consultation

6.6.1 We will use a variety of methods to make people aware of the Proposed Development and advertise the statutory consultation. These methods are outlined in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Methods for promoting the statutory consultation for Peartree Hill Solar Farm



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Method	Detail
Consultation Newsletter	Consultation newsletters will be posted to all homes and businesses in the PCZ ahead of the statutory consultation period. The newsletter will also be issued to statutory consultees in the mail, and to wider consultees via email, including local interest groups.
Press releases	<p>To raise awareness of the Proposed Development and the consultation programme, both within and beyond the PCZ, we will share a press release with local media outlets at the start of consultation.</p> <p>This will be sent to the following local and regional media outlets.</p>
Stakeholder briefings	<p>We will issue communications to key political stakeholders, representing wards, constituencies and parishes within the consultation zone. This will provide information about the proposals and consultation programme and invite them to take part in the consultation via in-person or online meetings.</p> <p>We will consider invitations to, or requests for, meetings with other local groups or special interest organisations on a case-by-case basis.</p>
Emails and Letters	<p>We will send both emails and letters about the consultation programme to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• host constituency and neighbouring constituency area MPs;• key elected representatives at the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council• host and neighbouring parish councils;• host and neighbouring local authorities;• local interest groups, such as environmental groups. <p>Host parish councils will receive hard copies of the consultation brochure as part of the mailing to statutory consultees.</p>



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Statutory notices	<p>Statutory notices to publicise the consultation, in accordance with section 48 of the Act, will be published once in a national newspaper (The Guardian) and the London Gazette and twice (across two successive weeks) in local circulating papers The Hull Daily Mail and The Beverley and Holderness Gazette.</p> <p>Statutory notices publicising the SoCC, in accordance with section 47 of the Act, will be published once (for one week) in the Beverley and Holderness Gazette, Hull Daily Mail and The Yorkshire Post.</p>
Information Posters	<p>Posters including details of the consultation, how to access information about the Proposed Development and how to get involved, will be displayed at well-used public locations within and outside of the PCZ, including libraries, shops and civic buildings. These will be hosted in agreement with relevant organisations and venues.</p> <p>Information posters will be sent to all host and neighbouring parish councils, to be used on local noticeboards, and to help raise awareness of the consultation.</p>
Social Media Advertising	<p>We will raise awareness of the consultation via the project Facebook page. The page is used to provide updates about the proposals and consultation programme.</p> <p>Paid for social media advertising will be used to publicise the consultation programme and proposals, helping to engage younger people and those outside of the PCZ.</p>

- 6.6.2 Any activity(ies) that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond our control, where possible, will be substituted with similar activity(ies) and communicated in local newspapers (via press release) circulating in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Any activity changes will also be published on the project website.

6.7 Wider Engagement

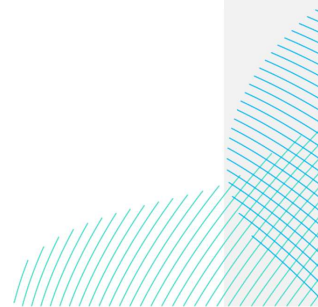
- 6.7.1 Ongoing engagement with relevant stakeholders will be undertaken ahead of the launch of the consultation, including local authorities, MPs, and statutory parties such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Historic England and with local interest groups, residents and landowners who get in touch.
- 6.7.2 All relevant parish councils, elected members for councils and MPs will be contacted and will be kept informed about the Proposed Development. They will also be encouraged to share information about the consultation with members of their constituency/local community.



6.8 Engagement with Seldom Heard groups

- 6.8.1 We are committed to ensuring that our consultation is accessible and inclusive for all stakeholders, including 'under-represented' or 'seldom heard' groups and individuals who may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation methods.
- 6.8.2 These groups and individuals that may find it harder to be involved in the consultation, and/or need additional support to access materials, include:
- Geographically isolated communities
 - Young People
 - Old People
 - Disabled people and those with learning disabilities
 - People who do not have English as a first language

Table 8: Consultation with seldom heard groups for Peartree Hill Solar Farm



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Seldom Heard Groups	Consultation Approach
Older people	<p>Directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all stakeholders within the PCZ and providing details of how to access and request paper copies of the consultation documents.</p> <p>Providing options to engage with the project team and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by freepost and the information phoneline.</p> <p>Providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and offering alternative formats such as large print (upon request).</p> <p>Offering feedback to be provided via a freepost address so feedback can be easily provided by post.</p> <p>Consultation events at three locations within the PCZ, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.</p>
Disabled people and those with learning disabilities	<p>Providing important information in both digital and non-digital formats and providing alternate formats such as large print (upon request).</p> <p>Providing options to engage with the project team and consultation through conventional communications channels, including by freepost and the information phoneline.</p> <p>Consultation events at three locations within the PCZ, with members of the team available to assist with completing feedback responses.</p> <p>Two online webinars, so anyone who may not be able to attend an in-person event can have the opportunity to ask questions of the project team.</p> <p>Ensure all event spaces have disabled access and facilities, and the layout of the consultation room provide space for those with wheelchairs to move around.</p>
Geographically isolated communities	<p>Directly mailing the consultation newsletter to all stakeholders within the PCZ and providing details of how to access and request paper copies of the consultation documents.</p> <p>Offering feedback to be provided via an online form and via the freepost address so feedback can be easily provided from all locations.</p> <p>Webinars for people to join and find out about the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Advertising the availability of the project phoneline for stakeholders with further questions to speak with the project team, regardless of location.</p>
Young People	<p>Online engagement methods, including social media advertising, to encourage young people to complete online feedback forms and engage with the consultation.</p>



6.9 Information Channels

6.9.1 The following channels will be available throughout the consultation for members of the community and other stakeholders to get in touch with the project team, ask questions, request further information or request copies of the consultation materials and documents. These channels are provided in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Information channels for Peartree Hill Solar Farm

Method	Contact Details	Hours of operation
Website	www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk	24/7
Telephone	01482 695 004	9am-5:30pm weekdays (with a voicemail facility to take messages outside these hours)
Email	info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk	24 hour (emails will be monitored between 9am-5:30pm weekdays and responded to within 10 working days)
Post	Freepost PEARTREE HILL SOLAR FARM	24 hour (mailbox will be monitored between 9am-5:30pm on weekdays)

6.9.2 Requests for consultation information to meet specific requirements will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required. This will include materials such as large print or audio for those with visual impairments, or an alternative language to for those for whom English is not their first language, to enable them to take part in the consultation.



7. Responding to the consultation

7.1 How to respond to the consultation

- 7.1.1 Feedback to the consultation must be submitted by 11:59pm on Monday 10 June 2024. Responses received after this date may not be considered.
- 7.1.2 Consultation responses can be made in the following ways:
- Completing the feedback form online which can be accessed via the project website from Monday 29 April: (www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk)
 - Attending a consultation event and completing a printed feedback form which can be handed into the team in-person or taken away and sent to us via a freepost (using Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM). Feedback forms can also be collected from our community deposit locations or requested from the community relations team as detailed in Table 9.
 - Emailing into info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk
 - Writing to us at Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM (no stamp is required)

8. How we will use consultation feedback

- 8.1.1 When our statutory consultation closes, we will have regard to all comments received. All feedback, including ongoing engagement with communities and stakeholders, is important to us and will help to influence our design for the Proposed Development.
- 8.1.2 Once we have reviewed and finalised our Application, we will produce a Consultation Report, which will set out how the feedback from the pre-application consultation has shaped and influenced our proposed application.
- 8.1.3 The Consultation Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero as part of the DCO application.



8.1.4 Any comments received could be made public but no personal information will be published. Any personal data received as part of the consultation will be stored and protected in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. The privacy notice for those visiting the project website is available at: www.peartreehillsolar.co.uk

9. Further consultation

9.1.1 If, following the statutory consultation we consider it is necessary to undertake further targeted or supplementary consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.

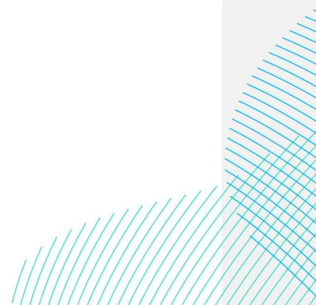
10. Contact details

10.1.1 Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Peartree Hill Solar Farm and our consultation programme. You can get in touch with members of our communications team using any of the communications lines listed below.

10.1.2 Should you require any documents in large print or audio then please contact us using the details provided. Every effort has been made to ensure that information is accurate at the time of going to print.

10.1.3 Our communications channels are:

- Email: info@peartreehillsolar.co.uk
- Call: 01482 695 004
- Write to: Freepost PEARTREEHILL SOLAR FARM (you do not need a stamp)



Appendices

Appendix 1 – Site Boundary Plan

