



Fosse Green Energy

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

Planning Inspectorate Reference Number: EN010154

Fosse Green Energy Limited

April 2025

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AOCM) Report is submitted in support of an application by Fosse Green Energy Limited (hereafter referred to as “the Applicant”) to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for a new solar and energy storage park with associated infrastructure, connecting into the National Grid transmission system at a proposed new substation near Navenby.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant, Fosse Green Energy Limited, is a partnership of Windel Energy Limited and Recurrent Energy.
- 1.1.3 Founded in 2018, Windel Energy is a privately held company dedicated to driving the transition towards a sustainable future. Specialising in the origination, development and integration of renewable energy projects and low-carbon disruptive technologies, Windel Energy is at the forefront of clean energy innovation. With a portfolio exceeding 5 gigawatts of renewable power in various stages of development, Windel Energy’s team of talented professionals bring a deep understanding and high level of expertise in land viability, electricity networks, planning (Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Developments of National Significance) and consenting for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, legal processes and construction feasibility. Windel Energy adopts a long-term ownership approach, ensuring the efficient operation and management of renewable assets. Leveraging an extensive network of relationships, institutional grade infrastructure and in-house industry expertise, Windel Energy is committed to delivering impactful and enduring energy solutions.
- 1.1.4 Recurrent Energy, a subsidiary of Canadian Solar Inc., is one of the world’s largest and most geographically diversified utility-scale solar and energy storage project development, ownership, and operations platforms. With an industry-leading team of in-house energy experts, Recurrent Energy serves as Canadian Solar’s global development and power services business. To date, Recurrent Energy has successfully developed, built, and connected 11 GWp of solar projects and more than 3 GWh of energy storage projects across six continents. As of December 31, 2024, its global pipeline includes over 28 GWp of solar and 67 GWh of energy storage capacity.

1.2 Summary of the Proposed Development



Figure 1-1 - Project Location Map

- 1.2.1 The Fosse Green Energy project (the Proposed Development) is proposed to be located on land 5.6 miles (9 km) south west of Lincoln in North Kesteven, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2.2 The Proposed Development will generate and export more than 50MW of electricity which will be exported to the national grid. It is therefore classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) and is subject to an application for a DCO.
- 1.2.3 The Proposed Development consists of a Principal Site and a Cable Corridor.
- 1.2.4 The Principal Site includes ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, Solar Stations, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Onsite Substation, planting and mitigation areas, interconnecting cables between solar PV areas, and associated infrastructure.
- 1.2.5 The Cable Corridor is the area of the Site in which the 400 kilovolt (kV) and associated cables (the Grid Connection Cables) will be installed between the Onsite Substation and the proposed substation at Navenby. The proposed substation at Navenby is the subject of a separate planning application by National Grid and does not form part of the Proposed Development. The Cable Corridor partially overlaps the Principal Site and is approximately 10km in length.
- 1.2.6 The key components of the Proposed Development comprise:

- a. Solar PV panels (also known as ‘modules’);
 - b. PV panel mounting structures;
 - c. Battery Energy Storage System (BESS);
 - d. Inverters;
 - e. Transformers;
 - f. Switchgear;
 - g. An Onsite Substation and control buildings;
 - h. Onsite cabling;
 - i. Ancillary infrastructure (e.g. combiner boxes, weather stations);
 - j. Electricity export and import via high-voltage Grid Connection Cable and connection to the National Electricity Transmission System;
 - k. Fencing and security;
 - l. Access tracks; and
 - m. Landscaping, permissive paths and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement areas.
- 1.2.7 The Order Limits for the Proposed Development are located within the administrative boundary of the following local authorities (the “host authorities”):
- a. Lincolnshire County Council
 - b. North Kesteven District Council
- 1.2.8 Local authorities adjacent to the host authorities include:
- a. Lincoln City Council
 - b. West Lindsey District Council
 - c. Nottinghamshire County Council
 - d. Newark and Sherwood District Council
 - e. East Lindsey District Council
 - f. North East Lincolnshire Council
 - g. North Lincolnshire Council
 - h. Rutland County Council
 - i. North Northamptonshire Council
 - j. Peterborough City Council
 - k. Cambridgeshire County Council
 - l. Norfolk County Council
 - m. Leicestershire County Council

- n. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- o. Boston Borough Council
- p. South Holland District Council
- q. South Kesteven District Council

1.3 Need for Consultation

- 1.3.1 Before an application for a DCO is made, the Applicant is required to consult with those living in the vicinity of the land proposed for development (under s47 of the PA 2008, key local authorities, persons with an interest in the land (PIL) and prescribed statutory bodies, as well as publicising the proposed application (under s48 of the PA 2008).
- 1.3.2 The Applicant has also followed the Gunning Principles when conducting consultation. The Gunning Principles are that:
 - a. Consultation must take place when the proposal is still at a formative stage;
 - b. Sufficient reasons must be put forward for the proposal to allow for intelligent consideration and response;
 - c. Adequate time must be given for consideration and response; and
 - d. The product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account.
- 1.3.3 The purpose of this document is to describe the consultation that has been undertaken, in accordance with the AOCM, as explained below.
- 1.3.4 Non-statutory consultation was undertaken between 11 September 2023 and 20 October 2023 and statutory consultation was undertaken between 21 October 2024 and 2 December 2024.
- 1.3.5 Feedback from the non-statutory and statutory consultations was taken into account and has informed the evolution of the application for the Proposed Development which will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (“the Inspectorate”) on behalf of the SoS in July 2025. A list of changes made to the Proposed Development to reflect comments received during consultation are contained in Chapter 4 of this AOCM report.

1.4 Adequacy of Consultation Milestone

- 1.4.1 Updated guidance was published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) (now the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) on 30 April 2024, entitled ‘Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’ (Ref 1) (the “Guidance”). This replaced the previous guidance published by the Department for Communities and Local Government’s (DCLG) ‘Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process’ (Ref 2). The Government also published the ‘Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus’ (Ref 3) (the “Prospectus”) in May 2024.

- 1.4.2 Paragraph 025 (Reference ID 02-025-20240430) of the Guidance and Paragraph 009 (Reference 1-009-20240516) of the Prospectus introduce a new early adequacy of consultation milestone (AOCM). In particular the Guidance and Prospectus provide that:
- a. The AOCM should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake additional engagement that may be required, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the consultation that has been undertaken. The suggested timescale for this is no later than around 3 months prior to the intended submission date.
 - b. The AOCM should be recorded by the applicant and submitted to the 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 Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). It should include views and any supporting material from local authorities (LAs), if available.
 - c. The AOCM is an informal, but important, milestone that gives the opportunity for the Inspectorate to check in on the consultation that has been taken and identify any concerns that may delay acceptance of the application.
- 1.4.3 This Report forms the statement that must be submitted to the Inspectorate, setting out:
- a. Consultation and engagement with LAs and local representatives in relation to the approach to be taken to consultation, during both the non-statutory and statutory consultations (Chapter 2).
 - b. Details as to how each stage of consultation was carried out and how it complied with the SoCC (Chapter 3).
 - c. A summary of how the Proposed Development has evolved throughout the pre-application process as a result of the consultation that has been undertaken (Chapter 4).
 - d. A summary of how a supplementary or targeted consultation would be conducted (Chapter 5).
- 1.4.4 Before this Report was submitted to the Inspectorate, an email was sent to host authorities that included the table of SoCC commitments (Appendix A.3) and a request for feedback on the adequacy of consultation to date.
- 1.4.5 North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) responded, noting it was satisfied that consultation and engagement on the Proposed Development had met these SoCC commitments, and the Council raised no issues or concerns with how this was undertaken. A copy of NKDC's response can be found in Appendix A.4.
- 1.4.6 Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) also responded. LCC confirmed that the Applicant had, to date, carried out adequate pre-application consultation and that it was satisfied that an appropriate level of consultation has been

conducted at this stage. LCC also noted that its feedback on the SoCC was taken into account. A copy of LCC's response can be found in Appendix A.4.

- 1.4.7 The Applicant welcomes any comments from the Inspectorate on the approach undertaken so far.

1.5 Key Documents

- 1.5.1 This Report refers to a number of other documents that the Applicant has prepared. These include the:

- a. Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report dated October 2024 (the "Stage One NSCFR"), prepared as a summary of the results of the non-statutory consultation. This is available at: <https://fossegreenenergy.co.uk/assets/images/pdf/FGE-Consultation-Report-Final-Oct.pdf>
- b. Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) dated September 2024, prepared in compliance with the PA 2008. This is available at: <https://fossegreenenergy.co.uk/assets/images/pdf/FGE-SoCC-Single-page.pdf>
- c. Programme Document dated March 2025, which was submitted to the Inspectorate on 14 March 2025. This is available at: <https://fossegreenenergy.co.uk/assets/images/pdf/FGE-Programme-Document-March-2025.pdf>
- d. Consultation Report to be submitted in July 2025 as part of the DCO application. The Consultation Report will summarise the engagement and consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development throughout the pre-application stage, and the regard had to feedback received.

2. Consultation and engagement with Local Authorities on the Approach to Consultation

2.1 Overview of the Applicant's approach to consultation through the pre-application period

- 2.1.1 It is important to the Applicant that communities, the general public and other stakeholders continue to be involved in the development of the Proposed Development throughout the DCO process. Public consultation helps to gather feedback and identify key issues of concern, enabling the Applicant to address these where possible and improve its proposals. Public engagement will continue throughout the submission and Examination stages of the Proposed Development and into the construction phase so that the Applicant can ensure communities are informed of its activities.
- 2.1.2 Pre-application consultation is a key requirement of the PA 2008 and a crucial part of raising awareness and understanding about the Proposed Development. It also helps to develop a two-way dialogue with local communities and consultees in order to understand the issues that are important to them.
- 2.1.3 In developing the approach to consultation for the Proposed Development, the Applicant has given careful consideration to the specific requirements set out in the following legislation:
- a. Sections 42-50 of the PA 2008;
 - b. Regulations 12 and 13 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the "EIA Regulations"); and
 - c. Regulations 3 and 4 and Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications, Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (as amended by The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024) (the "APFP 2009").
- 2.1.4 Taking into account best practice (Ref 4), Government Guidance on pre-application consultation (Ref 5), and each host authority's Statement of Community Involvement, the Applicant undertook a two-stage consultation:
- a. Non-statutory consultation: The non-statutory consultation on the emerging plans for the Proposed Development took place between 11 September 2023 and 20 October 2023. The consultation was undertaken to provide consultees with an early opportunity to influence the proposals while options were still undergoing consideration.
 - b. Statutory consultation: The second stage of consultation was a statutory consultation on the Applicant's Proposed Development in accordance with

the requirements of the PA 2008. This took place between 21 October 2024 and 2 December 2024.

- 2.1.5 The non-statutory consultation informed the approach to the statutory consultation.
- 2.1.6 The timeline in Figure 2.1 sets out the main stages of the pre-application process, including the non-statutory and statutory consultation, as well as key stages of engagement and publicity that the Applicant has carried out in relation to the Proposed Development.

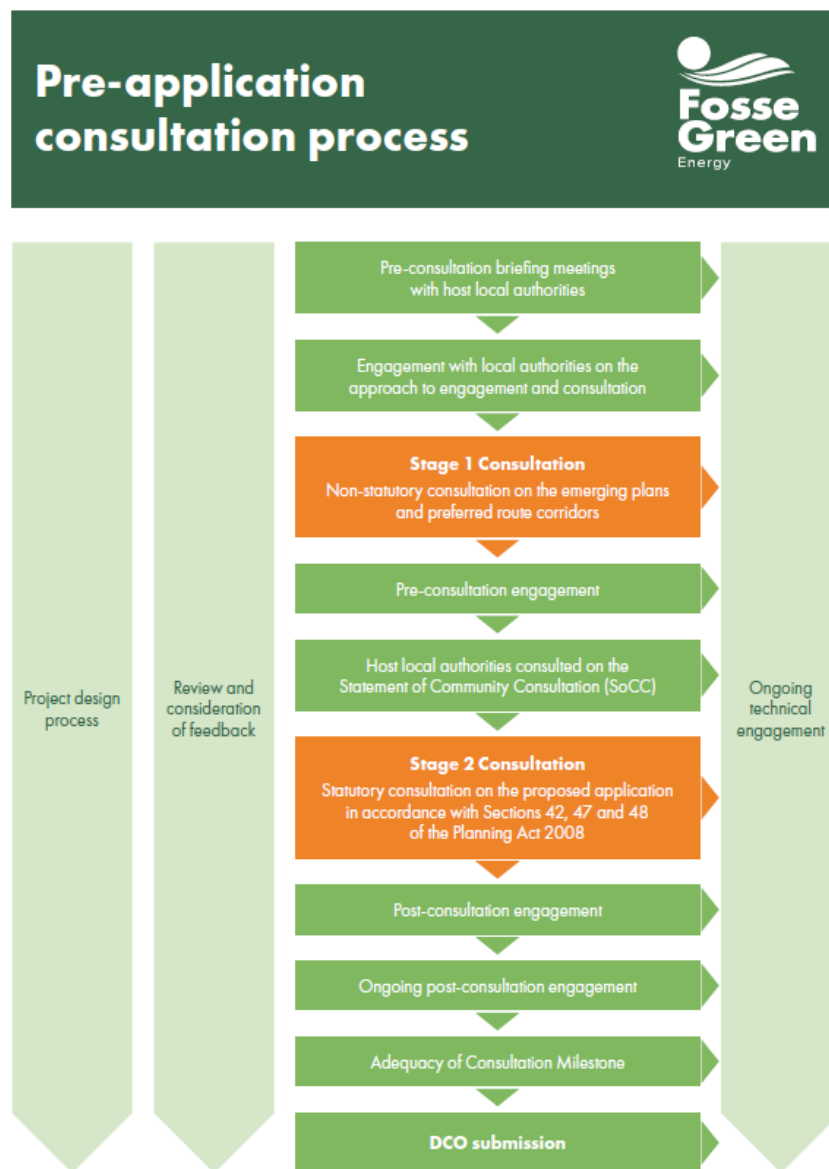


Figure 2-1 - Pre-application consultation and engagement process

2.2 Preparation for the non-statutory consultation

- 2.2.1 The Applicant is committed to delivering projects that are as inclusive as possible and places equality, diversity and inclusion at the heart of business planning and decision-making. Consultation activities were therefore planned to be accessible and inclusive, to ensure that the Applicant engaged with as wide a demographic as possible.
- 2.2.2 The Applicant sought to achieve this through a variety of methods. These included raising awareness of the Proposed Development across the region (using emails, direct mail, local newspaper advertising and community posters), clearly explaining the Proposed Development and signposting to the project website (<https://fossegreenenergy.co.uk/>). All consultation materials were written in plain English.
- 2.2.3 The Applicant engaged in discussions with the host authorities (Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council) to develop the approach to consultation and engagement. Meetings were held on the dates listed in Table 2.1. The Applicant was also in regular communication via email with both host authorities. This informal engagement continued through the non-statutory consultation period and beyond.

Table 2-1 - Meetings with Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council

Stakeholder	Meeting Date
Lincolnshire County Council	3 May 2023
North Kesteven District Council	10 May 2023
Lincolnshire County Council	26 June 2023
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	4 July 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	15 August 2024
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	30 January 2025
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council	13 March 2025

- 2.2.4 The approach to non-statutory consultation was refined with the host authorities via email and direct dialogue. Comments received from the host authorities, and the Applicant's responses to them, are set out in Table 2.2.
- 2.2.5 Correspondence received from the host authorities regarding the Applicant's proposals for consultation can be found in Appendix A.1.

Table 2-2 - Comments on the approach to engagement and consultation

Comment Raised	Response
Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council requested the Applicant engage with local groups and members when appropriate, keeping the Councils informed.	The Applicant has engaged with local groups and members when appropriate and kept both host authorities informed at all stages, as set out in Sections 3.1 and 3.2.
North Kesteven District Council requested the Applicant confirm the wards relevant to the project.	<p>The Applicant confirmed that the wards within the proposed site and potential connection corridors are Bassingham Rural, Hykeham Central, Hykeham Fosse, Hykeham Memorial, Skellingthorpe and Eagle, and Witham St Hughs and Swinderby.</p> <p>The wards neighbouring the Proposed Development were identified as Ashby de la Launde, Digby and Scopwick, Bracebridge Heath, Heighington and Washingborough, Metheringham Rural, Navenby and Brant Broughton and, Waddington Rural.</p>
North Kesteven District Council requested that the consultation zone was set at 5km and not 2.5km	The Applicant considered the request but advised that, following a review of other solar NSIPs in Lincolnshire and the wider region (including a number accepted for examination by the Inspectorate), a 3km consultation zone boundary was considered appropriate for non-statutory consultation and provided an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the zone before statutory consultation.
North Kesteven District Council requested that briefing materials on the non-statutory consultation were sent to North Hykeham Council and parish councils within the study area.	The Applicant ensured that North Hykeham Council and all parish councils within the study area received briefing communications regarding the non-statutory consultation.

<p>North Kesteven District Council supplied a list of organisations that were consulted for Springwell Solar NSIP to consider for non-statutory and statutory consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant considered this list and included all organisations that were relevant to the Proposed Development.</p>
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<p>North Kesteven District Council relayed local and ward members enquiries regarding timing of the SoCC publication and asked to confirm that the Applicant will be contacting parish, interested residents and stakeholders.</p>	<p>The Applicant provided an update on timings for the SoCC publication and confirmed that relevant residents, stakeholders and parish councils would be contacted.</p>
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- 2.2.6 The approach to non-statutory consultation was also discussed with other stakeholders who may have had an interest in the Proposed Development. An early briefing, which included discussion of the approach as well as the Proposed Development itself, was held with the 'Witham and Brant Cluster', a group of Parish Councils in the area of the Proposed Development, on 4 September 2023.
- 2.2.7 An early briefing was also held with Dr Caroline Johnson MP on 27 June 2023. Karl McCartney MP was also offered, although did not take up the offer of, a briefing.
- 2.2.8 These meetings were an opportunity to introduce the Proposed Development and provide insight into the Applicant's proposed approach to consultation to meet the requirements of the PA 2008, Government guidance (Ref 5), the Government's Consultation Principles (2018) and the Gunning Principles as set out in Paragraph 1.3.2 of this report.
- 2.2.9 Online activities were optimised to support access from mobile devices, such as phones, tablets and desktop devices.
- 2.2.10 The Applicant also recognised that many people prefer to engage offline, and as such held four in-person events across the consultation zone.
- 2.2.11 Details of the online and in-person activities are provided in Section 6 of the Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report Oct 2024 (NSCFR) (as presented at Paragraph 1.5.1 of this Report).

2.3 Preparation for the statutory consultation including the SoCC

- 2.3.1 In accordance with s47(1) of the PA 2008, the Applicant prepared a SoCC setting out how it proposed to consult about its proposed application with people living in the vicinity of the land.

- 2.3.2 As part of its preparation, and in accordance with s47(2), the Applicant consulted with the host authorities (identified in Paragraph 1.1.10) on the approach to, and content of, the draft SoCC. This consultation was held between 7 November 2023 and 19 December 2023, a period of 42 days.
- 2.3.3 This ensured the Applicant understood how consultation might best be undertaken with those affected communities and that their views could be taken into account when finalising the proposals for the Proposed Development.
- 2.3.4 Feedback on the draft SoCC was received from both host authorities and was considered by the Applicant as part of finalising the approach to the consultation. A summary of the feedback received and the changes that were made to the draft SoCC are presented in Table 2.3. Copies of correspondence received detailing feedback to the draft SoCC are presented in Appendix A.2.

Table 2-3 - Comments received on the draft SoCC

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Section 4: Consultation and Planning Process We request that the statutory consultation phase is increased to 6 weeks rather than 30 days. The end of February is anticipated; just be mindful of Lincolnshire half term starting 10th February for 1 week in case you were looking to bring the date forward. This period should be avoided.	The Applicant extended the statutory consultation from 30 days to 43 days and held the consultation between 21 October and 2 December 2024. The half term starting 10 February was avoided.
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Section 5: Non statutory consultation summary Text should be expanded to confirm that purpose of NSC was to review scheme layout and mitigation on the basis of feedback. At present it reads that the focus was on receiving	The Applicant amended the text to read: <i>"The purpose of the non-statutory consultation was to review the project's layout and mitigation by seeking to identify and understand the views of communities and stakeholders who may be affected by the development."</i>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		feedback rather than then saying how this would be acted upon in terms of emerging designs etc. Feedback report is referenced – we agree that there should be a summary of the key themes highlighted in feedback.	<p>A summary of key feedback themes was added to the SoCC. The Applicant also included the following text:</p> <p><i>"All feedback received was considered when refining the project's emerging design which is being presented at the statutory consultation. A summary of the themes and issues raised is available to view in more detail within a feedback report available at www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk. This includes the Applicant's responses to the feedback received and information on how feedback has been incorporated into the design."</i></p>
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	<p>Section 6: Consultation objectives</p> <p>This should be expanded to include seeking feedback and suggestions in relation to community benefit and mitigations.</p>	<p>The Applicant included the following objective:</p> <p><i>"Seek feedback and suggestions for community benefits, mitigation and enhancement."</i></p>
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	<p>Section 7: Environmental information</p> <p>This should be expanded to confirm that the applicant is required to address the matters contained in the Scoping Opinion issued by the Inspectorate. At present it's not quite clear enough in terms of the applicant's obligations in relation to this document.</p>	<p>The Applicant added the following text to the Scoping Report sub-section under Section 7 of the SoCC:</p> <p><i>"In accordance with Regulation 14(3)(a) of the EIA Regulations 2017, where a scoping opinion has been adopted, the ES for the Proposed Development must be based on the most recent scoping opinion adopted (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as that"</i></p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<i>which was the subject of the scoping opinion). The Applicant will need to demonstrate how the ES submitted as part of the application meets this requirement."</i>
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Section 7: Environmental information As above can you please clarify legal status of the Scoping Opinion in terms of what the PEIR and future DCO must address.	As above. The Applicant addressed the PEI Report's relation to the Scoping Opinion at the beginning of the PEI Report sub-section: <i>"The PEI Report will build upon the findings from the previous scoping documents."</i>
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Section 8: What we will consult on As above we request consultation extended to 6 weeks.	As above. The Applicant extended the statutory consultation from 30 days to 43 days and held the consultation between 21 October and 2 December 2024.
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Section 8: What we will consult on In terms of the issues that you are consulting on, whilst the use of sub-headings is helpful you need to be mindful that you are bound to receive comments resisting the principle of development (objections) and that you need to be receptive of these. The topic sub-headings suggest that these comments and concerns might not be entertained whereas you need to show that you will be receptive to a range of comments including challenges to	While the sub-headings were retained in the SoCC for ease of viewing, the Applicant added a sub-section on community benefits. The Applicant also added a paragraph at the end of Section 8 to read: <i>"The Applicant appreciates and considers all feedback on the proposals and people can leave their feedback on any aspect of the Proposed Development."</i> Methods for providing feedback were also added at the end of the section to demonstrate the Applicant was willing to receive a range

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		the principle of development on policy, technical grounds etc. In terms of the grid connection corridor, depending on National Grid decisions you might also be in a position to confirm publicly the approximate location of the new NGSS around Navenby Heath. In addition, if you do keep sub-headings in can you please add a section on seeking feedback on community benefit options.	of comments and feedback. The Applicant added the proposed location of the National Grid Substation at Navenby to Figure 1 of the SoCC.
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Section 9: Who will we consult? As with previous feedback latterly 4th September we just want to reiterate the point that whilst you've referred to examples of 2km and 3km radial consultation areas for other NSIPs, our experience has been for a 5km corridor around the energy park site (dropping to 2km around the cable corridor) and this is what we've been recommending consistently across all NSIPs within NKDC. We maintain this position and recommendation.	The Applicant decided to retain a 'Core Consultation Zone' that was three kilometres around the site boundary. This was for several reasons. Firstly, the Applicant wished to maintain consistency with the non-statutory consultation mailout zone, ensuring that the same stakeholders were notified via a postcard mailout. The Applicant notes that this zone is also larger than those used by neighbouring projects in North Kesteven as well, with Springwell Solar Farm using an inner consultation zone of two kilometres. As also referenced in the draft SoCC, a Core Consultation Zone of three kilometres is consistent with the maximum extent of the study areas for the EIA. The Applicant instead ensured a wider consultation zone of five kilometres was used for

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>the statutory consultation. Activities undertaken in the wider consultation zone include advertising in local media and via targeted Google online advertising, issuing posters, and engaging with the Parish Councils of towns and villages in this area.</p> <p>The same activities were conducted within the Core Consultation Zone, though addresses within the Core Consultation Zone received a postcard mailout advertising the consultation as well (see Paragraph 3.2.6).</p>
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	<p>Section 9: Who will we consult?</p> <p>As above we recommend a 5km zone which would then avoid the need to deal with feedback from outside the 3km core zone. It is unclear how google online advertising will work/details. If the 3km core zone is retained it would help to identify villages etc beyond the 3km where you might expect to receive feedback and how the proposed local media coverage will reach those areas</p>	<p>As above. The Applicant encouraged feedback from local stakeholders in both the Core Consultation Zone of three kilometres and the wider consultation area of five kilometres as part of the consultation. Further, the Applicant made an online feedback form available on the consultation website, which was available to use by all members of the public.</p> <p>The Applicant added a subsection under Section 9 of the SoCC which clarified how Google advertising would work.</p> <p>When defining the wider consultation area in the SoCC, the Applicant added which towns and villages would be included as part of this.</p>
North Kesteven	15/11/2023	Section 9: Who will we consult?	The Applicant rephrased this sentence to instead read:

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
District Council		Consideration on a case by case basis suggests that you might decline requests? Suggest rewording along the lines of you will accommodate these requests.	<i>"Requests for specific consultation activity to cater for members of seldom heard groups will be agreed and planned with the requesting organisations."</i>
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Section 10: How the Applicant consults Please confirm that the ORPMR venue is at Thorpe on the Hill. Re: booking and availability of meeting rooms can you mention that you would look to agree alternatives in discussion with the parish councils and host authorities? Mix of weekend and weekday events are supported but there is no reference to start and end times to ensure maximum scope for attendance across spectrum of residents.	<p>The Applicant added text to note that the Oliver Roper Parish Meeting Room was in Thorpe on the Hill.</p> <p>The Applicant listed the venue, date, time and address for all in-person consultation events in Table 3 of the SoCC. It noted that the Oliver Roper Parish Meeting Room was in Thorpe on the Hill.</p> <p>The Applicant also rephrased the paragraph after Table 3 to read:</p> <p><i>"Events are scheduled at a mixture of times and on both weekdays and weekends to enable people with different time commitments to attend the events."</i></p> <p>The Applicant also deleted the following text from the draft SoCC:</p> <p><i>"If these venues are not available, other suitable venues in the local area will be selected."</i></p> <p>The Applicant did this as all venues were confirmed prior to the publication of the SoCC. Throughout the SoCC, there is</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			a sustained commitment to engaging with host authorities and Parish Councils around plans for the consultation.
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Section 10: How the Applicant consults No indication as to where these [information points] are. It is presumed that these are libraries, parish offices/halls etc within the core consultation zone but can you please confirm likely venues so that we can comment; e.g. North Hykeham Community Library?	The Applicant set out the information point addresses and opening times in Table 2 of the SoCC.
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Section 10: How the Applicant consults No reference to accommodating feedback via social media	The Applicant notes this comment. To ensure all feedback was accurately and consistently captured, the Applicant decided not to accept feedback left on social media. Stakeholders were instead encouraged to comment online via the feedback form on the website or by emailing the project inbox.
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Section 10: How the Applicant consults 'Advertising and notices' and 'media releases' suggest expansion to include Lincolnshire Live, Lincolnshire World and The Lincolnite for press/advertising, and for media releases to include BBC Radio Lincolnshire, Lincs 102.2FM, BBC Look North, ITV News	The Applicant expanded the list of advertisements being placed to include Lincolnshire World, and the list of media outlets receiving press releases to include BBC Radio Lincolnshire, Lincs 102.2FM, BBC Look North, ITV News, Lincolnshire Free Press, Local Lincs Magazine, Witham Herald, and Hykeham Gazette.

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		Calendar, Lincolnshire Free Press, Lincolnshire Live, Local Lincs Magazine. The area is also covered either in whole or part by Tucann Publishing's Witham Herald and the Hykeham Gazette.	
North Kesteven District Council	15/11/2023	Finally please can you liaise with the developers for Beacon Fen and Springwell to ensure that there is no overlap with the statutory consultation where possible. This is particularly the case for Springwell given that both projects are planned to connect into a new NGSS on Navenby Heath.	The Applicant ensured the statutory consultation was not held at the same time as the consultations for Springwell Solar Farm (who held their statutory consultation from 11 January 2024 to 22 February 2024) and Beacon Fen Energy Park (who held their statutory consultation from 22 January 2024 to 3 March 2024) through discussions with the respective projects.
Lincolnshire County Council	18/12/2023	Section 9: Who will we consult? Core Consultation area, Figure 1 - Would it be possible to show which parts of the site shown in blue are the solar array area and which is the cable route?	The Applicant ensured that the solar array and cable route were clearly defined in Figure 1 of the SoCC.
Lincolnshire County Council	18/12/2023	Section 9: Who will we consult? Please could a copy of the consultation communication (postcard) be sent to the Planning Authority and the local members so that they are aware what has been sent out in their area.	The Applicant added text under the postcard subsection in Section 10 of the SoCC, stating 'At the start of consultation, postcards will be issued to the host authorities' planning officers and councillors representing wards in the Core Consultation Zone.' The Applicant ensured that a

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			copy of the postcard was sent to both LPAs and relevant local members in advance of the consultation launch.
Lincolnshire County Council	18/12/2023	Section 9: Who will we consult? Wider consultation area information points – these should be identified, be local and have a range of opening hours.	The Applicant set out the information point addresses and opening times in Table 2 of the SoCC.
Lincolnshire County Council	18/12/2023	Section 9: Who will we consult? Consideration should be made to publishing the “seldom heard groups” as this demonstrates that these stakeholders are fully included in the SoCC process. This also shows that appropriate effort has been made to find out who these groups are and how they will be contacted.	The Applicant published the list of ‘Seldom Heard Groups’ that would be contacted in Appendix A of the SoCC.
Lincolnshire County Council	18/12/2023	Section 10: How the Applicant consults How we consult - the details of the in-person events, dates and times will need listing.	The Applicant listed the venue, date, time and address for all in-person consultation events in Table 3 of the SoCC.
Lincolnshire County Council	18/12/2023	Section 10: How the Applicant consults Contact lines- Consider offering a call back service / out of working hours times to call for those working / with other commitments during these times.	The Applicant added the following text to Section 10 under the project phone number: <i>"This phonenumber has a voicemail service for out of hours calls. Calls can be scheduled with the consultation team for outside</i>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			of working hours."
			Calls to the project information line were logged and messages left were responded to, including call backs when requested.

2.3.5 Following consultation with the host authorities, the SoCC was updated to incorporate the changes set out in Table 2.3.

2.3.6 The Applicant undertook the statutory consultation in line with the approach set out in the SoCC. The Applicant has prepared a SoCC Compliance Checklist to demonstrate how the consultation complied with the agreed SoCC. This checklist can be found at Appendix A.3. The checklist identifies commitments made in the SoCC and evidence how this was complied with.

2.4 Section 55 Checklist

2.4.1 Section 55 of the PA 2008 sets out the circumstances under which the Secretary of State (SoS) may accept an application for development consent. Following acceptance, an application will be subject to an examination pursuant to s86 to s102B of the PA 2008.

2.4.2 The 'Section 55 checklist' is a document prepared by the Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State upon submission of an application. Completion of the Section 55 checklist by an applicant is not a requirement under Regulation 5 of the APFP Regulations, nor does the submission of a draft completed Section 55 checklist by the Applicant hold any weight at the acceptance stage.

2.4.3 However, the Applicant considers that the submission of a 'draft' Section 55 checklist can assist the Inspectorate with the compliance check at the acceptance stage by signposting to relevant Application documents or parts within Application documents.

2.4.4 Therefore, the Applicant has decided to submit the Section 55 checklist as part of its application for a DCO. The checklist will demonstrate how the Applicant has complied with the PA 2008, particularly with s42, s45, s46, s47, s48 and s49 of the PA 2008 in relation to the consultation.

3. Approach to Pre-Application consultation

3.1 Non-statutory consultation approach

- 3.1.1 On 11 May 2023, in advance of the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant delivered a 'Soft-Launch' phase of communication to residents, businesses and stakeholders with an interest in the Proposed Development. On this date the project website was launched and promoted. The Soft-Launch consisted of:
- a. Direct mailing to 477 residents and businesses living within or close to the proposed site boundary;
 - b. Emails issued to key stakeholders, including Parish Councils; and
 - c. A press release issued to local media outlets including Lincolnshire Live, The Lincolnite, East Midlands Connected and Newark Advertiser.
- 3.1.2 Communications to update officers and elected members at host authorities, Parish Councils and key stakeholders of the Soft-Launch were also issued on 26 June 2023.
- 3.1.3 Non-statutory consultation was then held between 11 September 2023 and 20 October 2023 for a period of 39 days.
- 3.1.4 The purpose of the non-statutory consultation was to:
- a. Introduce the Applicant and its ambition to deliver a new solar and energy storage park with associated infrastructure, connecting into the National Grid transmission system at a proposed new substation near Navenby;
 - b. Give local and/or interested people and stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on the emerging proposals that could inform the evolving design of the Proposed Development;
 - c. Provide information on how the Proposed Development will operate;
 - d. Identify wider potential impacts of the Proposed Development and any opportunities to support local schemes and projects to benefit communities;
 - e. Ensure people know how to receive information on the Proposed Development both during and outside of the consultation period;
 - f. Inform and prepare consultees ahead of statutory consultation, which was anticipated to take place Winter 2024; and
 - g. Seek comments on any other matters relating to the Proposed Development that consultees consider relevant.
- 3.1.5 The consultation was undertaken within an identified Consultation Zone around the area of the Proposed Development but was not geographically

restricted to respondents in this area. This represented an approximate Consultation Zone of three kilometres from the Proposed Development boundary.

- 3.1.6 The Consultation Zone included approximately 13,000 residential and commercial addresses.
- 3.1.7 A map of the Consultation Zone is included as Figure 2 of the Stage One NSCFR, available on the project website (link available in Paragraph 1.5.1).
- 3.1.8 In accordance with the DCLG Guidance (Ref 2) (which was the current guidance at the time of the non-statutory consultation) and to encourage participation in the consultation, a range of methods and techniques were used to consult. These ensured that the various consultees identified above, and all sections of the community that could be affected by the Proposed Development could be involved in the process.
- 3.1.9 The consultation was open to all and widely publicised via email, postcards, print/digital advertising, and social media. Notification of the consultation period was particularly targeted at specific local stakeholders and groups including:
- a. Local communities and elected representatives: Households and businesses in the defined Consultation Zone and their elected representatives (including MPs, councillors, and Parish Councils). This included landowners whose land may be affected by the Proposed Development.
 - b. Special and local interest groups: Special interest groups, such as wildlife trusts, professional bodies, pressure groups, and organisations who may be interested in the proposals because of their area of knowledge or specialism (for example, local historical societies, conservation groups or charities).
 - c. Seldom heard groups: Representatives of people considered seldom heard. Examples of groups considered seldom heard include young people, old people, people with physical disabilities or learning difficulties, and people for whom English is not their first language. During the consultation, the project team sought to identify interested parties to include in future engagement.
 - d. Host authorities and Parish Councils: The Applicant consulted with host authorities and Parish Councils as detailed in Paragraph 3.1.13b.
- 3.1.10 The information provided at the non-statutory consultation (available on the project website) included an online map, a Consultation Information Booklet, which provided an overview of the Proposed Development at that stage and how people could feedback into the consultation, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report which can be found here: <https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN010154-000011-EN010154%20-%20Scoping%20Report.pdf>

(Planning Inspectorate (2023) Scoping Report submitted to the Secretary of State on 19 June 2023 (Accessed 8 April 2025)).

- 3.1.11 A briefing was held with North Kesteven District Council on 9 October 2023. This allowed the Applicant to present the Proposed Development proposals to council members. A record of the briefing can be found here: <https://democracy.n-kesteven.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=710&MId=9549> (North Kesteven District Council (2023) Councillor Pre-Application Planning Forum-Monday 9th October 2023 5:00pm (Accessed 4 April 2025))
- 3.1.12 In addition, a wide range of community and other non-statutory stakeholders were identified and notified of the consultation.
- 3.1.13 More detail on the notification methods is provided at Section 5.2 of the Stage One NSCFR, and in summary:
- a. Postcards were distributed to 13,000 residential and commercial addresses within the Consultation Zone.
 - b. Emails were issued to a range of organisations and stakeholders including two Members of Parliament, the two host authorities, and 26 Parish Councils.
 - c. An advertising campaign took place in print and digital media and using Google search advertising.
- 3.1.14 The Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report provides an overview of how the non-statutory consultation was conducted and a summary of feedback received (<https://fossegreenenergy.co.uk/assets/images/pdf/FGE-Consultation-Report-Final-Oct.pdf> (link available in Paragraph 1.5.1)).
- 3.1.15 At the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant asked for people's views and feedback on:
- a. The Proposed Development overall;
 - b. The proposed location of the Proposed Development including solar panel array areas;
 - c. The two Cable Corridor options identified to enable the energy park to connect to the National Grid transmission system. (At this stage, these areas were broad to allow for route refinement informed by continued environmental surveys, minimising any potential adverse impacts);
 - d. Initial ideas to mitigate potential environmental impacts, create areas for ecological enhancements and biodiversity net gain;
 - e. The proposed method of using underground cables to connect to the national grid; and
 - f. Suggestions for community initiatives or schemes that could be supported once the Proposed Development is operational.

- 3.1.16 The feedback received to the non-statutory consultation informed the design and development of the Proposed Development.
- 3.1.17 A total of 158 pieces of feedback were received during the consultation period, which were coded, analysed and reported on as valid consultation responses.
- 3.1.18 Representations were received from local authorities, national and local organisations, PILs, and the local community, including:
 - a. The Environment Agency;
 - b. Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council;
 - c. Norton Disney Parish Council;
 - d. Coleby Parish Council;
 - e. Aubourn and Haddington Parish Council;
 - f. Swinderby Parish Council;
 - g. Thurlby Parish Council; and
 - h. Fosse Green Energy Action Group.
- 3.1.19 The feedback comprised:
 - a. 93 emails;
 - b. 25 online feedback forms; and
 - c. 40 hard copy feedback forms or letters.
- 3.1.20 A detailed summary of how the Applicant has had regard to the consultation feedback provided during the non-statutory consultation is provided in the Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report (Section 8) (link available in Paragraph 1.5.1).

3.2 Statutory consultation approach

- 3.2.1 The statutory consultation provided consultees with a further opportunity to understand, comment on and influence the proposals prior to submission of the application. The consultation provided the opportunity for consultees to attend public exhibitions and speak to members of the project team. The consultation also provided more opportunities to increase awareness about the Proposed Development.
- 3.2.2 The consultation focused on sharing how proposals had developed following the non-statutory consultation, and how feedback had been taken account of and incorporated into the Proposed Development and the Preliminary Order Limits.
- 3.2.3 The information provided at the statutory consultation (available on the project website) included:
 - a. A copy of the SoCC;

- b. A Consultation Information Booklet, which provided an updated summary of the Proposed Development and how people could provide feedback;
 - c. A site layout plan;
 - d. The map of the Proposed Development;
 - e. Hardcopy and online feedback forms;
 - f. Promotional materials including the mailer/postcard and community poster;
 - g. The s47 and s48 notice;
 - h. The Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report and supporting documents (including a Non-Technical Summary), which set out the environmental assessments undertaken to date, explained what was proposed to be constructed and where, as well as the decisions which had been taken in developing the proposals and provided an overview of the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Development. Views were sought during the consultation on the information contained in the PEI Report and its supporting documents; and
 - i. A recording of an online webinar which took place on 26 November 2024.
- 3.2.4 The statutory consultation took place over a 43-day period from 21 October 2024 to 2 December 2024. This exceeds the statutory minimum period of 28 days for statutory consultation as specified by the PA 2008.
- 3.2.5 The statutory consultation was open to anyone that had a view that they wished the Applicant to consider (as was the case for the non-statutory consultation).
- 3.2.6 A tiered consultation zone strategy was put in place. This consisted of a:
- a. Core Consultation Zone of three kilometres from the site boundary, which matched the Proposed Development's initial non-statutory Consultation Zone. Addresses in this Zone would receive direct notification of the statutory consultation through a direct mail postcard.
 - b. Wider Consultation Zone that was specified to reach communities within five kilometres of the site boundary. These would be communicated with through Google advertising, local media advertising, posters and notices. This Wider Consultation Zone included, but was not limited to, North Hykeham, Waddington, Nocton, Metheringham, Rowston, Digby, Bloxholm, Ruskington, Leadenham, Fulbeck, Stragglethorpe, Brant Broughton, Stapleford and Collingham.
- 3.2.7 Parish Councils, relevant local groups, and 'Seldom Heard Groups' in these areas were also notified via an email sent on 21 October 2024 announcing the launch of the statutory consultation.
- 3.2.8 Members of the community who registered their interest in receiving updates on the Proposed Development before 21 October 2024 were also notified of the launch of consultation.

3.2.9 At the same time as consulting the local community, the Applicant consulted a wide range of statutory consultees on the Proposed Development, in accordance with s42 of the PA 2008. These were identified with consideration of Inspectorate (2024), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-eia-notification-and-consultation> (accessed 17 April 2025). These include:

- a. Host and neighbouring local authorities;
- b. Prescribed consultees (such as Natural England and Environment Agency);
- c. People with an interest in land that might be affected by the proposals; and
- d. Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service.

3.2.10 In accordance with s42(1)(b) of the PA 2008, the local authorities in Table 3.1 were consulted.

Table 3-1 - Local authorities consulted

Section 43 Grouping	Description	Local Authorities
A	A neighbouring authority that shares a boundary with a unitary council or lower tier district council within whose area the development is situated (an adjacent authority).	Lincoln City Council; West Lindsey District Council; Newark and Sherwood District Council; East Lindsey District Council; North East Lincolnshire Council; North Lincolnshire Council; North Northamptonshire Council; Peterborough City Council; Boston Borough Council; South Holland District Council; South Kesteven District Council;
B	Either a unitary council or lower tier district council in which the development is situated (a host authority).	North Kesteven District Council

C	An upper-tier County Council in whose area the development is situated.	Lincolnshire Council	County
D	A neighbouring local authority (other than a lower tier DC) that shares a boundary with an upper-tier county council in whose area the development is situated.	Nottinghamshire Council; Rutland Council; Cambridgeshire County Council; Norfolk County Council; Leicestershire Council; Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.	County

3.2.11 In accordance with s42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, persons with an interest in land (PILs) were consulted, as set out below:

- a. Category 1 – an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land;
- b. Category 2 – a person interested in the land or who has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land; and
- c. Category 3 – a person who would or might be entitled to make a claim under s10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 or Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 or s152(3) of the PA 2008.

3.2.12 S42(1)(d) notices were issued by post on 21 October 2024, when the statutory consultation launched, to PILs within the Order Limits as identified by His Majesty's Land Registry. S42(1)(d) notice were also issued on the same date to parties with subsoil interests within these Order Limits.

3.2.13 In the process of completing a Land Registry refresh, the Applicant identified several new lands interests. A later consultation in line with the statutory consultation was therefore held for newly identified PILs within the Order Limits. S42 notices were issued to these parties on 3 March 2025, who were given 28 days to respond.

3.2.14 More detail on the consultation undertaken with PILs will be provided in Section 8 of the Consultation Report produced as part of the DCO application.

3.2.15 The Proposed Development constitutes Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development and, therefore, the EIA Regulations and requirements contained therein apply.

3.2.16 The requirement to consult on preliminary environmental information is set out in Regulation 12(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations. Preliminary environmental information (PEI) is defined in the EIA Regulation as: information referred to

in regulation 14(2) and Part 1 of Schedule 4 (information for inclusion in environmental statements); which, (a) has been compiled by the applicant; and (b) is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development).

- 3.2.17 The SoCC, prepared under s47 of the PA 2008, set out how the PEI Report was to be publicised and consulted on. This included who the Applicant would consult with in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations. The statutory consultation exercise was carried out in accordance with the SoCC (available on the project website).
- 3.2.18 The PEI Report (available on the project website) was published as part of the statutory consultation and was the written output of the EIA undertaken at that date for the Proposed Development. The PEI Report was designed to accord with the minimum requirements for an ES as set out in Regulation 14 and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations as far as possible based on known information.
- 3.2.19 In preparing the PEI Report for consultation, regard was had to the Inspectorate's Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements.
- 3.2.20 The findings presented in the PEI Report were based on a preliminary assessment and reflected the design process at that stage and understanding of baseline conditions, allowing for conclusions as to the likely significant effects to be drawn. Although preliminary, the findings of the assessment set out within the report allowed an informed view to be developed of the Proposed Development being promoted, the assessment approach that had been undertaken, and drew preliminary conclusions on the likely significant effects and environmental measures proposed.
- 3.2.21 Where the design was still evolving or further information on baseline conditions were still to be obtained, a precautionary approach was applied to ensure a likely worst-case scenario was assessed in the PEI Report. The PEI Report presented a level of preliminary assessment appropriate to enable consultees to develop an informed view of likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development and help inform their consultation responses during the statutory consultation as part of the pre-application stage. This enabled both the design of the Proposed Development and the EIA to take into consideration any comments received through the consultation.
- 3.2.22 Responses to the Scoping Opinion comments (which had been received on 25 July 2023), detailing how they were addressed within the PEI Report were set out in each environmental topic chapter.
- 3.2.23 The project website was well utilised, being visited by 2,158 total users over the course of the consultation period.

- 3.2.24 In total, 216 pieces of feedback were received in response to the statutory consultation.
- 3.2.25 Representations were received from local authorities, national and local organisations, PILs, and the local community. The feedback comprised:
- a. Online via the feedback form - 47
 - b. Email feedback - 141
 - c. Hardcopy feedback forms - 26
 - d. Hardcopy mail - 2
- 3.2.26 Late responses were received from the Forestry Commission, the Lincoln and Witham Landscape Recovery Project, a member of the Stop Fosse Green Action Group, and from two members of the public. Noting that these responses were submitted a few days after the close of consultation, the responses were considered by the Applicant.
- 3.2.27 On 18 November 2024, a feedback extension was granted to Parish Councils who the Applicant was planning to brief on 27 November 2024. The deadline for feedback was extended to 9 December 2024 to ensure the Parish Councils had sufficient time to respond in detail to the statutory consultation following the briefing. The Applicant received feedback from Coleby Parish Council and Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council in response.
- 3.2.28 Following identification and categorisation of the feedback, the Applicant considered feedback received as part of its ongoing design, assessment and evaluation processes for the Proposed Development.
- 3.2.29 A detailed summary of how the Applicant has had regard to the consultation feedback provided during the statutory consultation will be provided in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the DCO application.
- 3.2.30 As noted in paragraph 2.3.6, the Applicant prepared a SoCC Compliance Checklist to demonstrate how the consultation undertaken at the statutory consultation complied with the agreed SoCC (see Appendix A.3).
- 3.2.31 As noted in Chapter 2.4, the Applicant will submit a Section 55 Checklist as part of its DCO application submission.

4. Summary of Evolution for the Proposed Development

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 The Proposed Development underwent a number of changes and updates as a result of the non-statutory and statutory consultations. These changes reflect the evolution of the project options and design taking into account comments received at consultation and also the findings of environmental and technical surveys/assessments.

4.2 Evolution of the Proposed Development presented at the non-statutory consultation

- 4.2.1 The Applicant reviewed and considered all feedback received at non-statutory consultation and continued to develop the Proposed Development. Given specific concerns raised by residents on Morton Lane and residents of the Cathedral View Holiday Park, meetings were held with them over the consultation period which also informed the evolution of the Proposed Development. Changes following non-statutory consultation included refining the Principal Site Boundary to exclude individual residential properties, and the removal of the southern grid connection option due to it resulting in a longer cable route which would have affected additional landowners and resulted in potential temporary impacts.
- 4.2.2 The main design iterations for the Principal Site and Cable Corridor can be seen at Table 4.2 of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (Volume 1, Chapter 4), available on the project website at <https://fossegreenenergy.co.uk/documents/>.
- 4.2.3 Changes made to the Proposed Development as a result of comments received during the non-statutory consultation are summarised below.
- a. Removal of the southern grid connection option as it would result in a longer cable route affecting additional landowners and resulting in additional temporary impacts;
 - b. Refining the Principal Site Boundary to exclude individual properties;
 - c. Minimising visual impacts;
 - d. Creating links across the Principal Site;
 - e. Reducing potential operational noise impacts;
 - f. Locating all Solar Station Compounds away from Flood Zones 2 and 3;
 - g. Locating larger elements of the solar farm in areas of reduced flooding and screening from existing vegetation and topography;

- h. Removing land previously containing solar infrastructure south of Moor Lane to reduce impact on ground nesting birds;
 - i. As a result of landowner discussions and further environmental assessment, an area to the north of the A46 has now been included for the deployment of solar panels to maximise the opportunities to deliver clean energy;
 - j. Changes have been made in the vicinity of Cathedral View Holiday Park and in land southeast of Thorpe on the Hill to provide additional buffers from the Solar PV Array;
 - k. Additional changes have been made in the vicinity of Cathedral View Holiday Park and in land southeast of Thorpe on the Hill to provide additional buffers from the Solar PV Array Areas;
 - l. The design of the Solar and BESS Stations has been optimised to aggregate these as much as possible to minimise the number of water tanks that may be requested by the local fire and rescue teams should the DC-coupled BESS option be selected for development; and
 - m. Permissive paths have been included to show the Applicant's intention for greater connectivity between the local villages and provision of shorter circular walks. Proposed planting has also been added.
- 4.2.4 Further refinement to the Cable Corridor was also undertaken, with a single, approximately 250m wide route included within the Site. The refinement of the Cable Corridor considered:
- a. Feedback from the non-statutory consultation including concerns related to the provision of additional overhead lines;
 - b. The likely point of connection at proposed National Grid Navenby Substation;
 - c. Optimisation of the corridor so the cable can be laid in a straight line or in shallow curves so that the cable can be pulled through the ducting effectively;
 - d. Provision of adequate space to allow for crossing on existing utilities such as the existing overhead lines and the new Anglian Water main;
 - e. Access to the corridor during construction; and
 - f. Provision of adequate space required to undertake the works to lay the cable.

4.3 Evolution of the Proposed Development Presented at Statutory Consultation

- 4.3.1 Following the statutory consultation, the Applicant reviewed and considered all feedback received and continued to develop the Proposed Development, also taking account of ongoing surveys and assessments. The main changes to the Proposed Development since the statutory consultation include:

- a. Removal of solar photovoltaics (PV) from a field to the south-east of Thorpe on the Hill. This can be used for ecological mitigation and enhancement;
- b. Removal of solar PV from a field east of Morton which was located immediately east of a proposed orchard;
- c. Change of the permissive path network around Housham Wood in response to a request by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust;
- d. Change of the permissive path network around Cathedral Park, a caravan park north of the A46, in response to requests by local residents;
- e. Change of the permissive path network in the southern part of the site, providing better pedestrian links between Thurlby and Bassingham;
- f. Removal of solar PV in a field west of (the north-western part of) Bassingham to minimise views of the solar infrastructure for residents with open views across the site;
- g. Reduction in the size of the BESS compound. This will reduce noise impacts and allow for more landscaping; and
- h. Slight reduction in the grid connection corridor within which the buried connection cable will be located between the principal site and the proposed Navenby Substation. This change will remove land from our proposals that will no longer be required.

5. How the Applicant would undertake any Supplementary or Targeted Consultation

5.1 Supplementary or Targeted Consultation

- 5.1.1 In accordance with standard pre-application consultation procedures, where necessary and appropriate, the Applicant would conduct supplementary or targeted consultations. Supplementary or targeted consultation is not anticipated at this stage, but the procedure that would be followed should this be required is set out below.
- 5.1.2 Any supplementary or targeted consultation will align with the approaches undertaken during all previous stages of both non-statutory and statutory pre-application consultation.
- 5.1.3 The Applicant will seek to ensure that any required consultation will:
- Provide an update on information relating to the Proposed Development;
 - Be limited to such parties as need to be consulted on the particular issues that are subject to the consultation;
 - Provide the community and other stakeholders with the opportunity to understand, comment on and influence the proposals subject to the supplementary or target consultation;
 - Provide clear and concise technical and non-technical information on the proposals subject to the supplementary or target consultation, as required;
 - Help local people understand the potential nature and local impact of the proposals subject to the supplementary or target consultation;
 - Provide a range of opportunities for people to engage with the proposals subject to the supplementary or target consultation and provide comments and feedback; and
 - Ensure that comments and feedback have been taken into account in finalising the DCO application prior to its submission.
- 5.1.4 Any necessary consultation would focus on sharing how proposals have developed following the statutory consultation and how feedback has been taken into account and incorporated into the Proposed Development and the Draft Order Limits.
- 5.1.5 The need for a further consultation would be determined on a case-by-case basis following a careful review of all consultation feedback received from the statutory consultation and in accordance with relevant guidance on the need for further consultation. Any supplementary/ targeted consultation would be undertaken for a minimum of four weeks.

- 5.1.6 All steps would be considered with regard to notices, advertising/press notices, and, where necessary, events, in line with the approaches adopted during previous stages of consultation and aligned as appropriate with the SoCC produced for statutory consultation.
- 5.1.7 Subject to the requirements for supplementary/targeted consultation, all affected PILs would be informed of the consultation in line with the process set out in the SoCC. The Applicant would also engage with local authorities in areas where such consultation is required within their jurisdiction.
- 5.1.8 All feedback received during any supplementary or targeted consultation would be reviewed and considered using the same methods and approaches as adopted at each of the previous stages of pre application consultation. Comments received during the consultation period would be considered in detail and with due regard.
- 5.1.9 As part of the Applicant's preparation for the submission of a DCO application, following any supplementary/targeted consultation, a summary of the approach taken, the feedback received and the matters raised would be provided as a separate chapter of the Consultation Report, within the application.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Concluding Remarks

- 6.1.1 The Applicant shared its approach to consultation at the non-statutory and statutory stages of consultation with local authorities, with a SoCC developed for the statutory consultation. The SoCC provided the relevant LAs with the opportunity to comment and suggest any potential changes in approach as the process of consultation continued. Feedback from the LAs was taken into consideration and informed the approach to the statutory consultation.
- 6.1.2 At each stage of pre-application consultation, the Applicant has undertaken consultation in accordance with the approach identified in the SoCC and in accordance with the PA 2008.
- 6.1.3 The Applicant has at all times during pre-application consultation given due consideration to all responses received at consultation and while it is not always possible to amend the proposals in response to such comments, a number of changes have been made and the Proposed Development has developed accordingly.
- 6.1.4 In accordance with the requirements under the PA 2008, the Applicant is preparing a Consultation Report which will provide:
 - a. Details of each stage of engagement and consultation undertaken as part of the pre-application process;
 - b. A summary of the responses received; and
 - c. How the Applicant has had regard to the responses received in the development of the Proposed Development
- 6.1.5 The Consultation Report will be submitted as part of the DCO application.

References

- Ref 1 Gov.UK (2024) Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects> (Accessed 8 April 2025).
- Ref 2 Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6630afc53579e7a8f398a9b3/150326_Pre-Application_Guidance.pdf (Accessed 8 April 2025).
- Ref 3 Gov.UK (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-2024-pre-application-prospectus> (Accessed 8 April 2025).
- Ref 4 In line with the Gunning Principles, the three-stage consultation began at an early stage of the Project's development, and each stage took the results of the previous consultation into account. The Applicant initially considered a two-stage consultation would provide sufficient opportunity for consultees and the public to feedback, a third stage was undertaken given the extent of amendments to the Project.
- Ref 5 At the time of the Stage One and Stage Two Consultations, the relevant guidance was DCLG's 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process'. At the time of Stage Two, the relevant guidance was MHCLG and DLUHC's 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects'.

APPENDIX A.1

Feedback from LAs on consultation and engagement prior to the non-statutory consultation

Email from North Kesteven District Council

Received 29th August 2023

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 August 2023 10:31
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Fosse Green solar - post EIA Scoping Meeting
Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the email and sorry for the delayed reply. Just to confirm then as below that the consultation starting on 11th September will be the non-statutory consultation leading to informing of scheme design and moving into the development of the SoCC as per your 2nd point? Ill brief the local ward members accordingly. Also yes in terms of consultations with internal and external consultees we are happy to start exchanging contacts. Noise methodology will need to be agreed with [REDACTED] in our Environmental Health team. Ill let [REDACTED] know that you'll be in touch. EIA and visuals are likely being dealt with by AAH Planning working jointly with LCC and NKDC and I know that LCC ([REDACTED]) is trying to coordinate this via a PPA with you? Once AAH have been appointed we/they can hopefully agree some initial VPs for draft comments but NK and LCC would probably want a site visit with AAH initially before providing any initial comments. |

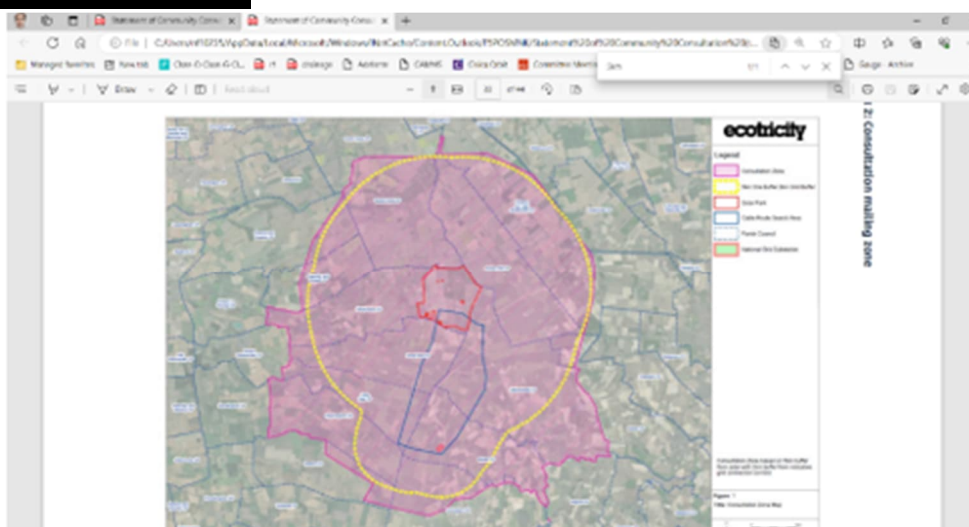
In terms of the consultation zone as you know we are consistently recommending 5km across the piece and have since recently recommended the same for Springwell Solar. Obviously if there is other industry practice from elsewhere then presumably you'll wrap this up into draft SOCC however our recommendation would be to adopt 5km. You'll see from the final version Heckington Fen SOCC below the extent of the 5km buffer around the main energy park site and also noting a 2km buffer around the grid connection, para 4.2.2 of the final SOCC refers:

"4.2.2 The early engagement newsletter (see Appendix 1) was issued to just under 6000 addresses (see Appendix 2) including all properties within 5km of the proposed solar park site and 2km of the proposed grid connection search area to introduce the project and publicise the first phase of consultation".

If you're still minded to adopt a narrower zone then obviously you would need to set the buffer from the outer edge of the northern and southern grid corridor options presented at Scoping unless these have since been refined/modified.

Thanks [REDACTED] and speak on 31st,

Regards
[REDACTED]





[HNG53VF58]

[REDACTED]
Assistant Development Manager

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

www.n-kesteven.gov.uk

Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF

How was your experience while
contacting us today?

Tell us here



Email from North Kesteven District Council

Received 7th September 2023

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 11:52 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Fosse Green solar - post EIA Scoping Meeting

Hi [REDACTED]

Further to the consultation material that you recently emailed, [a number of our Cllrs](#) have made the request that this is also submitted directly to the town (North Hykeham) and parish councils within the study area that you are approaching.

Many thanks



[HNG53VF58]

[REDACTED]
Assistant Development Manager

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

www.n-kesteven.gov.uk

Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF

How was your experience while
contacting us today?

[Tell us here](#)



Email from North Kesteven District Council

Received 16th April 2023

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 2:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@kesteven.gov.uk)>
Subject: RE: Fosse Green

Afternoon [REDACTED]

Thanks for the email and update and those timescales are noted. We have had some local queries from one of the Ward Members and a member of the public as to progress updates and the status of the SOCG which will presumably be published soon, so it is helpful to know that we can divulge information if asked. Can you confirm when you're likely to be contacting the parish, interested residents and stakeholders? It would be helpful to also be sent a copy of that correspondence for our files also.

In addition, [REDACTED] – is there any progress on sending over the final version PPA please?

Regards



[HNG53VF58]

[REDACTED]
Assistant Development Manager

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

www.n-kesteven.gov.uk

Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF

Lots of our services are available at

www.n-kesteven.gov.uk

You can apply for help, report a problem,
find your bin days and lots more,
all from our website.



APPENDIX A.2

Correspondence received regarding host authority feedback to the draft SoCC

Email from Lincolnshire County Council

Received 18th December 2023

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:13 PM
To: [REDACTED] >
Cc: info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk
Subject: RE: Fosse Green Energy - Consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for consulting the Council on the draft Statement of Community Consultation. The Council has the following comments to make:

Section 9

- Core Consultation area, Figure 1 - Would it be possible to show which parts of the site shown in blue are the solar array area and which is the cable route?
- Please could a copy of the consultation communication (postcard) be sent to the Planning Authority and the local members so that they are aware what has been sent out in their area.
- Wider consultation area information points – these should be identified, be local and have a range of opening hours.
- Consideration should be made to publishing the “seldom heard groups” as this demonstrates that these stakeholders are fully included in the SoCC process. This also shows that appropriate effort has been made to find out who these groups are and how they will be contacted.

Section 10

- How we consult - the details of the in-person events, dates and times will need listing.
- Contact lines- Consider offering a call back service / out of working hours times to call for those working / with other commitments during these times.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Lincolnshire County Council,
County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL

Tea [REDACTED]

Mob
Ema [REDACTED]



Email from North Kesteven Council

Received 15th December 2023

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:44 AM
To: [REDACTED] >
Subject: Fosse Green Energy - Consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Dear [REDACTED]

Fosse Green Solar Farm - Consultation on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008)

Thank you for consulting North Kesteven District Council in relation to the draft SOCC for the Fosse Green project. The Council can comment as follows:

- Page 6 – we request that the statutory consultation phase is increased to 6 weeks rather than 30 days. The end of February is anticipated; just be mindful of Lincolnshire half term starting 10th February for 1 week in case you were looking to bring the date forward. This period should be avoided
- Section 5 Non Statutory Consultation Summary – text should be expanded to confirm that purpose of NSC was to review scheme layout and mitigation on the basis of feedback. At present it reads that the focus was on receiving feedback rather than then saying how this would be acted upon in terms of emerging designs etc. Feedback report is referenced – we agree that there should be a summary of the key themes highlighted in feedback
- Section 6 Consultation objectives – this should be expanded to include seeking feedback and suggestions in relation to community benefit and mitigations
- Section 7 Environmental information/scoping report – this should be expanded to confirm that the applicant is required to address the matters contained in the Scoping Opinion issued by PINS. At present its not quite clear enough in terms of the applicant's obligations in relation to this document
- Section 7/PEIR – as above can you please clarify legal status of the Scoping Opinion in terms of what the PEIR and future DCO must address
- Section 8 – as above we request consultation extended to 6 weeks
- Section 8 – in terms of the issues that you are consulting on, whilst the use of sub-headings is helpful you need to be mindful that you are bound to receive comments resisting the principle of development (objections) and that you need to be receptive of these. The topic sub-headings suggest that these comments and concerns might not be entertained whereas you need to show that you will be receptive to a range of comments including challenges to the principle of development on policy, technical grounds etc. In terms of the grid connection corridor, depending on National Grid decisions you might also be in a position to confirm publicly the approximate location of the new NGSS around Navenby Heath. In addition, if you do keep sub-headings in can you please add a section on seeking feedback on community benefit options
- Section 9 consultation zone – as with previous feedback latterly 4th September we just want to reiterate the point that whilst you've referred to examples of 2km and 3km radial consultation areas for other NSIPs, our experience has been for a 5km corridor around the energy park site (dropping to 2km around the cable corridor) and this is what we've been recommending consistently across all NSIPs within NKDC. We maintain this position and recommendation.
- Section 9 'Wider Consultation Area' – as above we recommend a 5km zone which would then avoid the need to deal with feedback from outside the 3km core zone. It is unclear how google online advertising will work/details. If the 3km core zone is retained it would help to

identify villages etc beyond the 3km where you might expect to receive feedback and how the proposed local media coverage will reach those areas

- Section 9 'Seldom heard...' – consideration on a case by case basis suggests that you might decline requests? Suggest rewording along the lines of you will accommodate these requests.
- Section 10 – please confirm that the ORPMR venue is at Thorpe on the Hill. Re: booking and availability of meeting rooms can you mention that you would look to agree alternatives in discussion with the parish councils and host authorities? Mix of weekend and weekday events are supported but there is no reference to start and end times to ensure maximum scope for attendance across spectrum of residents.
- Section 10 'Information points' – no indication as to where these are. It is presumed that these are libraries, parish offices/halls etc within the core consultation zone but can you please confirm likely venues so that we can comment; e.g. North Hykeham Community Library?
- Section 10 – no reference to accommodating feedback via social media
- Section 10 – 'Advertising and notices' and 'media releases' suggest expansion to include Lincolnshire Live, Lincolnshire World and The Lincolnite for press/advertising, and for media releases to include BBC Radio Lincolnshire, Lincs 102.2FM, BBC Look North, ITV News Calendar, Lincolnshire Free Press, Lincolnshire Live, Local Lincs Magazine. The area is also covered either in whole or part by Tucann Publishing's Witham Herald and the Hykeham Gazette.

Finally please can you liaise with the developers for Beacon Fen and Springwell to ensure that there is no overlap with the statutory consultation where possible. This is particularly the case for Springwell given that both projects are planned to connect into a new NGSS on Navenby Heath.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment and let me know if you have any queries?

Regards



Assistant Development Manager

Tel:

Em

[www](#)

Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF

[HNG53VF58]

APPENDIX A.3

Stage Two Statutory Consultation SoCC Compliance Table

Commitment	Evidence of Compliance
3. Purpose of this Statement of Community Consultation	
<p>This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 'Duty to consult local community' of the PA 2008 with reference to guidance on pre-application consultation published by the Government and the Inspectorate. It also describes the non-statutory and statutory consultation exercises which</p> <p>Fosse Green Energy undertook with the host local planning authorities (LPAs) that cover the area within which the Proposed Development is located.</p> <p>These host authorities comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North Kesteven District Council• Lincolnshire County Council	<p>The Applicant prepared the SoCC in line with s47 of the PA 2008. Section 5 of the SoCC provides an overview of the non-statutory consultation, while Section 6 and Sections 8 to 11 of the SoCC detail activities being undertaken as part of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council were consulted with on the SoCC draft from 7 November to 19 December 2023.</p> <p>In addition to formal consultation on the SoCC and statutory and non-statutory consultation, the Applicant has maintained communication and dialogue with both host authorities.</p>
4. Consultation and Planning Process	
<p>The Applicant will consult local communities, stakeholders and statutory consultees on draft proposals (as required by Section 42 and Section 47 of the PA 2008).</p>	<p>Statutory consultation was delivered in accordance with s47/s48 requirements. A combined s47/48 notice and SoCC were published, and s42 and s47 stakeholders were notified at launch of the non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation.</p>
<p>Feedback from the consultation will be collated and considered to determine the final details of the DCO application that will then be submitted to the Inspectorate.</p>	<p>All feedback received by the Applicant was collated and considered. This included feedback received during and following non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation.</p> <p>A summary of feedback received, and the Applicant's response, will be published as part of the Consultation Report being submitted as part of the DCO application.</p>
<p>A consultation report will be submitted with the DCO application showing how the Applicant has had regard to consultation responses.</p>	<p>The Applicant has prepared and submitted this Consultation Report in accordance with s37(3)(c) and s37(7) of the PA 2008.</p>

Commitment

Evidence of Compliance

The PEI Report NTS will be available to view at information points (see Table 2).

At the statutory consultation the PEI Report and NTS will be available online at the documents page on www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk.

A copy will also be available at events. The Applicant will respond to reasonable requests for further copies.

After the statutory consultation, the assessments presented in the PEI Report will be developed based on the final design of the Proposed Development, environmental surveys and impact assessment in order to produce the ES.

It will also describe any changes to the project and any mitigation measures which need to be implemented. The ES will form part of the DCO submission.

The statutory consultation will take place between 21 October and 2 December 2024.

8. What the Applicant will consult on

The statutory consultation provides the opportunity to comment upon the PEI Report, which describes the preliminary results of the ongoing EIA process. The Applicant will seek feedback on this document from statutory consultees and the public, with a particular focus on:

- The solar PV arrays and associated infrastructure, including design and layout considerations

A summary of feedback received, and the Applicant's response, will be published as part of the Consultation Report being submitted as part of the DCO application.

The PEI Report was sent to information points and made available to view on 17 October 2024. The information points will be evidenced in the Consultation Report.

The PEI Report was published as part of the Stage Two Consultation on the website for the Proposed Development on 21 October 2024.

A hard copy of the printed version of PEI Report was made available at all community consultation events.

A hard copy of the PEI Report was available to be posted to members of the public for a small charge to cover printing and postage (£500).

The Environmental Statement has been included as part of this DCO submission.

The statutory consultation was launched on 21 October 2024 and was open until 2 December 2024.

The Applicant ensured the hardcopy and online feedback form were structured to accommodate feedback on these topics. The Statutory Consultation website and information booklet also point towards providing feedback on these topics.

Commitment

Evidence of Compliance

- The grid connection corridor
- Environmental mitigation and public recreation
- Construction, maintenance and traffic
- Community benefits

At the statutory consultation, feedback will be sought on the updated layout for the Proposed Development following consideration of feedback from the non-statutory consultation and further technical and design work.

The Applicant invited feedback on this topic under questions 1, 2 and 6 of the online and hardcopy feedback form.

We are consulting on the location of this route, and any information you think is relevant to further develop the grid connection corridor's design

The Applicant invited feedback on this topic under question 3 of the online and hardcopy feedback form.

Feedback will be sought on the Proposed Development's environmental mitigation measures and on suggestions for permissive paths to connect into existing networks.

The Applicant invited feedback on this topic under question 4 of the online and hardcopy feedback form.

The Applicant will be asking for particular feedback on aspects relating to construction, maintenance and traffic, including access requirements.

The Applicant invited feedback on this topic under question 7 of the online and hardcopy feedback form.

The Applicant is inviting people to suggest ideas for local projects or schemes that could be supported, particularly suggestions for the design of permissive paths and other access arrangements for the site

The Applicant invited feedback on this topic under question 5 of the online and hardcopy feedback form.

The Applicant appreciates and considers all feedback on the proposals and people can leave their feedback on any aspect of the Proposed Development. Feedback can be provided by email at info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk, by feedback form, available as hardcopies or on the project website at www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk or by Freepost address at FREEPOST FOSSE GREEN ENERGY

The Applicant set up communications lines including a project inbox, phone line, website, and freepost address. These channels have been used for the entirety of the pre-application period.

Commitment

Evidence of Compliance

9. Who will the Applicant consult?

Properties within the Core Consultation Zone will directly receive communications such as consultation postcards (as set out in Section 10).	The Applicant issued a postcard to 11,883 Core Consultation Zone addresses.
If the site boundary of the Proposed Development is reduced or expanded ahead of the statutory consultation the Core Consultation Zone will be adjusted to maintain the 3km minimum zone.	The Applicant ensured that the Core Consultation Zone maintained a 3km minimum zone from the Proposed Development.
The Applicant will publicise the consultation to communities outside of the Core Consultation Zone by advertising in local media, issuing posters (see section 10) and by Google online advertising targeted in an area around 5km from the Proposed Development.	<p>The Applicant sent designed advertisements to the Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire World and Newark Advertiser, and sent press releases to regional and local media outlets.</p> <p>The Applicant issued posters to information points and Parish Councils as well as local businesses and venues in the 5km wider consultation zone area.</p> <p>The Applicant set up Google adverts for the duration of the statutory consultation. These were set to target Lincolnshire and to specific search terms relating to renewable energy and solar energy development.</p>
The Applicant also maintains a register of interested individuals who will be kept informed at key milestones. Anyone wishing to be kept informed can use the online registration form at www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk/register/ to receive updates.	The Applicant ensured that individuals who wished to register for updates were able to do so on the dedicated statutory consultation website. This page has been operational for the entirety of the pre-application period.
Google search advertising will be used, which are adverts that appear on Google's search engine results pages when users search for keywords relating to Fosse Green Energy. The advertising will be geographically targeted to Lincolnshire.	The Applicant set up Google adverts for the duration of the statutory consultation. These were set up to target Lincolnshire and to specific search terms relating to renewable energy and solar energy development.
Media releases will be issued to outlets covering Lincolnshire and will include a mix of regional and local titles. The coverage area of the Lincolnshire Echo is shown below, which covers the largest area of the media titles which will be contacted. A list of the	The Applicant issued a press release to local and regional outlets in Lincolnshire announcing the launch of the statutory consultation.

Commitment

publications to which the Applicant will issue media releases can be found in section 10.

Information points will be located in community spaces at a number of locations near to the Proposed Development.

The information points will hold copies of consultation materials and the PEI Report NTS. A copy of the SoCC will also be available for inspection.

Elected representatives (district and county council members, parish councils, Members of Parliament) representing wards, parishes and constituencies that lie within the core consultation zone boundaries will be notified of the consultation and offered a briefing.

A range of seldom heard groups and individuals working in the Lincolnshire area who may be less likely to participate in or respond to traditional consultation techniques will be notified of the consultation.

These include but are not limited to:

- The elderly.
- Young people.
- People with visual impairments.
- People with deafness or hard of hearing.
- Minority ethnic groups.

For the non-statutory consultation the seldom heard groups contacted were

Evidence of Compliance

The Applicant sent designed advertisements to the Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire World and Newark Advertiser.

The Lincolnshire Echo and Newark Advertiser published the advertisements on 24 October 2024 and 31 October 2024. Lincolnshire World published the advertisement on 23 October 2024 and 30 October 2024.

The Applicant used North Hykeham Community Library, Lincoln Library, Collingham Community Partnership Library, Navenby Parish Council office, Bassingham Parish Council office, and Sleaford Library as information points, as set out in Table 2 of SoCC.

The Applicant sent materials to the information points on 17 October 2024, which arrived on 17 October 2024 and 18 October 2024. This included copies of the feedback form, brochure, PEI Report NTS and SoCC.

The Applicant issued emails on 7 October, in advance of the statutory consultation, to local ward members, MPs, and Parish Councils offering briefings. A briefing with councillors for NKDC was held on 18 October 2024 in advance of the statutory consultation. No briefing was held with councillors for LCC or the local MP due to a lack of expressed interest.

At the start of the statutory consultation the Applicant sent the non-prescribed letter via email to 'Seldom Heard Groups' (SHGs) identified in the SoCC.

Commitment

Evidence of Compliance

agreed with North Kesteven District Council with input from its Communities' Team. These seldom heard groups will also be contacted for the statutory consultation.

A list of seldom heard groups to be notified of the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix A.

Requests for specific consultation activity to cater for members of seldom heard groups will be agreed and planned with the requesting organisations.

Consultation documents can also be requested in an accessible format for those with visual and/or hearing impairments.

Where email addresses are available seldom heard groups and community organisations will be contacted by email at the launch of the statutory consultation.

We will consult the main point of contact at each host local planning authority, neighbouring local authorities, landowners (including those with non-landowning interests that are affected) and other technical stakeholders such as Natural England, National Highways, the Environment Agency and Historic England as required by Section 42 of the PA 2008.

10. How the Applicant consults

The Applicant will provide information about the Proposed Development at the statutory consultation using a range of methods:

Public events

Anyone with an interest in the Proposed Development is welcome to attend events. Attendees will be able to ask questions about the Proposed Development and the ways to provide feedback will be presented and / or feedback forms provided.

The Applicant received no requests for documents in an accessible format.

The Applicant sent the non-prescribed letter via email to SHGs, identified in the SoCC, at start of the Statutory Consultation.

The Applicant sent these consultees the prescribed letters via email and post at start of consultation.

The Applicant held events for four hours at these four venues, as detailed in Table 3 of the SoCC, where members of the Applicant's project team were on hand to answer questions and feedback forms were made available. The Applicant also held a webinar on 26 November 2024.

The Applicant ensured feedback methods were outlined on the feedback form and the information panels exhibited at events.

Commitment

Evidence of Compliance

The Applicant will hold four in-person events in areas around the Site and one online webinar. The in-person events will be held at Witham St Hughs Village Hall, Oliver Roper Parish Meeting Room (Thorpe on the Hill), The Venue, Navenby and Hammond Hall and Sports Centre. These are the same venues where events were held for the non statutory consultation.

Events are scheduled at a mixture of times and on both weekdays and weekends to enable people with different time commitments to attend the events.

Information panels and plans will be shown at events containing information about the Proposed Development and the ways to provide feedback.

The online event is to be held during an evening and will consist of a presentation followed by a question and answer session.

Should an event need to be cancelled or rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances, the Applicant will seek to alert people as early as possible by updating the website www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk and sending emails to the Parish Councils contacted at the launch of consultation.

Postcards will be mailed to over 11,000 addresses within the Core Consultation Zone (as seen in section 9). This will inform the local community of the consultation and the events taking place.

At the start of consultation, postcards will be issued to the host authorities' planning officers and councillors representing wards in the Core Consultation Zone.

An Information booklet will be produced that summarises the information being consulted on. The

The Applicant held in-person consultation events on Fridays in the evening and on Saturdays during the day, with the webinar held on Tuesday evening, to allow for maximum attendance.

The Applicant produced information panels displaying information about the Proposed Development and the ways to provide feedback. These were exhibited at the four in-person events, as well as at the webinar in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.

The Applicant held its online event, or 'webinar', of 26 November 2024 from 6-7pm, with a Question-and-Answer session following the presentation.

There were no event cancellations or reschedules.

The Applicant issued a postcard to 11,883 Core Consultation Zone addresses.

A link to the electronic postcard on the website was sent by the Applicant to officers and local ward members as part of the launch.

The Applicant prepared an information booklet that was made available at information points, in-person events, and

Commitment

Information booklet will be available to view online, at in-person events, information points or by request.

The feedback form will contain questions to capture feedback on the Proposed Development. The feedback form will be available to view and fill out online, at in-person events, at information points or by request.

Posters advertising the public exhibitions will be issued to Parish Councils and information points for display in a 5km area around the Proposed Development.

The website www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk will contain information about the Proposed Development, consultation events and frequently asked questions. It will host the PEI Report and NTS, SoCC and other consultation documents and an online version of the feedback form will be available for use.

The website will also be updated to show new media releases and will have a register for updates feature where people can sign up to receive email updates about the Proposed Development.

The Applicant will publish statutory notices in local and national newspapers providing details about the consultation, as required by Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA 2008. The notices will be published in one or more local newspapers for two consecutive weeks, and a national newspaper and the London Gazette for one week.

The newspaper outlets which will be used subject to availability for bookings are:

- Lincolnshire Echo
- The Guardian
- London Gazette

Evidence of Compliance

online. The Applicant received and answered several requests from residents to have a copy of this booklet mailed to them.

The Applicant prepared and issued a feedback form. This was sent out to information points and made available online at launch and at in-person events.

The Applicant issued posters to information points and Parish Councils as well as local businesses and venues in the 5km wider consultation area.

The Applicant created a dedicated website for the statutory consultation, which launched on 21 October and contained these documents under the Documents section. These documents are still available to view on the website.

The Applicant published the press release on the website under the 'News' section.

The Applicant produced a combined s47 and s48 notice, which was issued to the Lincolnshire Echo, The Guardian and the London Gazette.

The London Gazette and The Guardian published the notice on 21 October 2024. The Lincolnshire Echo published the notice on 17 October and 24 October 2024.

Commitment

In addition to publishing a Section 48 Notice in regional and national newspapers, we will place advertisements in regional media outlets to promote the consultation and consultation events.

Advertisements will be placed with:

- Lincolnshire Echo
- Lincolnshire World
- The Newark Advertiser
- Digitally via Google.

The Google advertisements will be geographically targeted to Lincolnshire, and to specific search terms relating to renewable energy and solar energy developments.

We will also issue press releases to regional press outlets and relevant trade titles, including:

- Lincolnshire Echo
- Lincolnshire Live
- Lincolnshire World
- Newark Advertiser
- Solar Power Portal
- ReNews
- BBC Radio Lincolnshire
- Lincs 102.2FM
- BBC Look North
- ITV News
- Lincolnshire Free Press
- Local Lincs Magazine
- Witham Herald
- Hykeham Gazette

The Applicant's communication lines are open throughout the entire pre-application stage. Through these channels you will be able to speak to a member of the consultation team to ask questions, request information (including in alternative formats) and provide feedback. You can get in touch with members of the stakeholder engagement team using any of the communication lines listed below.

Should documents in large print or

Evidence of Compliance

The Applicant sent designed advertisements to the Lincolnshire Echo, Lincolnshire World and Newark Advertiser.

The Lincolnshire Echo and Newark Advertiser published the advertisements on 24 October and 31 October 2024. Lincolnshire World published the advertisement on 23 October and 30 October 2024.

The Applicant set up Google adverts to target Lincolnshire and to specific search terms relating to renewable energy and solar energy development.

The Applicant issued a press release to these outlets announcing the launch of the Statutory Consultation.

The Applicant set up communications lines including a project inbox, phone line, website, and freepost address. No requests for large print or audio documents were received.

Commitment

Evidence of Compliance

audio be required, please contact the Applicant at the details provided.

12. Following statutory consultation

The Applicant will consider all written consultation responses received as feedback forms, emails to info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk and letters sent to the Freepost address FREEPOST FOSSE GREEN ENERGY.

Details of all consultation responses and how they have been addressed will be included in the Consultation Report that will be submitted to the Inspectorate as part of the DCO application. The Consultation Report will be a public document, but personal information will not be shared publicly unless specifically requested by the Inspectorate.

If, because of the feedback received, the proposals for the Proposed Development change to the extent that it is necessary to undertake further geographically targeted consultation, this would be undertaken, where relevant, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC. The timetable and programme for the consultation would be publicised in the affected area via methods judged to be most appropriate by the Applicant.

The Applicant will continue to update the public and other stakeholders on the proposals at appropriate milestones, primarily through the website www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk and engagement activities such as briefings with political and technical stakeholders.

Feedback provided at statutory consultation, and its response to this feedback, will be published as part of the Consultation Report being submitted as part of the DCO application.

No targeted consultation needed to be undertaken after the statutory consultation.

The Applicant has continued to engage with the public and other stakeholders since the statutory consultation. This includes briefings with local authority officers, technical stakeholders and members of the public; mailshots including a letter to Morton Lane residents in February 2025 and a community update to a wide list of stakeholders and project update subscribers in March 2025 with an update on feedback received, changes made and next steps; a Community Liaison Group, to be held on 28 April 2025 at Witham St Hughs Village Hall, which will see

Commitment

Evidence of Compliance

discussions between the Applicant and Parish Councils, ward members, and LPA officers; and responses to enquiries and calls that were received over the following months.

APPENDIX A.4

Feedback from Host Authorities on the Adequacy of Consultation

Received 7 April 2025

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 April 2025 15:09
To: info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk
Subject: RE: Adequacy of Consultation Feedback

Dear [REDACTED]

Firstly apologies for the delayed reply to your initial email. In terms of the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AOCM) and your SOCC compliance list, I can confirm from North Kesteven District Council's perspective that we are satisfied that consultation to date has been consistent with the SOCC and that we have no specific issues or concerns to raise. We note that for the non-statutory consultation the seldom heard groups contacted were agreed with North Kesteven District Council with input from our Communities Team and that a briefing with councillors (NKDC) was held on 18 October 2024 in advance of the statutory consultation (PEIR) process. Council officers have also attended scheduled progress meetings including on specialist topic areas. Whilst we note that there was a relatively extensive period where meetings were held in abeyance pending confirmation of the project proceeding, we were notified of this and, in summary, the reason for those delays. I would be happy for you to note the above in your AOCM report as necessary.

Regards



Development Manager

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
www.n-kesteven.gov.uk
Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF

The
Electoral
Commission

Register to vote





By Email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Infrastructure Officer
Planning Services
Lincolnshire County Council
County Offices
Newland
Lincoln LN1 1YI
[REDACTED]

14 April 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Adequacy of Consultation Request – Application by Fosse Green Energy Ltd for a Development Consent Order for the Fosse Green Solar Farm in North Kesteven District in Lincolnshire.

Thank you for your email dated 26 March 2025, which included a stage 2 consultation compliance table Appendix A.3.

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

The Prospectus sets out that written submissions should cover:

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

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

The Applicant commenced early engagement with Lincolnshire County Council regular meetings with the Planning Lead together with technical meetings with other



specialist council officers and its consultants have taken place throughout the majority of the pre-application process. Fosse Green Energy Ltd formally consulted the Council on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) on 07 November 2023.

There has been active engagement between the Fosse Green project team and Lincolnshire County Council throughout the pre-application process. This has included regular liaison meetings between council officers and the project team approximately once a month. The approach to consultation has been a key topic of discussion at relevant times. The Council has been given the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft SoCC, statutory and non-statutory consultations. The Council's feedback was taken into account.

We have been kept up to date on amendments to the proposals through liaison meetings, and have been invited to discuss our comments from the consultations and agree mitigation measures at topic based technical meetings in relation to highway, public rights of way, agricultural land, landscape and visual and ecology matters.

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

Yours faithfully,

