

Community Update

March 2025

Before Christmas, we held our statutory consultation to get feedback on our proposals for Fosse Green Energy – a new solar and energy storage park to the south west of Lincoln in North Kesteven, Lincolnshire.



Thank you to everyone who took part, met us at events, and provided feedback. This is a very important part of the planning process and has given us many points to consider as we develop our proposals.

We are now carefully considering all the responses we have received, and whether and how this can help us create a plan for the site that is sensitive to the needs of local communities. At the same time, we continue to carry out a range of studies to better understand the site and to help us put forward the most acceptable project.

From the start of this process, we have committed to talking to, and communicating with, local communities and their representatives.

We are sending out this first Fosse Green Energy Community Update to everyone who has engaged in the consultation or who has asked to be kept updated, along with parishes and councillors across our site. It reflects our commitment to keeping you up to date on the project's latest developments, and how you can continue to make your views known.

We would be interested to hear your thoughts on this community update, and what we could include in future editions.

How we consulted

We ran our statutory consultation between 21 October and 2 December 2024 where we hosted five events in total, including four in-person exhibition events and an online webinar. At the launch of the consultation period, we wrote directly to over 12,900 people living near the site as well as writing to a huge range of different stakeholders and groups including parishes, councils and technical bodies.

Over the six-week consultation period, nearly 350 people came along to our five events.

We also had the chance to speak with people on the phone and to communicate via email. Alongside our work with people living in the area, we have been continuously engaging with landowners and those with land in the proposed site. We are grateful to have received over 200 pieces of feedback from local residents, landowners, and key stakeholders in the process.



You can find all the information we shared during our statutory consultation at www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk

Key themes

Ideas, suggestions and issues raised during the statutory consultation included, but are not limited to:

- The location and siting of our solar panels
- Concerns about battery storage technology including safety and noise
- Suggestions for permissive paths and community benefits
- Concerns around decommissioning – whether the development would mean turning this land into brownfield land
- Construction, particularly around traffic management and access
- Food security and the cumulative impacts of development in Lincolnshire.

When we submit our application for development consent, we will include a consultation report.



This report will set out the general themes and key points from the feedback we have received. It is our responsibility to then explain how we have considered them in developing our final plans.

How we have responded so far

Following the statutory consultation, we have made several changes to our proposals after considering the feedback received and technical work undertaken. The main changes include:

- 1 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.
- 2 Removal of solar PV from a field east of Morton which was located immediately east of a proposed orchard.
- 3 Change of the permissive path network around Housham Wood in response to a request by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.
- 4 Change of the permissive path network around Cathedral Park, a caravan park north of the A46, in response to requests by local residents.
- 5 Change of the permissive path network in the southern part of the site, providing a better pedestrian links between Thurlby and Bassingham.
- 6 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.
- 7 Reduction in the size of the Battery Energy Storage System compound. This will reduce noise impacts and allow for more landscaping.
- 8 Slight reduction in the grid connection corridor within which the buried connection cable will be located between the principle site and the proposed Navenby Substation. This change will remove land from our proposals that will no longer be required.



What we are doing now

Our conversations with communities, landowners, and stakeholders are ongoing as we consider further refinements and changes to our proposals following the statutory consultation. This is in advance of submitting our application for development consent to the Secretary of State.

We are looking carefully at all aspects of the project, including where sensitive aspects of the layout could potentially be refined. We will then develop a final plan that we will test as part of the

Environmental Statement that will be submitted with our application.

To help us, we are carrying out a range of studies to help us finalise our plans. These include wintering bird surveys, ecological surveys and trial trenching to investigate any potential archaeology on the site. These works are being completed while we continue to review and consider the feedback we have received.

Next steps

Community benefits

It is important that communities living near to Fosse Green can benefit from our development. We are working with North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council to consider how best to do this, followed by engagement with community representatives in the near future. As well as new permissive paths that provide short walks and longer routes between villages (further details of which are noted in the 'Key Changes' section of this update), a community benefit fund will be set up for the operational project that will be managed by the local community and spent locally.



Continuing engagement

From the early stages of developing our plans for Fosse Green, we have engaged with our nearest neighbours and made sure there were ways to ask questions and provide feedback.

As we work towards submitting our application for development consent, you can continue to talk to us via the phone line, write to us by email, or use our freepost address.

In addition, we are in the process of setting up a Community Liaison Group (CLG) focused on local parish councils and representatives. This ensures we have a forum for sharing ideas and information, and to address any concerns or questions. We will be holding the first CLG meeting in Spring 2025. Our intention is that it will continue through the consenting phase and on into construction.

For updates on the project, please see our website www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk

Submitting our application

The next steps for the project will be to progress our Environmental Statement and other documents, including the Planning Statement and Consultation Report. This is in readiness for submitting our application for development consent to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate.

A Development Consent Order (DCO) is a type of planning application for nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs). As the capacity of the solar and energy storage park exceeds 50MW, Fosse Green Energy is classified as an NSIP and requires a DCO under the Planning Act 2008. The decision on whether to grant consent is made by the relevant Secretary of State after the proposals are examined by independent examiners (called the Examining Authority), who are appointed by the Planning Inspectorate.

We now intend to submit our application for a DCO in Summer 2025. Once we submit our DCO application, the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has up to 28 days to decide whether the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination. If the application is accepted, it will go through a six-month examination period - an independent review by the Examining Authority of all relevant representations and supporting evidence.

This is an opportunity for stakeholders to continue to be involved in the project by making written and oral representations to the examination.

If you want to be involved in the examination process, you can register your interest with the Planning Inspectorate. You will be invited to submit your views on our proposals in writing and may be asked to speak at any of the public hearings that are held.

The Examining Authority is the Inspector, or the Panel of Inspectors, appointed to conduct the examination of the application for the DCO. Within three months of the close of the examination, the Examining Authority must prepare a report on the application and submit this to the Secretary of State, including a recommendation. The Secretary of State has a further three months to decide on whether to grant or refuse development consent.

For more information and to keep up to date please visit www.national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010154.



Project timeline – consent, construction, operation and decommissioning



Indicative project timeline:

Summer 2025

Our goal is to submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate in Summer 2025. This is slightly earlier than we presented at our consultation in Autumn 2024.

Winter 2025/2026

Subject to dates determined by the Examining Authority, the Pre-Examination and Examination stages will then be held by the Planning Inspectorate through late 2025 and 2026.

Winter 2026

We then anticipate that the Examining Authority will submit their report with a recommendation on the project to the Secretary of State in late 2026.

2031

Should development consent be granted for Fosse Green Energy, construction is anticipated to start in 2031. We anticipate it will take two years to build.

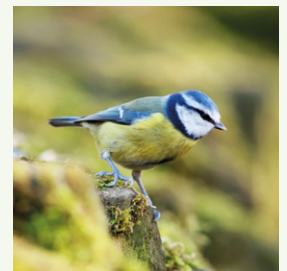
2033

We plan to connection to the National Grid by 2033.

2093

Fosse Green Energy is proposed to be operational for 60 years before it is decommissioned and the land reinstated back to agricultural use.

*Dates are indicative and could be subject to change



Keeping in contact

Contact us by:



Phone: 0800 860 6262 (open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)



Email: info@fossegreenenergy.co.uk



By post: FREEPOST FOSSE GREEN ENERGY



The project website www.fossegreenenergy.co.uk holds information on the project and will be updated with new information at key stages.