



# Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

## Mallard Pass Solar Farm

### Consultation Report

**November 2022**

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Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations  
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## 0.0 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
APFP	Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure
BEIS	The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
CCIA	Climate Change Impact Assessment
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DAS	Design Access Statement
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
DCO	Development Consent Order
DMMO	Definitive Map Modification Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GIS	Green Infrastructure Strategy
GW	Gigawatt
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
MPAG	Mallard Pass Action Group
MW	Megawatt
oCEMP	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan
oDEMP	Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan
oLEMP	Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan

oOEMP	Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan
oSSCEP	Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan
oSWDS	Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy
PA 2008	The Planning Act 2008
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PPA	Planning Performance Agreement
PRoWs	Public Rights of Way
RCC	Rutland County Council
RSuDS	Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems
SKDC	South Kesteven District Council
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems

## 1.0 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### 1.1. **BACKGROUND**

- 1.1.1. Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd (the 'Applicant') is a subsidiary of Windel Energy Ltd and is a joint venture formed by Windel Energy Ltd and Canadian Solar Inc.
- 1.1.2. Windel Energy Ltd, founded in 2018, is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon, including solar, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) , onshore wind and green hydrogen technologies with projects ranging from 10MW to 320MW output across England and Wales. Windel Energy work closely with landowners, giving them the opportunity to diversify their income stream by leasing their land for solar development.
- 1.1.3. Canadian Solar Inc is the development partner of Windel Energy Ltd. It was founded in 2001 in Canada and is one of the world's largest solar power companies. It is a leading manufacturer of PV Modules and provider of solar energy solutions and has a geographically diversified pipeline of utility-scale solar power projects in various stages of development. Over the past 19 years, Canadian Solar Inc has successfully delivered over 49 GW of premium-quality, PV Modules to customers in over 150 countries.
- 1.1.4. The total area of the Proposed Development is approximately 852ha, with the Solar PV Site area comprising a 426ha area.
- 1.1.5. In Summary, the Proposed Development will comprise of an array of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules and associated development. A description of the whole Proposed Development and land-use requirements can be found in Chapter 5: Project Description and

Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils of the Environmental Statement (ES)  
**[EN010127/APP/6.1].**

- 1.1.6. The Proposed Development will be sited on approximately 852ha of land, lying within the administrative districts of Rutland County Council, South Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council.
- 1.1.7. The Proposed Development will connect into the wider transmission network at National Grid's existing Ryhall 400kV Substation ('Ryhall Substation') located in close proximity to the land parcels proposed for use. There will also be a new single substation (400/33kV) located onsite (the 'Onsite Substation') close to the existing Ryhall Substation. The electricity generated by the Mallard Pass Solar Farm will be exported via a 400kV connection between the Onsite Substation and the existing Ryhall Substation.
- 1.1.8. The Applicant has endeavoured to undertake an open, transparent and meaningful pre-application consultation process with all consultees and seeks to demonstrate how this has informed the final design of the Proposed Development in this Consultation Report.

1.2. **PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION OVERVIEW**

- 1.2.1. This Consultation Report accompanies the Development Consent Order ('DCO') application (the 'Application') by the Applicant to the Secretary of State under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ('PA 2008'). The DCO would grant powers to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Proposed Development.
- 1.2.2. This Consultation Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 37(7)(c) of the PA 2008. This report will seek to demonstrate how the Application complied with Sections 42, 44, 47, 48 and 49 of the PA 2008, in addition to all APFP Regulations and EIA regulations that are applicable.



1.2.3. This Consultation Report will set out how associated legislation and guidance has been complied with through extensive non-statutory and informal community engagement and consultation.

1.2.4. In accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008, the Applicant undertook pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development ahead of submission of the Application to the Secretary of State with the following consultees:

- Prescribed bodies (in accordance with Section 42(1)(a))
- Those with an interest in the land (in accordance with Section 42(1)(d), and as set out in Section 44.
- The local community and other organisations and persons in the vicinity of the Proposed Development who may be affected both directly and indirectly in accordance with Section 47
- Wider communities, organisations and stakeholders (local, regional and national) in order to seek comments on the Proposed Development proposals in accordance with Sections 47 and 48.

1.2.5. The Applicant also consulted with local authorities in accordance with Section 43(1) of the PA 2008. The Applicant undertook regular and ongoing meetings with the local authorities, Rutland County Council, South Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council from September 2021 through to submission of the Application.

1.2.6. Under Section 47 of the PA 2008, the Applicant developed a draft SoCC and consulted on the detail of this document with the following local authorities from February 2022:

- Rutland County Council

- South Kesteven District Council
- Lincolnshire County Council

1.2.7. Peterborough City Council were also invited to comment on the draft SoCC due to a small proportion of its administrative area being in close proximity to the Consultation Zone identified for the purposes of consultation on the Proposed Development.

1.2.8. In response to the comments received, the Applicant made changes to the SoCC as set out in Table 15 and Table 16, in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report.

1.2.9. The final SoCC was published on 19 May 2022, as set out in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report.

1.2.10. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') was published on 25 May 2022. Under Section 42 of the PA 2008, the Applicant consulted on the Proposed Development with the statutory bodies listed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations. In addition, the Applicant scoped in 4 additional non-prescribed organisations to be consulted, as shown in Appendix 3.2. All of these received the same information as other Section 42 consultees and were included in the Section 42 consultation in the same manner as those prescribed under Section 42.

1.2.11. Two stages of community consultation were held in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, as set out in the Applicant's SoCC. This consultation approach allowed for the iterative design of the Proposed Development, taking regard of feedback received during the pre-application process. The first stage of non-statutory consultation was held from 04 November 2021 to 16 December 2021. The second stage of statutory consultation was held from 26 May 2022 to 04 August 2022

in parallel with consultations under Section 42 and Section 48 of the PA 2008. Stage One non-statutory community consultation allowed 42 days for consultation and Stage Two statutory community consultation allowed 70 days, in excess of the statutory requirement of 28 days.

1.2.12. The aforementioned community consultation activities generated the following interest:

- The Applicant received 971 responses to the Stage One non-statutory consultation, with 7 responses received late after the consultation deadline.
- The Applicant welcomed 317 attendees at three-person events, and 57 attendees at two online webinars at Stage One consultation.
- The Applicant received 1042 responses to Stage Two consultation under Section 47 of the PA 2008. This included 6 late responses that were considered after the consultation deadline.
- The Applicant received 47 responses to Stage Two consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008. This included 4 late responses that were considered after the consultation deadline.
- The Applicant welcomed 321 attendees at four in-person events and two online webinars under Section 47 of the PA 2008.
- The Applicant didn't receive any responses to the Section 48 notices.

1.2.13. As required under Section 48 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('APFP Regulations'), the Application was publicised

in local and national newspapers, as detailed in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report.

- 1.2.14. Extensive non-statutory consultation with technical consultees to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA'), key impacts of the Proposed Development, constraints and design changes has taken place, as detailed in Chapter 5, Chapter 6 and Chapter 13 of this Consultation Report.
- 1.2.15. The responses raised during the pre-application consultation raised a number of issues in relation to the Proposed Development. Key issues raised throughout both stages of consultation have influenced the design of the Proposed Development, as detailed in Table 1.
- 1.2.16. All responses to the consultation under Sections 42, 47 and 48 received before and after the consultation period have been considered by the Applicant in compliance with Section 49 of the PA 2008. Where possible, responses have been taken into account by the Applicant when preparing the application. The Applicant's responses to all feedback is detailed in this Consultation Report as follows:
- Chapter 11: Statutory Consultation Under Section 47 of the PA 2008 (MAY 2022 – AUGUST 2022): Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made
  - Chapter 12: Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the PA 2008 (May 2022 – August 2022): Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made
  - Appendix 4: All comments received to the Section 47 consultation and how the Applicant has responded
  - Appendix 5: All comments received to the Section 42 consultation and how the Applicant has responded

### 1.3. KEY DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS AND CHANGES

**Table 1: Overview of key issues raised through consultation and the Applicant's regard to comments.**

Key Issue	Development Change
Scale and location of the Proposed Development	<p>The Applicant has set out the reasons for the scale and location of the Proposed Development in the ES – Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Design Development [EN010127/APP/6.1]</p> <p>Further reasoning for the need for utility-scale solar can be found in the Statement of Need.</p> <p>In response to comments received from the community and prescribed consultees, the Applicant has reduced the area of the Solar PV site. Following Stage One non-statutory consultation, the Solar PV site was reduced from approximately 570ha to approximately 463ha. At the conclusion of Stage Two statutory consultation, the proposed Solar PV site is approximately 426ha.</p>
Landscape impacts and visual amenity	<p>The Applicant has set out its approach to landscape and visual amenity in the context of the Proposed Development in the ES – Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual [EN010127/APP/6.1], the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.9] and the Design and Access Statement and Design</p>

Key Issue	Development Change
	<p>Principles (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3].</p> <p>The Applicant has sought to take a ‘people and landscape led’ approach to design development throughout.</p> <p>The Order Limits of the Proposed Development include significant areas for landscape, visual and ecological enhancement and mitigation. Additional hedgerows, tree belts and woodland blocks are proposed in the reserved ‘buffer’ areas on the perimeter of the Proposed Development following consultation with the community and prescribed consultees.</p> <p>In response to comments received from the community and prescribed consultees, the Applicant has further reduced solar development from the area to the east of Essendine, further respecting the public amenity of residents and mitigating visual impacts. The Solar PV site has been reduced, providing a suitable offset to residential dwellings.</p>
<p>Use of agricultural land for the Proposed Development</p>	<p>The Applicant has set out its approach to the use of agricultural land in the context of the Proposed Development in the ES – Chapter 12 – Land Use [EN010127/APP/6.1] and the Planning Statement [EN010127/APP/7.2].</p> <p>In response to comments received from the community and prescribed consultees, the Applicant has removed all fields comprising solely Grade 2 land within the Order Limits for use in the Solar PV Site. These areas of Grade 2 land will remain in</p>

Key Issue	Development Change
	arable production or proposed green infrastructure if the field size is unviable.
Impacts on biodiversity and ecology	<p>The Applicant has set out its approach to ecology and biodiversity in the context of the Proposed Development in the ES – Chapter 7 – Ecology and Biodiversity [EN01027/APP/6.1] and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN01027/APP/7.9].</p> <p>In response to comments received from the community and prescribed consultees, the Applicant has included land within the Order Limits to deliver mitigation and enhancement to the local landscape, biodiversity and ecology.</p> <p>This includes (but is not limited to)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 239ha of retained arable farmland within Order Limits</li> <li>• Over 112ha proposed for Tussock Grassland and Wildflowers</li> <li>• Over 43ha of Wildflower Grassland with Calcareous Species</li> <li>• Over 416ha of proposed Grazed Grassland (within fenced solar arrays)</li> <li>• Scattered Wet Woodland planting of over 3.5ha</li> <li>• Proposed screening/structure planning of tree belt of over 7.5km</li> <li>• Proposed screening/structure planting of over 13.9km of hedgerows</li> </ul>

Key Issue	Development Change
	<p>Following Stage Two statutory consultation the Applicant has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further removed solar development to the east of Essendine, further respecting public amenity of residents and visual impacts of users travelling north out of Essendine.</li> <li>• Removed solar development from north of the Drift, providing a suitable offset to residential dwellings.</li> <li>• Removed solar development from PRow at their entry and exit points.</li> <li>• Provision of two additional east-west green infrastructure corridors within the north east of the Order Limits to strengthen connectivity between an isolated block of woodland and pond with the existing green infrastructure network.</li> <li>• Additional screen planting throughout the Order Limits.</li> </ul>
<p>Supporting recreational amenity and access</p>	<p>The Applicant has set out its approach to recreational amenity and access in the context of the Proposed Development in the ES – Chapter 9 – Highways and Access, the Design and Access Statement and Design Principles (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3] and the Rights of Way and Streets Access Plan [EN010127/APP/2.4]</p> <p>In response to comments received from the community and prescribed consultees, the Applicant has retained all existing PRow within</p>



Key Issue	Development Change
	<p>the Order Limits in their existing form. A minimum 15m offset either side of PRowWs with new planting of Green Infrastructure (GI) corridors has been implemented.</p> <p>Following Stage Two statutory consultation, the Applicant has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further extended the creation of new permissive paths from 4.7km proposed at Stage One non-statutory consultation to 8.1km, improving public access across the landscape of the local area.</li> </ul>

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1. THE APPLICANT'S APPROACH TO CONSULTATION

2.1.1. The Applicant's ambition is to deliver a scheme that helps to address national and local climate and energy security objectives, whilst minimising the impact on and supporting the neighbouring community. The Applicant is committed to generating long-term renewable energy and we will strive to be a good neighbour throughout the duration of the Proposed Development. The Applicant has committed to work with local communities through its SoCC to ensure that the Proposed Development represents a scheme that has considered and taken regard of the feedback of local communities, stakeholders and organisations.

2.1.2. Throughout both stages of consultation the Applicant has welcomed feedback from local stakeholders on the Proposed Development proposals. The outcome of this consultation and engagement is presented in this Consultation Report and reflected in the Proposed development of the proposals as explained in Chapters 11 and 12 of the Report.

### 2.2. THE PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THIS CONSULTATION REPORT

2.2.1. This Consultation Report has been prepared to accompany the Application to the Secretary of State for a DCO which would grant powers to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Proposed Development.

2.2.2. This Consultation Report details how the Applicant has complied with the provisions of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) and other relevant legislation and guidance in Appendix 1 of this Consultation Report.

- 2.2.3. This Report has been prepared in accordance with Sections 37(3)(c), detailing the matters specified in section 37(7) of the PA 2008. It details the consultation undertaken under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008. as well as any non-statutory and ongoing informal consultation, any relevant consultation responses and how consultation responses have been taken into account to by the Proposed Development.
- 2.2.4. Two phases of consultation were undertaken. Stage One Non-Statutory consultation between 04 November 2021 and 16 December 2021. A further consultation under Section 47 of the PA 2008 took place between 26 May 2022 and 04 August 2022. During Stage Two, consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 also took place in parallel with the Section 47 consultation and Section 48 consultation.
- 2.2.5. All responses, and how the Applicant has had regard to these responses, are detailed in Appendix 4 and 5. In chronological order of consultation activities and divided by the sections of the PA 2008, this Consultation Report details the following:

**Table 2: Structure and Explanation of Consultation Report**

<b>Consultation Report chapters</b>	<b>Overview</b>
1. Executive Summary	Summarises the information in the Consultation Report.
2. Introduction	Introduces the structure and information presented in the Consultation Report.
3. Legislation, Guidance and Advice	Sets out how the Applicant has complied with the requirements of the PA 2008 and accompanying guidance.
4. Early Engagement and Non-Statutory Consultation (2021)	Describes early engagement and how the Applicant has consulted on its

Consultation Report chapters	Overview
	Stage One proposals, including feedback and responses.
5. Consultation under EIA Regulations (2021-2022)	Describes how the Applicant has consulted according to the EIA Regulations.
6. Ongoing Non-Statutory Engagement for EIA (2021-2022)	Sets out the ongoing non-statutory consultation for the EIA surveys and studies the scoping stage in 2021 to Application submission in 2022.
7. Preparation for Statutory Consultation (January 2021 – June 2021)	Sets out how the Applicant prepared for statutory Section 47 consultation including the development and publication of the SoCC.
8. Statutory Consultation Under Section 47 of the PA 2008 (26 May 2022 – 04 August 2022)	Sets out and describes how the Applicant consulted with the community in accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, including Stage Two Section 47 consultation (26 May 2022 – 04 August 2022).
9. Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the PA 2008 (26 May – 04 August 2022)	Sets out and describes how the Applicant consulted on the consultation documents, including the PEIR, with Section 42 prescribed consultees and those with an interest in the land in accordance with Section 42 and Section 44 of the PA 2008.
10. Statutory Consultation Under Section 48 of the PA 2008 (26 May – 04 August 2022)	Describes the Proposed Development and publication of the Section 48 notice and Section 48 consultation.
11. Section 47 Statutory Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made	The Applicant lists a summary of the responses received to the Section 47 community consultation, divided up by EIA survey and topic area. The

<b>Consultation Report chapters</b>	<b>Overview</b>
	Applicant details how it has responded to the comments and if there has been a development change.
12. Section 42 Statutory Consultation: Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made	The Applicant lists a summary of the responses received to the Section 42 community consultation, divided up by EIA survey and topic area. The Applicant details how it has responded to the comments and if there has been a development change.
13. Ongoing Consultation Activities and Statements of Common Ground	The Applicant provides a summary of the further consultation conducted following 04 August 2022. The Applicant details intended approach to future statements of common ground with consultees.
14. Conclusion	Summarises the consultation undertaken by the Applicant.

### 3.0 **LEGISLATION, GUIDANCE AND ADVICE**

#### 3.1. **CONSULTATION REPORT**

3.1.1. This Consultation Report is submitted with the Application in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008.

3.1.2. Relevant responses are defined in Section 49(3) of the PA 2008 as responses received to the consultation under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008 by the deadline published; however, the Applicant has also taken account of late responses.

3.1.3. Pre-application consultation under Section 42 has taken place with:

- Prescribed bodies (statutory consultees), being those set out in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations, in accordance with Section 42(1)(a);
- Non-statutory bodies treated as prescribed by the Proposed Development e.g. local nature conservation groups or member organisations with an interest in the proposals;
- Local authorities, in accordance with Section 42(1)(b) and Section 43(1); and
- Landowners, in accordance with Section 42(d)(1) and Section 44.

3.1.4. Pre-application consultation under Section 47 has taken place with:

- The local community i.e. those living and/or working within the vicinity of the Proposed Development as defined in Appendix 10.2;
- A range of community groups and 'seldom heard' groups (see Appendix 9.2.1);

- Local elected representatives including ward and parish councillors and members of Lincolnshire County Council, South Kesteven District Council and Rutland County Council. (See Appendix 12 for a full list of locally elected representatives consulted); and
- Members of Parliament (MPs) for Rutland and Melton and Grantham and Stamford.

3.1.5. Pre-application consultation has also taken place in accordance with Section 48 of the PA 2008 through publicity of the Proposed Development, as described in Chapter 9.

## 3.2. **RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE**

3.2.1. The following legislation has been complied with or considered when undertaking the pre-application consultation and when compiling the Consultation Report:

- Planning Act 2008;
- The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended);
- The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009;
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017;
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process (2015) ('DLHC guidance');
- The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 3: EIA Consultation and Notification ('Advice Note 3'); and

- The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 14: Compiling the Consultation Report ('Advice Note 14').

3.2.2. A table setting out how the Applicant has complied with the relevant legislation and guidance is presented in Appendix 1.



## 4.0 **EARLY ENGAGEMENT AND NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION (2021)**

### 4.1. **INTRODUCTION**

4.1.1. Outside of the statutory consultation phases conducted under Section 47 and Section 42 of the PA 2008, the Applicant undertook ongoing non-statutory consultation with stakeholders including: statutory consultees, technical groups, Landowners, Parish Councils, MPs and other community representatives, and Local Planning Authorities. Further detail of non-statutory engagement undertaken with statutory consultees can be found in Chapters 6 and 13 of this Report and Chapters of the Environmental Statement. Non-statutory consultation was undertaken to the same principles as statutory consultation carried out under the PA 2008 and DLUHC guidance on the pre-application process.

4.1.2. This ongoing and informal consultation commenced in September 2021 and continued up until DCO application submission. Ongoing engagement with a range of stakeholder groups enabled a continuous dialogue between the Applicant and consultees and enabled the Applicant to continuously consider consultee feedback in the iterative design of the proposals for Proposed Development.

4.1.3. The Applicant launched its dedicated website with interactive map and document library, virtual exhibition, freephone information line, and email address on 04 November 2021. These engagement platforms were available and maintained for the remainder of the pre-application period.

### 4.2. **MP MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENT**

4.2.1. Outside of the consultation phases conducted under Section 47 and Section 42 of the PA 2008, the Applicant engaged with MPs whose constituencies are within the Site.

4.2.2. The Applicant contacted both local MPs with a covering letter inviting each MP to a meeting to introduce early-stage proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm on 20 October 2021. A copy of this cover letter is available in Appendix 7.3.

4.2.3. Further engagement with MPs following the start of Section 47 consultation on 26 May 2022 is detailed in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report.

**Table 3: Summary of Meetings with Alicia Kearns MP**

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
02/11/2021	Alicia Kearns MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-launch briefing presentation on introducing proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm;</li> <li>• Description of the Applicant;</li> <li>• Mallard Pass Solar Farm, the location, grid connection, project size and capacity;</li> <li>• The Applicant’s vision for Mallard Pass Solar Farm;</li> <li>• Policies map;</li> <li>• Initial concept plan;</li> <li>• The planning process;</li> <li>• Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);</li> <li>• The consultation process;</li> <li>• Stage One consultation; and</li> <li>• Contact information.</li> </ul>
07/04/2022	Alicia Kearns MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alicia Kearns MP Office request for public meeting on 11 February 2022. Indicatively arranged for 07 April 2022.</li> <li>• The Applicant sent a letter to Alicia Kearns office to postpone public meeting</li> </ul>

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
		<p>on 29 March 2022. Letter also published to project dedicated website shown in Appendix 7.5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Applicant sent a follow up letter on 06 April 2022.</li> <li>• The Applicant sent a second follow up letter on 11 May 2022 to renew commitment to rearrange public meeting.</li> </ul>
19/05/2022	Alicia Kearns MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting arranged for 19 May 2022.</li> <li>• Cancelled on 19 May 2022 by Alicia Kearns MP office on 19 May 2022.</li> <li>• Follow up emails sent on 01 June 2022 and 12 July 2022 offering to rearrange meeting. (Meeting took place following the close of Stage Two statutory consultation – please see Table 36).</li> </ul>

**Table 4: Summary of Meetings with Gareth Davies MP**

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
26/11/2021	Gareth Davies MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on introducing proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm;</li> <li>• Description of the Applicant;</li> <li>• Mallard Pass Solar Farm, the location, grid connection, project size and capacity;</li> <li>• The Applicant’s vision for Mallard Pass Solar Farm;</li> <li>• Initial concept plan;</li> <li>• Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);</li> <li>• The planning process;</li> <li>• The consultation process;</li> </ul>

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage One consultation;</li> <li>• Contact information.</li> </ul>
25/05/2022	Gareth Davies MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gareth Davies MP Office request for meeting to be held 25 May 2022.</li> <li>• Davies MP Office cancelled meeting via telephone on 25 May 2022. The Applicant offered to rearrange meeting.</li> </ul>

#### 4.3. **ELECTED MEMBERS AND PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENT**

- 4.3.1. The Applicant held a number of meetings with individual parish councils within the Core Consultation Zone prior to Section 42 and Section 47 consultation phases.
- 4.3.2. Outside of the consultation phases conducted under Section 47 and Section 42 of the PA 2008, the Applicant undertook ongoing non-statutory consultation including briefing meetings with local authority elected members and parish councils.
- 4.3.3. The Applicant contacted all local authorities with a covering letter inviting each local authority to a briefing and to introduce early-stage proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm on 15 October 2021. A copy of this email is available in Appendix 7.3.
- 4.3.4. The briefings were held to introduce the elected members and parish councillors to the project prior to the launch of the Stage One non-statutory community consultation and throughout the community consultation until the launch of Stage Two statutory community consultation.

- 4.3.5. All elected members received copies of all consultation materials for the project, as shown in Appendix 7.2, sent via email to the locally elected representatives as defined in Appendix 12.
- 4.3.6. Table 5 sets out initial meetings and briefing sessions the Applicant held with elected members and parish councils prior to the launch of Stage Two statutory community consultation on 26 May 2022.

**Table 5: Summary of Meetings and Webinars with Parish Councils prior to 26 May 2022**

Date	Parish Councils	Key issues discussed
03/11/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barholm and Stowe;</li> <li>• Braceborough and Wilsthorpe;</li> <li>• Careby, Aunby with Holywell;</li> <li>• Carlby;</li> <li>• Essendine;</li> <li>• Ryhall;</li> <li>• Stamford Town Council; and</li> <li>• Uffington.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-consultation virtual briefing session</li> <li>• Visual, landscape and noise impacts and how these will be considered in these proposals;</li> <li>• Perceived impact of flooding and whether improvements will be made as part of the proposed enhancements;</li> <li>• Electromagnetic Frequencies and the perceived impact on insects and wildlife;</li> <li>• Local benefits, including cheaper electricity tariffs;</li> <li>• Traffic impact during construction and management;</li> <li>• Alternative site locations;</li> <li>• Landowner property;</li> <li>• Manufacturing of equipment;</li> <li>• Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) across the site;</li> </ul>

Date	Parish Councils	Key issues discussed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation for visual, environmental, habitat and recreational impacts.</li> </ul>
24/05/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barnack;</li> <li>• Carlby;</li> <li>• Essendine;</li> <li>• Greatford;</li> <li>• Great Casterton;</li> <li>• Little Casterton;</li> <li>• Ryhall;</li> <li>• Stamford Town Council; and</li> <li>• Uffington.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation to introduce Stage Two consultation;</li> <li>• Description of the consultation process;</li> <li>• Design development: residential setback, visual screening, ecological mitigation and enhancement, recreational amenity;</li> <li>• Stage Two design;</li> <li>• Key topics discussed include alternatives to solar;</li> <li>• Perceived flood risk, specifically in Greatford; and</li> <li>• Mitigation and enhancement opportunities for the local community.</li> </ul>

**Table 6: Summary of Meetings and Webinars with South Kesteven District Council prior to 26 May 2022**

Date	Council	Key issues discussed
01/11/2021	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-briefing presentation – Introducing Mallard Pass Solar Farm;</li> <li>• Location of the Site;</li> <li>• Agricultural Land Classification Grade of Site;</li> <li>• Stage One consultation events; and</li> <li>• Engagement with parish councils and the community.</li> </ul>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Key issues discussed</b>
06/12/2021	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-briefing presentation – Introducing Mallard Pass Solar Farm;</li> <li>• Opportunities for enhancements;</li> <li>• Visual impact from Public Rights of Way (PRoWs);</li> <li>• Carbon savings and efficiency;</li> <li>• Lifespan of solar panels;</li> <li>• Mitigation opportunities for Parish Councils around the site during construction;</li> <li>• Mitigate perceived flood risk;</li> <li>• Capacity of substation; and</li> <li>• Agricultural Land Classification.</li> </ul>
18/05/2022	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation – Introduction to Stage Two consultation;</li> <li>• Description of the Applicant;</li> <li>• Project boundary of the Site;</li> <li>• Our consultation process;</li> <li>• Design development; residential setback, visual screening, ecological mitigation and enhancement, recreational amenity;</li> <li>• Stage Two design; and</li> <li>• Events and contact information.</li> </ul>

**Table 7: Summary of Meetings and Webinars with Lincolnshire County Council prior to 26 May 2022**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Key issues discussed</b>
03/11/2021	Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-briefing presentation – Introducing Mallard Pass Solar Farm;</li> </ul>

Date	Council	Key issues discussed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land use on Site;</li> <li>• Perceived flood risk and mitigation;</li> <li>• Visual impact and mitigation;</li> <li>• Local policy and national policy statement;</li> <li>• Agricultural land use versus renewable energy;</li> <li>• Agricultural Land Classification Grade and soil sampling;</li> <li>• Assessment of carbon mileage; and</li> <li>• Consultation process.</li> </ul>
08/11/2021	Lincolnshire County Councillor Ashley Baxter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation – Introducing Mallard Pass Solar Farm;</li> <li>• Description of the Applicant;</li> <li>• Concept plan of the Site;</li> <li>• The planning process;</li> <li>• Environmental Impact Assessment; and</li> <li>• Consultation process.</li> </ul>

**Table 8: Summary of Meetings and Webinars with Rutland County Council prior to 26 May 2022**

Date	Council	Key issues discussed
04/11/2021	Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-briefing presentation – Introducing Mallard Pass Solar Farm;</li> <li>• Impact of proposals on amenity and property valuations;</li> <li>• Visual impact and mitigation;</li> </ul>



Date	Council	Key issues discussed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technological advancements in solar and renewable energy;</li> <li>• Environmental Impact Assessment;</li> <li>• Human footprint of the Site; and</li> <li>• Connectivity to the National Grid.</li> </ul>

**4.4. NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION WITH SECTION 42 CONSULTEES PRIOR TO 26 MAY 2022**

4.4.1. The Applicant undertook consultation with a range of statutory and non-prescribed consultees to seek advice on subjects including the site selection process, approach to the EIA and drafting the application documents.

4.4.2. The Applicant engaged with National Grid regarding the coordinated approach to the Proposed Development during this period.

**4.5. EARLY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION WITH SECTION 44 CONSULTEES**

4.5.1. All Category 1 land interests under Section 44 of the PA 2008 were invited to a briefing on the Proposed Development proposals prior to the start of Stage One non-statutory consultation on 10 May 2022. The briefing covered the following issues discussed:

- Proposed site layouts;
- Proposed ecological, landscape and biodiversity enhancements; and
- Landscape and visual ‘buffer’ zones to mitigate residential visual amenity.

**4.6. STAGE ONE NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION (04 NOVEMBER 2021 – 16 DECEMBER 2021)**

- 4.6.1. The Applicant ran a Stage One Non-Statutory Public Consultation from 04 November 2021 to Thursday 16 December 2021.
- 4.6.2. During this consultation, the Applicant distributed over 13,300 community consultation leaflets to the Core Consultation Area advertising the Stage One Non-Statutory Public Consultation period, as shown in Appendix 7.2, in addition to advertising in local and regional newspapers, shown in Appendix 7.4.
- 4.6.3. Three in-person community consultation events were held in Ryhall, Stamford and Essendine, in addition to two community webinar events. Stage One Non-Statutory event details can be found in Table 9.

**Table 9: Stage One Non-Statutory Public Consultation Events**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>
Community webinar event 1	Wednesday 17 November 2021, from 10 am to 12 pm.
Ryhall Village Hall Church St, Ryhall, Stamford, PE9 4HR.	Tuesday 23 November 2021, from 2 pm to 6 pm.
Stamford Town Hall St Mary's Hill, Stamford PE9 2DR.	Wednesday 24 November 2021, from 10 am to 3 pm.
Essendine Village Hall Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ.	Thursday 25 November 2021, from 2 pm to 8 pm.
Community webinar event 2	Thursday 02 December 2021, from 6 pm to 8 pm.

- 4.6.4. The three in-person events at Ryhall Village Hall, Stamford Town Hall and Essendine Village Hall were attended by 317 attendees, in addition to 57 attendees at the two community webinar events.
- 4.6.5. As shown in Table 10, in-person attendance reflected registration numbers at both the Ryhall and Stamford events, whereas attendance in Essendine was lower than anticipated, yet the most highly attended of the three events. During these in-person events, the Applicant did not turn down any persons seeking to attend, even in cases where these had not pre-registered.

**Table 10: Stage One Non-Statutory Public Consultation In-Person Event Attendance and Pre-registration Details**

Location	Pre-registrations	Attendees
Ryhall Village Hall	117	116
Stamford Town Hall	64	63
Essendine Village Hall	159	138

- 4.6.6. The Applicant held two community webinars, where no pre-registration was required. A total of 57 people attended these digital community consultation events. The first of these was held on 17 November 2021 with 36 attendees and the second was on 02 December 2021 with 21 attendees.
- 4.6.7. The webinars involved a presentation by the project team, followed by a live question and answer session. The Applicant published a recording of the first Community webinar event (held on 17 November 2021) on the Proposed Development website (as shown in Appendix 7.2), and had intended to publish a recording of the second session (held on 02 December 2021) as well. However, owing to a technical malfunction, a recording of this second webinar session was not available. Therefore, to compensate for this, the Applicant provided a written record of this

second session (as shown in Appendix 7.2) in order to enable any interested parties to access the information shared during the session, as they would have been able to should the recording have been available.

4.6.8. Alongside all other feedback, the questions posed during the webinars informed a subsequent update of the Proposed Development FAQs (as shown in Appendix 7.5). A list of the 73 questions asked during the community webinars can be found in Appendix 7.2.

4.6.9. The Applicant undertook further engagement with parish, district and county councillors across the consultation area as shown in in Section 4.3.

4.7. **FEEDBACK RESPONSES FROM STAGE ONE NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION (04 NOVEMBER 2021 – 16 DECEMBER 2021)**

4.7.1. Feedback to Stage One Non-Statutory Consultation was accepted via the following online and offline methods:

- Hard copy feedback forms sent to the Proposed Development Freepost address;
- Submitted through the digital engagement platform via the Proposed Development website;
- Emailed to the Proposed Development inbox;
- Provided directly to a member of the stakeholder engagement team via the Proposed Development Freephone information line; and
- Sent via letter to the project Freepost address.

4.7.2. In total, the Applicant received 971 responses to the Stage One Non-Statutory Public Consultation by the Thursday 16 December 2021 deadline. Seven responses were provided after the deadline and duly regarded by the Applicant meaning that a total of 978 responses were received to the Stage One Non-Statutory Public Consultation. Please see Table 11 for a breakdown of the Stage One feedback received.

**Table 11: Total Amount of Feedback Received to the Stage One Non-Statutory Consultation**

Feedback Type	Breakdown	Amount Received
Feedback Form	Digital	418
	Hard copy (Freepost; Events; Scanned and submitted via email)	63
Communications Lines	Project inbox (Emails)	474 (incl. 7 late)
	Letters (Freepost address; Events)	7
	Freephone information line	16 (incl. 3 voicemails)
<b>Total</b>		<b>978</b>

4.7.3. The Applicant received a total of 481 digital and/or hard copy feedback forms in response to the Stage One Non-Statutory Consultation. Of the 481 feedback forms submitted, 92% of respondents identified as local residents to the Proposed Development.

4.7.4. A Consultation Summary Report (CSR), shown in Appendix 7.5, was produced at the conclusion of the Stage One Non-Statutory Public Consultation, and published on the project website on 16 February 2022. The CSR was also posted to all residents within the Core Consultation Zone on 16 February 2022. The CSR details how the Applicant

responded to Stage One consultation feedback and how it was considered in the development of the Stage Two design proposals and PEIR for the Proposed Development, as shown in Table 12 below.

**Table 12: Summary of the Applicant’s response to comments received during Stage One consultation**

Table 12 sets out the Applicant’s response following Stage One non-statutory consultation. The Applicant’s final response to points raised can be found in Table 34.

Comments received	How the Applicant considered this
<b>Water resources and flood risk</b>	
<p>Respondents expressed concerns regarding an increase in perceived flood risk due to water runoff from solar panels into rivers, ditches, watercourses and streams nearby, increasing risk of areas downstream.</p> <p>Respondents stated that the area is already prone to flooding during periods of heavy rain, during the winter especially.</p>	<p>Our focus is on ensuring the Proposed Development is designed well to respond sensitively to the local environment. We have undertaken initial flood risk modelling to inform our proposals and will continue to assess this as the design develops further.</p> <p>We are engaging with the Environment Agency (EA) to ensure a safe and appropriate layout for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.</p> <p>Well-designed solar projects have a negligible impact on flood risk.</p> <p>The Applicant’s position with regard to water resources and flood risk was presented in the PEIR – Chapter 12 – Water Resources and Ground Conditions after Stage One non-statutory consultation and is presented</p>

Comments received	How the Applicant considered this
	<p>in the ES – Chapter 11 – Water Resources and Ground Conditions [EN010127/APP/6.1] following the conclusion of Stage Two statutory consultation.</p>
<p><b>Land use and agriculture</b></p>	
<p>Respondents stated concern regarding the loss of productive agricultural land, seeking to maintain and/or increase the amount of existing crops and local food production.</p> <p>The area is used Recreationally by locals and tourists. Respondents are worried that fencing/security will diminish access to the area.</p> <p>Respondents are concerned that PRowS and footpaths would become industrialised.</p>	<p>We are working to fully understand the agricultural potential of the proposed areas. This involved undertaking site specific agricultural land classification surveys and engaging with landowners to understand how they work their land to get the maximum yields from their crops. This data will inform the refinement of our proposals for Mallard Pass.</p> <p>The Applicant’s position with regard to land use and agriculture was presented in the PEIR - Chapter 13 – Agricultural Land Use after Stage One non-statutory consultation and is presented in the ES – Chapter 12 – Land Use [EN010127/APP/6.1] following the conclusion of Stage Two statutory consultation.</p>
<p><b>Air quality, noise, and vibration</b></p>	
<p>Respondents expressed concerns regarding air pollution caused by construction traffic and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).</p>	<p>As part of the application for a DCO, we have undertaken a construction dust risk assessment to inform appropriate mitigation measures. These assessments will assist the refinement of our proposals to help mitigate such</p>

Comments received	How the Applicant considered this
<p>Additionally, a number of respondents raised concerned about noise pollution during the operation of the project.</p> <p>Respondents are concerned about the possible air pollution that would be caused by the increase traffic and use of HGV and heavy construction vehicles. Also, respondents believe the panels contain toxic chemicals, which further raise concerns over air pollution.</p>	<p>potential effects of our proposals on the environment.</p> <p>A noise survey of the baseline noise conditions has been undertaken; however, we will also be undertaking an operational noise assessment to understand any potential changes to the current noise level caused by the project.</p> <p>The Applicant's position with regard to air quality, noise and vibration was presented in the PEIR - Chapter 10 – Noise and Vibration and Chapter 11 – Air Quality after Stage One non-statutory consultation and is presented in the ES – Chapter 10 – Noise [EN010127/APP/6.1] following the conclusion of Stage Two statutory consultation.</p>
<b>Biodiversity, ecology, and bird life</b>	
<p>Respondents expressed concern that the proposals could negatively impact existing local ecology and diverse ecosystems. Bird life was noted as being of particular importance due to the abundant and diverse populations present in the area.</p> <p>Respondents noted that enhancement and mitigation measures regarding local ecology will need to be able to protect or improve ecology and</p>	<p>As part of our EIA, we have undertaken environmental and species surveys to identify the presence of wildlife and habitats. The results of the ecological surveys carried out to date can be found in the appendices of the Scoping Report.</p> <p>Our initial concept plan showed approximately 38% of the Site will be used for mitigation and enhancement purposes. The development of our</p>



Comments received	How the Applicant considered this
<p>biodiversity. Some respondents also recognise the potential for biodiversity benefits while acknowledging the current use of land for agriculture.</p> <p>Respondents are concerned about the impact the development will have on the flora in the area, mentioning that they link the local flora to the ‘rural character’ of the area. Some are worried about the use of pesticides and herbicides on the site.</p> <p>Some respondents are sceptical of the commitment to a 10% biodiversity net gain.</p>	<p>proposals will involve designing and applying appropriate mitigation measures for ecology, such as offsets and buffers, to achieve a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>The Applicant’s position with regard to biodiversity, ecology and bird life was presented in the PEIR – Chapter 7 – Ecology and Biodiversity after Stage One non-statutory consultation and is presented in the ES – Chapter 7 – Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010127/APP/6.1] following the conclusion of Stage Two statutory consultation.</p>
<p><b>Traffic and transport</b></p>	
<p>Respondents raised concerns about construction traffic and HGVs increasing congestion on roads which were noted as being currently unsuitable and dangerous. Concerns were raised about the prevalence of narrow roads in the local area and an associated perceived risk of road traffic accidents.</p> <p>Specific roads mentioned include the A6121, B1176, Essendine and Greatford Road, and Braceborough Road.</p> <p>Additionally, respondents noted the importance of roadside verges, such</p>	<p>As part of our Stage One consultation, we consulted the local highway authority (Lincolnshire County Council and Rutland County Council) and National Highways to seek their feedback on our proposed traffic surveys and proposals.</p> <p>They will also help to inform the scope of further analysis that we will need to undertake to ensure transport implications and traffic concerns are suitably mitigated.</p> <p>We are listening carefully to the feedback from residents who expressed concerns regarding the potential</p>

Comments received	How the Applicant considered this
<p>as Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges, with requests for these to be protected from the potential impacts of traffic associated with the project.</p>	<p>impacts of construction traffic, particularly on roadside verges. This feedback will be used to inform and develop an outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). The CTMP will put measures in place to control the movement of traffic between the Strategic Highway Network and the Site. An outline CTMP forms part of the application for a DCO.</p> <p>The Applicant's position regarding traffic and transport was presented in the PEIR – Chapter 9 – Access and Highways after Stage One non-statutory consultation and is presented in the ES – Chapter 9 – Highways and Access [EN010127/APP/6.1] following the conclusion of Stage Two statutory consultation.</p>
<p><b>Archaeology and cultural heritage</b></p>	
<p>Respondents stated that the area is rich in archaeology and requested that any works are undertaken with extra sensitivity to avoid damaging any potential archaeological finds.</p> <p>Respondents also mentioned various local heritage sites including Essendine Castle, Norman Arch, and Greatford Churchyard.</p> <p>Respondents highly value the archaeological significance of the area</p>	<p>We have undertaken field walking and geophysical surveys of the the Site to understand the potential of buried archaeology. We have also engaged with archaeological officers to determine the trial trenching that is required.</p> <p>As we develop our proposals, we are continuing to consider heritage assets, including those raised through feedback. This will inform the assessments and refinements to our</p>

<b>Comments received</b>	<b>How the Applicant considered this</b>
<p>and do not want this to be affected by the development.</p> <p>Respondents believe the historical sites are an important part of history, and a key attraction for tourists. Respondents value this rich heritage as a crucial part of local identity.</p> <p>Respondents cite Ryhall and Belmesthorpe as the location of many grade eleven Listed buildings, such as the thirteenth century church and hall in Belmesthorpe.</p>	<p>proposals for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Applicant's position regarding archaeology and cultural heritage was presented in the PEIR - Chapter 8 - Cultural Heritage and Archaeology after Stage One non-statutory consultation and is presented in the ES – Chapter 8 – Cultural Heritage [EN010127/APP/6.1] following the conclusion of Stage Two statutory consultation.</p>
<b>Landscape and visual assessment</b>	
<p>A common theme within the comments received was the proposed size of Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Concerns were raised that this could result in the loss of visual amenity of countryside views, which are valued by the community and visitors. Respondents also stated concern regarding the impact of fencing, light pollution, CCTV, and potential glint and glare from solar panels.</p> <p>There were also worries express over the height of the panels and/or fencing/security on the site, stating that these could further impact the visuals of the area.</p>	<p>The visual impact of the Proposed Development is being carefully considered during the refinement of our proposals. Effects on visual amenity forms part of the design process. These surveys have been undertaken by the project team in accordance with industry standards.</p> <p>A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment will has been undertaken to assess viewpoints from identified neighbouring properties. The team will continue to look for opportunities to reduce and mitigate the visual impact of the project.</p>
<b>Health</b>	

<b>Comments received</b>	<b>How the Applicant considered this</b>
<p>Respondents expressed concerns about the potential impact on mental health caused by a loss of recreation and visual amenity in area.</p> <p>Another key concern was the safety of lithium-ion batteries used for energy storage and how a potential fire risk would be managed.</p> <p>Respondents raised concern for the safety of drivers due to the glare and glint from the solar panels. Also, one respondent mentioned that deer-related road accidents could increase due to the development displacing wildlife.</p> <p>Respondents are concerned about the proximity of the site to a chemical storage warehouse in Essendine that holds large quantities of liquid bromine which could accelerate the burning of combustible materials.</p>	<p>Feedback is being appropriately considered to mitigate the potential impacts on recreation and amenity where possible.</p> <p>A Battery Safety Management Plan is not required as battery storage is not being considered in the final design of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Applicant's position regarding health was presented in the PEIR - following Stage One non-statutory consultation and is presented in the ES – Chapter 14 Socio-economics [EN010127/APP/6.1]—following the conclusion of Stage Two statutory consultation.</p> <p>Following Stage One non-statutory consultation feedback, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) were removed from the proposals for the Proposed Development.</p>
<b>Socio-economics and tourism</b>	
<p>Respondents raised concerns about the potential impact on tourism due to an anticipated loss of visual amenity.</p> <p>Respondents also commented on the potential impacts on house prices, and</p>	<p>As we refine the project design, we have modelled the visibility of the solar park from key viewpoints and assess this through a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.</p>

Comments received	How the Applicant considered this
<p>the potential for job creation from this development.</p> <p>Respondents are concerned that the development will reduce employment in hospitality, tourism and agricultural industries, with main concerns for the jobs in the agricultural sector.</p> <p>Respondents ask if there will be any proposed jobs for the local community, but worry that any jobs created by the developer would be hard to fill by a current populace that either commutes to work or works in the farming industry.</p>	<p>We will seek to ensure that the chosen viewpoints, including viewpoints from Public Rights of Way (PRoWs), consider the responses we received from members of the public and consultees.</p> <p>These will have to be agreed with your Local Planning Authorities. We have undertaken a recreation and amenity assessment that will consider the impacts on the PRoWs within and near to the site.</p> <p>The Applicant's position regarding socio-economics and tourism was presented in the PEIR - Chapter 16 - Socio-economics after Stage One non-statutory consultation and presented in the ES – Chapter 14 – Socio-economics [EN010127/APP/6.1] following the conclusion of Stage Two statutory consultation.</p>
<p><b>Site selection and use of alternatives</b></p>	
<p>Respondents proposed alternative site locations for this development, due to concerns about the project being on agricultural land.</p> <p>Alternative sites proposed by respondents include disused airfields, such as Woolfox (depot), North Luffenham (St. George's Barracks), and Cottesmore.</p>	<p>This Site offers the potential to deliver a major contribution to the UK's future clean energy supply. Factors that have influenced the choice of site include proximity to the grid connection, topography, and the availability of natural screening across much of the site.</p>

Comments received	How the Applicant considered this
<p>There have been concerns expressed regarding the increase in food imports, and therefore food costs, due to the loss of agricultural land.</p>	<p>Long grid connections can affect viability and result in reduced power output and increased impacts on homes and businesses that would be crossed by the connection. We have included an assessment of how alternatives have been considered in our DCO application. In the meantime, we remain committed to listening carefully to local residents and responding to issues they raise.</p>
<p>Respondents have suggested multiple times that the development be built on a brownfield site rather than the current plan of building on a greenfield site.</p>	<p>The Applicant's position regarding site selection and alternatives was presented in the PEIR – Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Design Development after Stage One non-statutory consultation and presented in the ES – Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Design Development [EN010127/APP/6.1] following Stage Two statutory consultation.</p>

**4.8. DESIGN CHANGES FOLLOWING CONSULTATION FEEDBACK FROM STAGE ONE NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION (04 NOVEMBER 2021 – 16 DECEMBER 2021)**

- 4.8.1. The Applicant refined the proposed design for the Proposed Development in three key ways, as described below, to address the feedback received during Stage One Non-Statutory Consultation.
- 4.8.2. These changes in preparation for Stage Two Statutory Consultation were communicated to residents within the Core Consultation Zone in the Stage Two Statutory Public Main Consultation Document, shown in Appendix 9.2. The Community Consultation Leaflet (available in Appendix 9.2) was sent to all residents within the Core Consultation

Zone, in addition to Section 42 stakeholders on 26 May 2022. This document was also available on the project website, published on 26 May 2022.

4.8.3. The following bullets provide the responses that the Applicant gave summarising the design changes made following the Stage One Non-Statutory Public Consultation. Note that the final changes following Stage Two Statutory Consultation are provided in Table 34 and Table 35, and can also be found in the Design and Access Statement (DAS) and Design Principles [EN010127/APP/7.3]:

- 1) Reducing impacts to residential properties and higher quality agricultural land
  - While we have slightly increased our overall Site boundary to include sections of local highway that might require improvement during construction, the area proposed for Solar PV arrays has decreased from approximately 570 ha at Stage One, to approximately 463 ha.
  - Approximately 420 ha of the overall Site will be for ecological mitigation and enhancement or retained as woodlands, hedgerows and agricultural land.
  - We have reduced the total area for solar panels by removing panels from fields which are entirely Grade 2 agricultural land and also by increasing the distance of the proposed solar panels and infrastructure from people's homes. We are also proposing additional tree and hedgerow screening to protect residential amenity.

- In addition, new hedgerow planting, tree belts and woodland blocks have been introduced to limit any potential visual impact from particular public vantage points throughout the Site.

## 2) Supporting recreational and amenity opportunities.

- We are supporting the recreational and amenity opportunities by retaining all Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) within the Site.
- We have introduced approximately 4.7 km of new permissive paths across the site. These permissive paths include:
  - Essendine to Carlby Road link: an approximate 1.2 km route linking Essendine to Carlby Road providing a new off-road route;
  - West Essendine Link Loop: an approximate 1 km link creating a loop running northwest of Essendine linking back to the existing bridleway, and;
  - West Glen River Corridor: an approximate 2.5 km link from Stamford Road south-eastward along the river corridor to join the Macmillan Way.

## 3) Enhancing biodiversity and ecological connectivity

- Our updated design will enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity across the Site through the creation of new habitats, including wildflower and grassland, improving the connectivity of existing habitats through new native tree and hedgerow planting, and allowing existing hedgerows to grow out more fully to the benefit of a wide range of local wildlife species.



- The Proposed Development proposals include 420 ha of land outside of the Solar PV Site to deliver mitigation and enhancement to the local landscape, this includes:
  - The Drift Wildflower Grassland Corridor and Little Warren Valley Wildflower Grassland: creation of over 30 ha of wildflower grassland with calcareous species.
  - West Glen Wet Woodland: creation of 3.7 ha of riparian habitat which could include wet woodland or carr planting in areas with no development along the river corridor.
  - Sitewide wildflower and tussock grassland planting: creation of over 108 hectares of this habitat across the Site.
- We are also adopting skylark plots, grazed grassland, hedgerows and woodland belts, bird, owl, and bat boxes, and otter holts/layup areas at appropriate locations.

## 5.0 **CONSULTATION UNDER EIA REGULATIONS**

### 5.1. **INTRODUCTION**

5.1.1. Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') is the process under which a development proposal is assessed for its environmental impacts before an application for consent is considered. The submission of the findings of EIA in an Environmental Statement (ES) allows the body deciding the application to fully understand the environmental impact of a proposal when it makes its decision.

### 5.2. **EIA SCOPING PHASE**

5.2.1. The Applicant submitted a scoping request for the Proposed Development to the Secretary of State on 07 February 2022, and in this request notified the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that the Applicant would provide an ES in respect of the Proposed Development.

5.2.2. The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, consulted with the relevant competent authorities and key statutory stakeholders to seek comments on the scope of the proposed EIA studies. A scoping opinion was received on 18 March 2022, along with comments received from statutory consultees. Additionally, a late consultation response, dated 10 March 2022, was received from Natural England.

5.2.3. Following receipt of the scoping opinion, the Applicant reviewed the list of consultees contacted by the Planning Inspectorate as part of its consultation on the scoping report. This was to ensure that all organisations contacted by the Planning Inspectorate were included in subsequent consultation activity. The Applicant was not notified of any additional consultation bodies under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations 2017.

5.2.4. The responses received to the scoping opinion and how the Applicant has responded are detailed in the PEIR and reflected in the Environmental Statement (ES).

5.2.5. The Applicant commenced ongoing non-statutory consultation with consultees early in the scoping phase as detailed in Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report.

### 5.3. **EIA CONSULTATION**

5.3.1. Notice of the PEIR under Regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations was given to the Section 42 consultees together with notice under Section 48 of the PA 2008 on 25 May 2022. The consultation materials provided to all Section 42 consultees (shown in Appendix 3.3) as listed in Appendix 3 comprised of:

- A covering letter;
- A copy of the Proposed Development site location plans (see Appendix; and
- A copy of the notice publicised in accordance with Section 48 of the PA 2008 (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge).

5.3.2. In addition, both the PEIR and NTS, which included a summary of EIA matters, were available to all attendees at the Stage Two Section 47 consultation events. The PEIR and NTS were available on the Proposed Development website, at the designated Community Access Points (CAP) sites as detailed in the SoCC (available in Appendix 6) and Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report, and available on a USB device free of charge by request or collection from a Stage Two Section 47 consultation event.

5.3.3. Ongoing non-statutory consultation undertaken by the Applicant with technical consultees in support of the Stage Two statutory Section 42 consultation is detailed in Chapter 13 of this Consultation Report.

#### 5.4. **HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT**

5.4.1. Wherever a project that is not directly connected to, or necessary for the management of a European Site, is likely to have a significant effect on the Conservation Objectives of the site (directly, indirectly, alone or in combination with other plans or projects) then an 'Appropriate Assessment' (AA) must be undertaken by the Competent Authority (see Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ("Habitats Regulations"). The AA must be carried out before consent or authorisation can be given for the project.

5.4.2. Natural England were consulted and provided with the PEIR, covering the initial assessments of impacts to, among other things, designated sites. Their response dated 16 August 2022 did not formally support the conclusions presented in the PEIR, that no likely significant effect would occur on the designated sites and requested a Shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report to be included within the ES to confirm no likelihood of significant effects.

5.4.3. A Shadow HRA Screening Report was produced to inform the HRA process for the Proposed Development [EN010127/APP/6.2]. This information will enable the Secretary of State (as the Competent Authority) to determine whether there is potential for adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site(s) in view of their Conservation Objectives (COs) as a result of the Proposed Development.

5.4.4. The Shadow HRA Screening report was prepared in accordance with Advice Note Ten: Habitats Regulations Assessment Relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) (PINS, 2022),

which sets out a staged process to the assessment of the effects of plans or projects on European sites. Cumulatively, these stages are referred to as the Habitat Regulations Assessment, to clearly distinguish the whole process from the second stage within it, which is referred to as the 'appropriate assessment'. There are potentially up to four stages:

- Screening;
- Appropriate Assessment;
- Mitigation and alternatives; and
- Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI).

5.4.5. Many projects do not need to progress beyond Stage 1 screening, where it can be identified that there is no causal link between a project and a European site or that the probability of a significant effect is negligible; however, where LSE cannot be discounted, the AA in Stage 2 is necessary.

5.4.6. The DCO Application will be determined by the Secretary of State as the competent authority. It is also the responsibility of the Secretary of State to undertake any AA that may be required under the terms of the Habitats Regulations, with statutory advice provided by Natural England. Whilst the competent authority will ultimately undertake the AA, it is the responsibility of the Applicant to provide the relevant information to enable them to do so. The Shadow HRA Screening Report is intended to provide the Secretary of State with the relevant information for them to discharge their duties under the Habitats Regulation.

## 6.0 ONGOING NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION MEETINGS FOR EIA DEVELOPMENT

6.1.1. Table 13 sets out the ongoing discussions that the Applicant had with technical consultees ahead of the Stage Two statutory Section 42 consultation.

6.1.2. Chapter 12 details the ongoing discussions the Applicant had with technical consultees post Section 42 statutory consultation leading up to the Application submission.

**Table 13: Ongoing Non-Statutory Engagement Overview (September 2021 to start of Statutory Stage Two statutory Section 42 consultation)**

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
09/09/2021	Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to project and team.</li> </ul>
10/09/2021	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to project and team.</li> </ul>
10/09/2021	Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to project and team.</li> </ul>
01/10/2021	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case officer and senior planning team introduction.</li> </ul>
21/10/2021	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General update</li> <li>• DCO process introduction roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Consultation strategy</li> </ul>
03/11/2021	Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General update</li> <li>• DCO process introduction roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Consultation strategy</li> </ul>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Key issues discussed</b>
04/11/2021	Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General update</li> <li>• DCO process introduction roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Consultation strategy</li> </ul>
06/12/2021	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General update</li> <li>• Discussions around Planning Performance Agreement</li> </ul>
17/12/2021	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General update on Stage One non-statutory consultation</li> <li>• Discussions around Planning Performance Agreement</li> </ul>
12/01/2022	Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage One Non-Statutory Public Consultation feedback</li> <li>• Further discussions around Planning Performance Agreement</li> </ul>
07/02/2022	Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Performance Agreement</li> <li>• General update</li> <li>• Ongoing work</li> </ul>
31/03/2022	Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecology</li> <li>• Landscape and Visual Impact</li> <li>• Future engagement</li> </ul>
31/03/2022	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecology</li> </ul>

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape and Visual Impact</li> <li>• Planning Performance Agreement (scope and instruction)</li> </ul>
01/04/2022	Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular engagement</li> </ul>
05/04/2022	Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecology</li> <li>• Landscape and Visual Impact (viewpoints)</li> </ul>
06/04/2022	Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General update – setting regular engagement</li> <li>• Programme lookahead</li> </ul>
12/04/2022	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General update</li> <li>• Draft SoCC</li> </ul>
20/04/2022	Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular engagement – general update and forward look to Statutory Consultation</li> </ul>
04/05/2022	Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular engagement</li> </ul>
11/05/2022	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory consultation forward look</li> <li>• SoCC</li> </ul>
25/05/2022	Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory consultation forward look</li> </ul>
25/05/2022	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory consultation forward look</li> </ul>
15/06/2022	Anglian Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Glen River improvements</li> </ul>
20/06/2022	National Grid Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project introduction</li> </ul>



Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protective provisions</li> </ul>
22/06/2022	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage Two Statutory Consultation update</li> </ul>
20/07/2022	Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General update</li> <li>• Stage Two Statutory Consultation update</li> </ul>
22/07/2022	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General update</li> <li>• Stage Two Statutory Consultation update</li> </ul>
27/07/2022	South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage Two Statutory Consultation update</li> </ul>

## 7.0 **PREPARATION FOR STATUTORY CONSULTATION (17 FEBRUARY 2022 – 22 APRIL 2022)**

### 7.1. **STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE**

- 7.1.1. Section 47(1) of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult on the proposed application with people living in ‘vicinity’ of the land to which the Proposed Development relates.
- 7.1.2. Section 47(2) requires that the Applicant must consult each local authority on the content of this statement, known as the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), before preparing the statement.
- 7.1.3. In accordance with Section 47(3) of the PA 2008, the deadline given for receipt of local authority responses to consultation on the content of the SoCC should be no less than the end of a 28-day period (commencing on the day after the day on which the local authority received the consultation documents).
- 7.1.4. In developing the SoCC, regard must be held to the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance relating to pre-application procedure. Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations stipulates that the SoCC must set out whether the proposal is EIA development and, if so, how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on its PEIR.
- 7.1.5. The PEIR was submitted as part of the formal Section 42 consultation, which took place in parallel to the Stage Two Section 47 community consultation between 26 May 2022 to 04 August 2022.
- 7.1.6. Details of the requirements regarding the SoCC from the legislation and guidance and how the Proposed Development complied with these requirements are set out in the Statement of Compliance in Appendix 13 of this Consultation Report.

## 7.2. DEVELOPMENT OF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (SoCC)

7.2.1. The local authorities consulted by the Applicant on the SoCC are listed in Table 14. Section 47(2) of the PA 2008 states that before preparing the SoCC, the Applicant must consult each local authority that is within Section 43(1) about the content of the SoCC. At the time of preparing the SoCC the relevant authorities within Section 43(1) were:

**Table 14: Local Authorities under Section 43(1) Consulted**

Local Authority	Classification
Rutland County Council	'B'
South Kesteven District Council	'B'
Lincolnshire County Council	'C'
Melton Borough Council	'A'
Harborough District Council	'A'
North Northamptonshire Council	'A'
South Holland District Council	'A'
North Kesteven District Council	'A'
Newark and Sherwood District Council	'A'
Leicestershire County Council	'A'
Nottinghamshire County Council	'A'

7.2.2. An earlier working draft version of the SoCC was shared with Local Authorities as set out in Appendix 6.3.3 on 17 February 2022 for early comment ahead of formal consultation on a draft. These preliminary comments were received from Rutland County Council on Monday 21 March 2022 via email and on Wednesday 20 April 2022 in a meeting with the project team, and are considered by the Applicant in Table 15 of this Chapter.

- 7.2.3. In addition to the Section 43 consultees outlined in Table 14, the Applicant also engaged with Peterborough City Council owing to the core consultation zone (shown in Appendix 10.2) slightly extending into their administrative boundaries. As a small number of its constituents would therefore be receiving direct communications regarding the Proposed Development during the Section 47 consultation, the Applicant felt it appropriate to consult with Peterborough City Council on the draft SoCC. To view the comments made along with the Applicant's response, please see Tables 15 and 16 in this chapter of this Consultation Report.
- 7.2.4. The draft SoCC was sent to the relevant local authorities (and Peterborough City Council) on 23 March 2022 providing more than the statutory 28-day response period for comments by giving a consultation period of 30 days, asking for all comments to be received by 22 April 2022. The Applicant also considered late feedback received on 25 April 2022 by the Mallard Pass Action Group (MPAG), providing a 33-day response period for the campaign group.
- 7.2.5. LPAs went on to share the draft SoCC with stakeholders as they saw fit, circulating the document with a number of Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings, and the campaign group MPAG.
- 7.2.6. As shown in Table 15 and Table 16 of this Chapter, the Applicant had regard and responded to all feedback received on the draft SoCC. This feedback was provided by the following thirteen local authorities and organisations:
- Rutland County Council;
  - Lincolnshire County Council;
  - South Kesteven District Council;

- Peterborough City Council;
- Stamford Town Council;
- Essendine Parish Council;
- Little Casterton Parish Council;
- Uffington Parish Council;
- Greatford Parish Council;
- Careby, Aunby and Holywell Parish Meeting; and
- Mallard Pass Action Group

### 7.3. CONSULTATION ON DRAFT SoCC AND RESPONSES

7.3.1. The Applicant received preliminary comments on an earlier working draft version of the SoCC, which was shared on 17 February 2022 for early comment ahead of formal consultation on a draft. These were received from Rutland County Council on Monday 21 March 2022 via email and on Wednesday 20 April 2022 in a meeting with members of the Applicant’s team. The Applicant considered these comments (as shown in Table 15) in preparing both the draft SoCC for consultation shared on 23 March 2022, and the final SoCC published on 19 May 2022.

**Table 15: Preliminary Comments Received on the Earlier Working Draft SoCC**

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
Rutland County Council (1 of 3*)	21/03/2022	In general the document appears satisfactory, however there are some areas where it is not considered to be sufficiently precise, and so the following changes are suggested to address this issue.	The Applicant made note of this comment.
		Section 6: Hard to reach groups  RCC should be separately provided with a list of organisations who will be contacted in this	A full list of identified Seldom Heard Groups were provided to Local Planning Authorities as part of consultation on the draft SoCC.

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>regard, which should not form part of the finalised document.</p>	
		<p>Section 7: How will we consult?</p> <p>Details should be provided regarding how the proposed webinars are to be advertised and promoted to members of the public.</p>	<p>The Applicant included detail in the draft SoCC regarding how all information events, including the two webinar sessions, would be advertised. All six public exhibition events held during statutory consultation were advertised in the SoCC, Community Consultation Leaflet, advertisements and notices published across local, regional and national media, at Local Information Points (LIPs) and Community Access Points (CAP) sites, and on the project website.</p>
		<p>Section 7: How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>Emphasis should be changed to make it clear that meeting and briefing sessions will be arranged with local parish councils, elected members etc (not that such sessions may be held). Details should also be provided regarding</p>	<p>The Applicant clarified in the draft SoCC that meetings and briefing sessions will be offered to local parish councils, elected members and key stakeholder groups and that these would either be virtual or in-person depending upon circumstances at the time.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>the intended regularity of these briefing sessions.</p>	<p>The Applicant did not provide detail regarding the intended regularity of these briefing sessions as the Applicant did not want to imply that there existed a limited number of meetings/briefings that would be offered and/or held during the statutory consultation. As set out in Chapter 4 of this Report, the Applicant contacted parish councils, local authorities and key stakeholders on 11 May 2022 to offer each the opportunity to meet one-on-one before or during the statutory consultation on 26 May 2022). The Applicant wanted to hold the door open for as many follow-up and/or additional meetings requested.</p> <p>In response to this comment and others, the Applicant amended this Section of the final SoCC to clarify that the details of these would be arranged in liaison with the relevant attendees on a case-by-case basis.</p>



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Section 7: How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>Local Information Points – a full list of these should be included rather than the vague reference currently made.</p>	<p>The Applicant provided LPAs with a list of proposed Local Information Points (LIPs) as part of the consultation on the draft SoCC. The Applicant refrained from specifically naming these in the final SoCC (or publicising them elsewhere) as the Applicant provided LIPs with information posters advertising the consultation to display but LIPs are under no obligation to display these.</p>
		<p>Section 7: How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>Local Media Engagement – Rutland &amp; Stamford Sound should be included on the list. This replaced Rutland Radio as the local radio station.</p>	<p>In response to this comment, the Applicant amended the final SoCC to include Rutland &amp; Stamford Sound on the list of local media outlets contacted to promote the Stage Two Statutory Consultation.</p>
		<p>Section 7: How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>Community Access Points – RCC Offices are unmanned, and therefore this is not an ideal</p>	<p>In response to this comment, the Applicant amended the draft SoCC and changed its proposed Rutland CAP site to the Ryhall Library at Coppice Road, Ryhall, Rutland,</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		location. Documents could however be held within the public libraries within the county, with branches at Oakham, Uppingham, Ketton and Ryhall, with the lattermost location being of particular relevance given its proximity to the application site.	PE9 4HY. In response to other comments on the draft SoCC, the Applicant ultimately designated Ryhall Village Hall as its CAP site in Ryhall. This was changed back to Ryhall Library as detailed in Section 8 of this Report.
Rutland County Council (2 of 3*)	20/04/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JH confirm feedback sent direct to Mallard Pass team not PINS</li> <li>• RCC sent out location of display materials and list of hard-to-reach groups to local cllrs / parishes</li> <li>• NT confirmed that SKDC have shared the whole document with some parishes and the Action Group</li> <li>• Some additional locations have been suggested</li> <li>• RCC have received a direct response from Little Casterton and Essendine Parish and from</li> </ul>	The Applicant made note of these comments.

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		Action Group, and will append these comments to their final response	
		<p>'Everyone' has challenge to 8-week consultation period</p> <p>Action group looking for 12 and suggested a breakdown of 4 weeks for 'familiarisation/briefing', 4 weeks 'technical questions' 4 weeks to reprepare 'formal response'</p>	<p>The Applicant noted this comment and extended the period of its statutory consultation to ten weeks so as to provide more time for the three sections outlined.</p> <p>The Applicant provided a response period of 42 days for the non-statutory Stage One public consultation, going beyond the minimum 28-day statutory period. The Applicant proposed to extend the response period to 56 days for the statutory consultation period in the draft SoCC. As a response to feedback, the Applicant further extended the response period for the statutory consultation to 70 days.</p>
		Suggested additional list of groups and alternative information points will be provided.	The Applicant made note of this comment and considered the additional suggestions the stakeholder provided on 22 April 2022.

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Will the hard-to-reach groups be listed and formally appended to the document? currently not clear where this list will be held</p>	<p>The Applicant provided a full list of seldom heard groups, community groups and Local Information Points to LPAs as part of consultation on the draft SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant did not formally append a full list of seldom heard groups to the final SoCC due to the length of the list. However, the Applicant made available a full list of all seldom heard and community groups contacted as part of the consultation process for the Proposed Development on the project website and made sure to specify this in the final SoCC.</p>
		<p>Request for more detail on the format of physical events – how will information be presented, who will be available to answer questions</p>	<p>The Applicant provided additional detail on the format of physical events in the SoCC, clarifying that members of the team would be in attendance to answer questions and discuss the proposals with residents and other key stakeholders in more detail. The Applicant further specified that project</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>materials setting out the developed proposals would be displayed and available to take away. A virtual exhibition which contained all the same information as was presented at the in-person exhibition events was publicly available for the public to view on the project website for the duration of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>Although it was not possible to determine which specific project team members would be in attendance at the time of consulting on the draft SoCC or publishing the final SoCC, the Applicant ensured each event was attended by a wide range of project team members with a variety of technical expertise.</p>
		Timing of events – ensure availability after working hours	The Applicant designed the consultation events to be accessible by holding the events on different days of the week and with a range of hours so as to accommodate

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>different availability during the community (e.g. in the evening; during the weekend; online). Six public exhibition events were held over the course of the statutory period:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Online community webinar event. Friday 17 June 2022 from 11 am to 1 pm.</li> <li>2. Essendine Village Hall consultation event. Saturday 25 June 2022 from 11 am to 5 pm.</li> <li>3. Stamford Town Hall consultation event. Wednesday 29 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm.</li> <li>4. Greatford Village Hall consultation event. Thursday 30 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm.</li> <li>5. Ryhall Village Hall consultation event. Friday 01 July 2022 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.</li> </ol>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>6. Online community webinar event. Tuesday 05 July 2022 from 6 pm to 8 pm.</p>
		<p>Booking system for topic-based discussions / surgeries?</p>	<p>The Applicant clarified in the final SoCC that meetings and briefing sessions would be offered to local parish councils, elected members and key local stakeholder groups within the CCZ, and that these would be arranged on a case-by-case basis. Although no set ‘booking system’ was put into place, the Applicant ensured project-dedicated communications lines remained open throughout the entire pre-application phase for any topic-based discussions to be booked and pursued its ongoing engagement with these stakeholders.</p>
		<p>Preview session with members and cllrs allowing for ‘response time’ before launching public events</p>	<p>The Applicant offered to meet one-on-one with MPs, host Councillors (Rutland County Council; South Kesteven District Council; Lincolnshire County Council), host and</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to earlier working draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>neighbouring parish councils, and key local stakeholders ahead of the launch of the statutory consultation. As detailed in Chapter 4, before the launch of the statutory consultation on 26 May 2022 the Applicant:</p> <p>Met with South Kesteven District Council members on 18 May 2022;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted an information webinar with key project and consultation updates for local parish councils (as listed in Table 5) on Tuesday 24 May 2022 at 5:30 pm via Zoom.</li> </ul>

7.3.2. As set out in Section 7.10 of this Chapter, the Applicant sent the draft SoCC to the relevant local authorities (and Peterborough City Council) on 23 March 2022, providing more than the statutory 28-day response period for comments by giving a consultation period of 30 days, asking for all comments to be received by 22 April 2022. The Applicant also considered late feedback received on 25 April 2022 by the Mallard Pass Action Group, allowing a 33-day response period from the start of the draft SoCC consultation.



7.3.3. The comments received from the local authorities and all other bodies that provided feedback on the draft SoCC, and how the Applicant responded and incorporated the comments are shown in Table 16.

**Table 16: Comments Received on the Draft SoCC**

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
Lincolnshire County Council	21/04/2022	They refer to hard to reach groups – better to refer these as “seldom heard groups.” The term hard to reach can cause offence.	The Applicant amended all consultation materials to replace the term ‘hard to reach’ with ‘seldom heard’ when referring to non-prescribed local community organisations that were contacted as part of the consultation process.

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Hard to reach groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Some of their “hard to reach” stakeholders in their appendix are not really hard to reach e.g., Leicester &amp; Rutland Ramblers</li> <li>– They should review their definition of hard to reach / seldom heard voices and ensure the groups they list here really fit into that category. Some of the listed groups are really just the usual stakeholders and not seldom heard. They should consider putting their stakeholders in one list and their specified seldom heard stakeholders in another separate list.</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant noted this comment and provided a wide range of non-prescribed community groups and local organisations to Local Authorities so as to indicate the extent of the Applicant’s stakeholder contact list. LPAs were prompted to suggest any additional contacts that may be appropriate, and where applicable the Applicant consulted suggested groups as part of the Section 47 consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant understands seldom heard groups to include those that may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons, such as lack of time or technical specialism. However, the Applicant developed the consultation to be accessible to all and sought to welcome all forms of feedback, encouraging the relevant groups to participate in the consultation and</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>publicise relevant details to their members. The Applicant compiled a single list for both seldom heard groups and community groups more broadly so as to maximise outreach and to not exclude and/or offend any bodies. As stated, many may have difficulties participating for a wide range of reasons, and the Applicant therefore felt it most appropriate to not make assumptions in this regard and to list these additional Section 47 consultees in one list, as listed in Appendix 9.2.9 of this Report.</p>
		<p>Information events will be held on different days of the week, with a range of hours to accommodate different availability within the community</p> <p>– There should be reference to when these will be</p>	<p>The Applicant included references to the dates, times and locations of consultation events in the final SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant designed the consultation events to be accessible by holding the events on different days of the week and with a range of hours so as to</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>– Will they have events in the evening to accommodate people who work during office hours who have families or other commitments?</p>	<p>accommodate different availability during the community (e.g. in the evening; during the weekend; online). Six public exhibition events were held over the course of the statutory period:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Online community webinar event. Friday 17 June 2022 from 11 am to 1 pm.</li> <li>2. Essendine Village Hall consultation event. Saturday 25 June 2022 from 11 am to 5 pm.</li> <li>3. Stamford Town Hall consultation event. Wednesday 29 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm.</li> <li>4. Greatford Village Hall consultation event. Thursday 30 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm.</li> <li>5. Ryhall Village Hall consultation event. Friday 01 July 2022 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.</li> </ol>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>6. Online community webinar event. Tuesday 05 July 2022 from 6 pm to 8 pm.</p> <p>The Applicant published a step-by-step guide to accessing online webinar events which was promoted alongside public exhibition event details. Members of the public were able to join webinar events at any point during the session, via telephone or internet.</p>
		<p>Events</p> <p>– Will they ensure that events are held in accessible locations with ramps / other facilities to accommodate those with limited mobility?</p>	<p>The Applicant ensured that all venues selected for events were held in accessible locations with facilities to accommodate those with limited mobility. The Applicant included explicit reference to this in the SoCC to ensure those with limited mobility were aware of the venues' accessibility.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Webinars</p> <p>– What times to suit the communities?</p>	<p>The Applicant designed the online webinar events with a range of hours so as to suit local communities. Two online webinar events were held during the statutory consultation period, the first on Friday 17 June 2022 between 11 am and 1 pm, and the second on Tuesday 05 July 2022, between 6 pm and 8 pm.</p> <p>These were held for any member of the public to join via telephone and internet at any time during the live session, and a step-by-step guide to accessing the digital events was made publicly available on the Applicant's Proposed Development website.</p>
		<p>Meetings and briefings</p> <p>– What times to suit the groups involved?</p>	<p>Meetings and briefing sessions were offered to local parish councils, elected members and key local stakeholder groups present within the Core Consultation Zone (CCZ; minimum 2,000</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Telephone line is available for people to call in office hours / enquiries acknowledged within 24 hours</p> <p><b>BUT</b></p> <p>– There should be mention of whether they will offer a call back service / they should consider having times when someone is available to discuss matters over the phone with consultees outside of office hours</p>	<p>metres distance from the Proposed Development Site area). The Applicant arranged the dates and times of meetings in liaison with attendees on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>The Applicant committed to a call back service for the dedicated-project phone line. During the statutory consultation period, all missed phone enquiries resulted in a call back within 24 hours during the working week. This was explicitly noted in the final SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant did not set up ‘office hours’ for the Freephone information line; rather, this telephone line was open during the whole pre-application process (excepting weekends and national holidays) for any consultees to directly speak with a member of the team.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Social Media</p> <p>– Will they request that other bodies and organisations share their social media posts to reach their existing audiences?</p>	<p>The Applicant provided digital materials to parish councils, seldom heard groups and community groups at the launch of the statutory consultation. This included PDF copies of materials advertising the details of the statutory consultation events, along with direct links to the project website and all public consultation materials.</p> <p>These organisations were prompted to advertise and promote the consultation via their own websites, social media, and online community forums as they see fit.</p>
South Kesteven District Council	22/04/2022	<p>Thank you for your letter dated 23 March 2022 seeking South Kesteven District Council’s (SKDC) views and comments on the draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm.</p> <p>SKDC has reviewed the information contained within the draft SoCC and offers the following comments which we</p>	<p>Under Section 49 of the Planning Act (2008), the Applicant is under a statutory duty to have regard to the comments received at statutory consultation. In this Consultation Report submitted with the application, we set out how we have</p>



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>request are taken into account in preparing the final version of the SoCC. To help inform our response we have carried out a further consultation with local members, affected parish councils and the Mallard Pass Action Group. Full comments from that consultation are appended in full to this response and we also request that these local views are taken into account in preparing the final version of the SoCC.</p> <p>It would be helpful at this stage to understand what measures are in place for the consultation that would help later inform an objective assessment of the success of the consultation.</p>	<p>fulfilled this duty, which will then be considered by the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>The success of the consultation will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate when considering this Consultation Report. The Applicant took measures to facilitate this assessment in advance by: ensuring consultation materials clearly stated topics up for consultation; seeking to confirm issues outlined during non-statutory consultation, address these and encourage any other concerns to be brought forward; helping to ensure as much ease of access as is feasible to materials, communications lines and feedback channels.</p>
		<p>Section 1. Introduction</p>	<p>The Applicant clearly stated that due to Mallard Pass Solar Farm’s nature as a NSIP, it intended to submit a DCO application to the SoS for BEIS via the</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggest including reference to being a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project in the introduction and that the Planning Inspectorate determine the application</li> </ul>	<p>Planning Inspectorate, which will be examined by the appointed Examining Authority.</p>
		<p>Section 2. About us</p> <p>- Is there any further information about the ltd company? Does it have a UK base?</p>	<p>The Applicant provided further information about Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited and the two developers, Windel Energy Ltd and Canadian Solar Inc.</p> <p>Windel Energy Ltd was founded in 2018 and is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies. Windel is based in Northumberland and Swansea, and has more than 3 gigawatts (GW) of clean, renewable power in various stages of development.</p> <p>Canadian Solar was founded in 2001 in Canada and is one of the world's largest solar power companies. It is a leading</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Section 3. Mallard Pass Solar Farm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the discrepancy between the 50MW solar array output and the 350MW generation capacity of the solar farm?</li> <li>- Are the outputs maximums or likely averages and over what timeframe?</li> <li>- What are the mitigation and enhancement measures?</li> </ul>	<p>manufacturer of solar photovoltaic modules and provider of solar energy solutions and has a geographically diversified pipeline of utility-scale solar power projects in various stages of development.</p> <p>The Applicant's proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm include an anticipated potential output from the solar array infrastructure of over 50 MW. It is anticipated that Mallard Pass could generate in the region of 350 MW.</p> <p>The Applicant made detailed breakdowns of the calculations used to predict expected output available on the Mallard Pass Solar Farm website. These clarify that the expected installed generation capacity of approximately 350 MW is calculated based on detailed technical analysis of the site area, which accounts</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>- Page 7 map is particularly clear. Suggest some shading of the site area.</p>	<p>for natural features, shadow effects and historical sunlight levels. Taking these factors into consideration, it is estimated that Mallard Pass Solar Farm could generate approximately 350,000 megawatt hours (MWh) per year. This figure also accounts for hours in the year (8760) and a solar load factor, which is an efficiency indicator for electricity generation that accounts for factors such as weather conditions, and average hours of sunlight.</p> <p>The Applicant set out the specific mitigation and enhancement measures being proposed as part of the statutory consultation in key consultation materials such as the Community Consultation Leaflet, Main Consultation Document, Feedback Form, PEIR and PEIR NTS. Although there is reference to these being part of the consultation in the</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>SoCC, these were not yet publicly specified.</p> <p>The Applicant considered this comment and altered Figure 2 by using shading to better indicate the proposed site boundary and area.</p>
		<p>Section 4. Our Consultation Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suggest 12 weeks for consultation process</li> <li>- Assume dates to be added</li> </ul>	<p>In response to this comment and others, the Applicant provided a response period of 42 days for the non-statutory Stage One public consultation, going beyond the minimum 28-day statutory period. The Applicant proposed to extend the response period to 56 days for the statutory consultation period in the draft SoCC. As a response to feedback, the Applicant further extended the response period for the statutory consultation to 70 days.</p> <p>The Applicant specified the dates of the statutory consultation period, running for</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>ten weeks between Thursday 26 May 2022 and Thursday 04 August 2022. The Applicant also continued its engagement with the community beyond the statutory consultation period up until the point of DCO application submission. This ongoing consultation is detailed in Chapter 13 of this Consultation Report.</p>
		<p>Section 5. What will we consult on?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear and transparent information should be available on visual impacts; details of battery storage and other associated infrastructure; flood risk; community benefits; construction phase impacts; power generation; loss of agricultural land; ecological impacts and decommissioning impacts</li> <li>- Website should include links to independent sources of information.</li> <li>- Information must be clear consistent and accurate</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant amended the SoCC to clarify that the content of the statutory consultation -more specifically the PEIR and PEIR NTS – would address these EIA topics (as well as others) in depth. As explained in the PEIR, battery storage no longer formed part of the Proposed Development by the time the Applicant was consulting on the draft SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant provided links and references to external sources of information in its consultation materials</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>- Suggest map in SoCC highlights locations of all villages in core consultation zone</p>	<p>wherever applicable, including links to the PINS website in the final SoCC and Community Leaflet, links to the NIC and National Food Strategy in the Main Document, and frequent annotated references to specific Government policy.</p> <p>The Applicant produced a variety of public-facing materials that clearly set out the new information to be consulted on during the statutory consultation, including the Community Leaflet, Main Consultation Document, Feedback Form and PEIR NTS. These contained the same information as presented in the PEIR, in a more clear and perceptible way.</p> <p>The Applicant amended Figure 3 to include indications of all villages in the Core Consultation Zone, adding in: Essendine; Careby, Aunby and Holywell;</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			Braceborough and Wilsthorpe; Greatford; Barholm and Stowe; Little Casterton; and Belmesthorpe. Pickworth, although outside of the CCZ, was also added to Figure 3 to help further clarify the map area.
		<p>Section 6. Who will we consult?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town and Parish Council consultation should be expanded to include Bourne, Witham, Thurlby, Belmesthorpe, Pickworth, Castle Bytham and Little Bytham.</li> <li>- Land owners with property adjoining the proposed site should be included as direct/primary consultees.</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant expanded the Town and Parish Council consultation to include groups listed. These were explicitly specified in this section of the SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant consulted with landowners in proximity to the Proposed Development in accordance with Section 44 of the Planning Act (2008).</p>
		Section 6. Who will we consult? [cont.]	The Applicant amended Figure 3 to provide a clearer indication of which Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings belong in the CCZ, which extends by a minimum distance of 2,000



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>- Core consultation zone should include Essendine, Carlby, Braceborough &amp; Wilsthorpe, Greatford, Barholm &amp; Stowe, Uffington, Tallington, Belmesthorpe, Ryhall, Pickworth</p>	<p>metres from the Proposed Development Site area. This previously included all those listed aside from Pickworth, which stands right outside the CCZ. The Applicant consulted with the Pickworth Parish Meeting during both non-statutory and statutory phases of public consultation.</p>
		<p>Section 6. Who will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>- Wider consultation zone should include Witham-on-the-Hill, Manthorpe, Toft, Lound, Thurlby, Obthorpe, Little Bytham, Castle Bytham, Baston, West Deeping, Langtoft, Barnack, Bainton.</p>	<p>In response to this comment, the Applicant consulted with the relevant suggested Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings during the statutory consultation, as detailed in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report. This included sending digital communications directly to the following stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Witham on the Hill Parish Council;</li> <li>• Toft, Lound and Manthorpe Parish Council;</li> </ul>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Section 6. Who will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>- See appended comments in relation to suggested additions to local information points and hard to reach groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thurlby and Obthorpe Parish Council;</li> <li>• Little Bytham Parish Council;</li> <li>• Castle Bytham Parish Council;</li> <li>• Baston Parish Council;</li> <li>• West Deeping Parish Council;</li> <li>• Langtoft Parish Council;</li> <li>• Barnack Parish Council; and</li> <li>• Bainton and Ashton Parish Council.</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant considered suggestions for local information points by contacting the new establishments listed and offering to provide them with publicity materials for the statutory consultation (information poster). The Applicant contacted seldom heard groups suggested as part of the statutory consultation.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Section 7. How will we consult?</p> <p>- Carlby, Braceborough, Uffington and Greatford should be included with information events. Suggest engaging with Parish Councils on appropriate venues.</p>	<p>In response to the comments made an additional event at one of the listed locations was scoped into the statutory consultation period. The Applicant had regard and responded to feedback from Parish Councils, Town Councils and Parish Meetings regarding appropriate event venues, as shown in this Table 15 and Table 16 of this Consultation Report. In response to this comment and others, the Applicant held the additional public exhibition event at Greatford Village Hall on Thursday 30 June 2022 between 3 pm and 8 pm, so as to accommodate different availability within the community.</p>
		<p>Section 7. How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>- Ensure address list in core consultation area is accurate</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of this comment. The Applicant's address list for Core Consultation Zone distribution is based on data collected from the Royal</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			Mail Postcode Address File (PAF), which is an 'up-to-date address database containing over 30 million UK postal addresses' (Ordnance Survey, 2020).
		<p>Section 7. How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information events should cover a range of different times of the day</li> <li>- Information events should be accessible on-line and available as webinars</li> <li>- Provide opportunities for Q&amp;A at information events</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant designed the consultation events to be accessible by holding the events on different days of the week and with a range of hours so as to accommodate different availability during the community (e.g. in the evening; during the weekend; online). Six public exhibition events were held over the course of the statutory period:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Online community webinar event. Friday 17 June 2022 from 11 am to 1 pm.</li> <li>2. Essendine Village Hall consultation event. Saturday 25 June 2022 from 11 am to 5 pm.</li> </ol>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>3. Stamford Town Hall consultation event. Wednesday 29 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm.</p> <p>4. Greatford Village Hall consultation event. Thursday 30 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm.</p> <p>5. Ryhall Village Hall consultation event. Friday 01 July 2022 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.</p> <p>6. Online community webinar event. Tuesday 05 July 2022 from 6 pm to 8 pm.</p> <p>The Applicant made a virtual exhibition publicly available on the project website throughout the duration of the statutory consultation, which contained all the same information as was presented at the in-person exhibition events.</p> <p>The Applicant published a step-by-step guide to accessing online webinar events</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>which was promoted alongside public exhibition event details. Members of the public were able to join webinar events at any point during the session, via telephone or internet. The Applicant made publicly available the presentation slides used in the webinar sessions.</p> <p>The Applicant designed the six information events to ensure attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and speak directly with members of the project team, including technical specialists when available.</p>
		<p>Section 7. How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make use of local village newsletters to advertise proposals (see detail appended)</li> <li>- Make use of local social media channels (see detail appended)</li> </ul>	<p>In response to this comment and those made by Mallard Pass Action Group, the Applicant directly contacted the local village newsletters listed to provide these with digital materials to enable them to advertise and promote the consultation to local readers via their own websites,</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>newsletters, social media and online community forums as they see fit. During the statutory consultation, on 05 July 2022, the Applicant directly contacted the relevant publications suggested (Village News; Tower &amp; Spires; Newsletter for Little &amp; Great Casterton) and notified these of the statutory consultation period, providing direct links to consultation materials and offering various means of contacting the team and providing feedback to the consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant provided digital materials to community groups, seldom heard groups and parish councils at the launch of the statutory consultation. This included PDF copies of materials advertising the details of the statutory consultation events, along with direct links to the project website and consultation materials. These</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			organisations were prompted to advertise and promote the consultation via their own websites, social media, and online community forums as they saw fit.
		<p>Section 8. Community Access Points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stamford Library, Stamford Arts Centre and Market Deeping Library and Town hall to be added to list</li> <li>- Consider use of village post offices for community access points</li> </ul>	<p>In response to this comment, the Applicant designated Stamford Arts Centre as a CAP site for the duration of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant noted this request for additional Community Access Points. However, as three locations are considered sufficient as CAP sites (deposit locations), the venues were added to the list of Local Information Points (LIPs) and contacted. The Applicant also considered each of these as a potential CAP site and replaced its original proposal to host materials at Stamford Town Council with the Stamford Arts Centre as suggested.</p>



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>In response to this feedback, the Applicant considered the use of village post offices as either CAPs and/or LIPs. The Applicant reached out to the village post offices, and Ryhall Village Stores and the Post Office agreed to act as a LIP and was provided with the relevant publicity materials.</p>
		<p>Section 9. The Planning Process</p> <p>- An indication of the likely dates/ timescales on the flow chart on page 21 would be helpful</p>	<p>In response to this comment, the Applicant amended the infographic in question to include the likely timeframes at which the project is expected to hit key milestones in the planning process.</p> <p>These indicative dates were specified by season/year; e.g. Pre-examination (Winter 2022 – Spring 2023).</p>
		<p>Section 10. Environmental Information</p>	<p>The Applicant made the PEIR NTS publicly available via the project website for the duration of the statutory consultation.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>- Non technical summary of the ES/ PEIR should be available through the consultation process</p>	<p>In response to this comment, the Applicant also amended Section 10 of the SoCC to clarify that the PEIR would be accompanied by a PEIR NTS. The Applicant clearly defined both materials and their respective purposes, further clarifying that feedback on these documents was being sought for the statutory consultation. This is also mentioned on page 11 of the SoCC.</p>
		<p>Section 11. Consultation timeline</p> <p>- Can the stage 2 consultation dates be fixed?</p>	<p>The Applicant set and specified the specific dates for the Stage Two Statutory Consultation, running between 26 May 2022 and 04 August 2022. Key local stakeholders (MPs, LPAs, Parish Councils and Meetings) were directly notified of the statutory consultation period on 11 May 2022, ahead of the publication of the SoCC on 20 May 2022.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Section 12. Contact us</p> <p>- Suggest including Facebook page as part of social media channels</p>	<p>The Applicant considered using Facebook as part of its direct social media engagement strategy. However, due to the challenge of introducing a new communications medium and concerns regarding the specific platform features for Facebook Groups, (e.g. privacy; membership; ‘rules’), the Applicant continued to use Twitter as its exclusive means of direct social media communication.</p> <p>The Applicant also provided digital materials to community groups, parish councils, and seldom heard groups at the launch of the statutory consultation. These included PDF copies of materials advertising the details of the statutory consultation events, along with direct links to the project website and all public consultation materials. These organisations were prompted to advertise</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			and promote the consultation via their social media as they saw fit.
Rutland County Council (3 of 3*)  *PDF response provided via email.	22/04/22	Section 3. Mallard Pass Solar Farm  It would be helpful if this section contained information on not only the potential capacity of the development, but also the predicted generation based on empirical data – for example at maximum output it could power 92,000 homes, however on an ‘average’ day in the UK.	The Applicant clarified the predicted generation of the Proposed Development in this section by writing that the project has the potential to generate enough electricity to power the equivalent of 92,000 households, instead of to ‘power in the region of 92,000 homes.’ The Applicant also made available the empirical data used regarding predicted power generation and related equivalencies on the project website, and indicated readers to this in the SoCC.
		Section 3. Mallard Pass Solar Farm [cont.]  Details/dimensions could also be included here of a ‘typical’ solar panel that might be used within the development to give the public an idea of scale.	The Applicant noted this comment and included the maximum dimensions of solar panels being proposed in statutory consultation materials such as the Main Consultation Document. The Applicant also clarified in the SoCC that the

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>parameters of the Proposed Development (including the maximum size and scale of the project) would be discussed in the consultation materials.</p> <p>The Applicant did consider including 'typical' industry standard details in the relevant Figure 1 of the SoCC as a response to this comment. However, the Applicant did not want to mislead readers considering the maximum/minimum dimensions proposed in the PEIR, and similarly felt including these PEIR details in the SoCC may lead to further confusion.</p>
		<p>Section 3. Mallard Pass Solar Farm [cont.]</p> <p>Could the map on P6 be clarified so as to exclude the triangle of land at the junction of the A6121 and Carlby Road – the existing plan is misleading due to the incorporation of accesses to either side of this field making it appear</p>	<p>As a response to this comment as well as that by South Kesteven District Council, and Mallard Pass Action Group, the Applicant altered Figure 2 by using shading/hatching to better indicate the proposed site boundary, and exclude the</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>enclosed. If the application site were to be hatched or shaded this would help significantly.</p> <p>Section 4. Publicity.</p> <p>RCC notes that the stage 2 public consultation is due to last 8 weeks, and that both Essendine parish Council and the Mallard Pass Action Group and Essendine Parish Council would recommend this period is extended to 12 weeks. RCC formally requests that the consultation is extended to at least ten weeks and supports the suggestion that the consultation period is broken into 3 distinct sections. The first of these sections should comprise briefing sessions for the Parish Councils and distribution of information. The second part should comprise the public attendance events/webinars etc, whilst the final part would encompass preparation and submission of public responses. Each of these sections should be a minimum of three weeks long.</p>	<p>triangle of land at the junction of the A6121 and Carlby Road.</p> <p>The Applicant provided a response period of 42 days for the non-statutory Stage One public consultation, going beyond the minimum 28-day statutory period. The Applicant proposed to extend the response period to 56 days for the statutory consultation period in the draft SoCC. As a response to feedback, the Applicant further extended the response period for the statutory consultation to 70 days to accommodate the three-week minimum for each of the '3 distinct sections' suggested by the relevant host authority and campaign group Mallard Pass Action Group.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Section 4. Publicity. [cont.]</p> <p>It should be made clear in section 4 that webinars are in addition to face-to-face events, not in place of. The three events planned appear to focus particularly on one side of the proposed scheme, and an event in Carlby/Braceborough could be effective in interacting with a different section of the public affected by the proposals.</p>	<p>The Applicant clarified that webinar events would be held in addition to in-person events, and not in place of, and provided additional details regarding these digital events, as well as the in-person events, designed for the statutory consultation. In response to this comment, the Applicant considered holding an additional in-person event near on the eastern side of the Proposed Development. The Applicant held a fourth in-person consultation event at Greatford Village Hall on Thursday 30 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm.</p>
		<p>Section 4. Publicity. [cont.]</p> <p>It would be helpful for the anticipated length of consultation events to be included here. Events should be timed so as to allow as many people as possible to attend, and therefore should include evening as well as daytime attendance.</p>	<p>The Applicant included the anticipated length of consultation events and designed these to be accessible by holding the events on different days of the week and with a range of hours so as to accommodate different availability</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>during the community (e.g. in the evening; during the weekend; online). Six public exhibition events were held over the course of the statutory period:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Online community webinar event. Friday 17 June 2022 from 11 am to 1 pm.</li> <li>2. Essendine Village Hall consultation event. Saturday 25 June 2022 from 11 am to 5 pm.</li> <li>3. Stamford Town Hall consultation event. Wednesday 29 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm.</li> <li>4. Greatford Village Hall consultation event. Thursday 30 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm.</li> <li>5. Ryhall Village Hall consultation event. Friday 01 July 2022 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.</li> </ol>



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>6. Online community webinar event. Tuesday 05 July 2022 from 6 pm to 8 pm.</p>
		<p>Section 4. Publicity. [cont.]</p> <p>The format of events should also be set out here, including a mechanism for ensuring everyone has an opportunity to discuss the subjects they are interested in with an appropriate representative. This could potentially be by bookable appointment or through targeted group sessions.</p>	<p>The Applicant provided additional detail on the format of physical events in the SoCC, clarifying that members of the team would be in attendance to answer questions and discuss the proposals with residents and other key stakeholders in more detail. The Applicant further specified that project materials setting out the developed proposals would be displayed and available to take away.</p> <p>Further, the Applicant ensured each event was attended by a wide range of project team members with a variety of technical expertise so as to maximise accessibility to attendees. The Applicant ensured project-dedicated communications lines remained open</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Section 4. Publicity. [cont.]</p> <p>It would be important throughout this section to keep the project website up-to-date with a list of FAQ's raised through the public events.</p>	<p>throughout the entire pre-application phase for any topic-based discussions to be booked and pursued its ongoing engagement with these stakeholders. The Applicant met stakeholder requests for topic-based (or other) discussions at events and/or through its communications lines, as set out in Section 8 of this Report.</p> <p>The Applicant notes this comment. FAQs were published for the purposes of the statutory consultation, however these were not updated to include questions asked at information events. However, the Applicant did publish recordings of the two webinar events on the project website, enabling those who may not have been able to attend or who would like to review the session to access the live presentation made by the project team and the Q&amp;A portion where team</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>members responded to questions posed by the public. The Applicant also published follow-up responses to unanswered questions from these two webinar sessions on the project website.</p> <p>All consultation information and details regarding the project are publicly available on the project website. Communications lines remained open throughout the pre-application stage, enabling the public to contact the project team directly and ask questions, request information (including in alternative formats) and provide feedback.</p>
		<p>Section 5. What will we consult on?</p> <p>One of the main themes in the responses received was the limited information available during the last public consultation. It would therefore be important to ensure that it is clear what information during the consultation is in its 'final'</p>	<p>The Applicant noted this comment and clarified this as best as possible in statutory consultation materials. The difference between the early-stage plans proposed at Stage One versus the developed proposals put forth during</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>proposed format, and what remains to be finalised. Equally, for any consultation to be meaningful it must be clear to participants that the information presented to them is not a ‘fait accompli’ and that their responses may impact on the final proposals.</p>	<p>Stage Two is described in the SoCC, Community Consultation Leaflet and Main Consultation Document. In doing so, the Applicant ensured to emphasise that although statutory Stage Two featured more developed plans and project-related information, these proposals had still yet to be finalised and feedback was still being sought.</p>
		<p>Section 5. What will we consult on? [cont.]</p> <p>It would be useful at this point to ensure that proposed equipment is identified where possible to allow the public to understand the impact proposed.</p>	<p>Although the specific equipment to be used for the Proposed Development had yet to be identified at this stage of the consultation, the Applicant published and consulted on the PEIR throughout Stage Two, a document that sets out potential impacts identified as well as proposed mitigation measures to address these. This is described in the SoCC and Community Consultation Leaflet, and specific impacts and mitigation measures are provided in greater detail in both the</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Section 6. Who will we consult?</p> <p>Is the list of Parishes in the core consultation zone intended to be comprehensive? RCC considers that it should be, although Pickworth Parish Meeting appears to have been missed off.</p>	<p>Main Consultation Document and PEIR NTS. The PEIR remained publicly available on the project website for the duration of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant did not provide a comprehensive list of Parishes in Section 6 of the draft SoCC, rather those listed represent the largest constituencies of the area. The list was intended to encourage LPAs to provide further suggestions for other Parish Councils and Meetings, and/or Town Councils to include in the statutory consultation. To avoid further confusion, the Applicant listed all such bodies in the final SoCC without distinguishing between those in the core consultation zone and/or the wider consultation zone.</p> <p>The Applicant included Pickworth Parish Meeting in the list of Town Councils,</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>Parish Councils and Meetings that were contacted during the statutory consultation. These were not restricted to the Core Consultation Zone (CCZ), and extended to the Wider Consultation Area, as the Applicant recognises that there may be some interested individuals or parties beyond the CCZ.</p>
		<p>Section 6. Who will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>As discussed directly, the list of hard-to-reach groups should be integrated into the document, and this section would appear to be the most appropriate location for that information.</p>	<p>The Applicant did not formally append a full list of seldom heard groups to the SoCC due to the length of the list. However, the Applicant made available a full list of all seldom heard and community groups contacted as part of the consultation process for the project on the project website, and specified this in the final SoCC.</p>
		<p>Section 7. How will we consult?</p>	<p>The Applicant amended this section to clarify that a full list of Community Access Points (CAPs) is listed in Section 8 of the</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>This section should include a list of all locations where information will be made available (see attached list).</p>	<p>document, where hard copy statutory consultation materials would be available for the public to view and (excepting the PEIR and PEIR NTS) take home. All documents are available on the project website and hard copies, as well as USBs, were provided upon request.</p>
		<p>Section 7. How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>The responses have noted that a facebook page would be a preferable solution to a twitter account.</p>	<p>The Applicant considered using Facebook as part of its direct social media engagement strategy. However, due to the challenge of introducing a new communications medium and concerns regarding the specific platform features for Facebook Groups, (e.g. privacy; membership; 'rules'), the Applicant continued to use Twitter as its exclusive means of direct social media communication.</p> <p>The Applicant did however provide digital materials to groups that primarily operate</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>on Facebook and offered for these to share materials on our behalf. Such digital materials (PDFs advertising the details of the statutory consultation events, direct links to the project website and all public consultation materials) were provided to community groups, parish councils, and seldom heard groups at the launch of the statutory consultation. The Applicant encouraged these organisations to advertise and promote the consultation via their social media however they saw fit.</p>
Stamford Town Council	21/04/2022	<p>With respect, the members of Stamford Town Council are concerned they were not contacted sooner with questions concerning the Mallard Park SoCC consultation. One week, with most of that given over to the Easter Bank Holiday, was not sufficient time for our group to respond fully to the enquiry. Such scant regard for the practicalities of collecting and distilling information bring into question whether the</p>	<p>Under the Planning Act 2008, Section 42 (1) (b) the Applicant has a duty to consult each local authority that is within Section 43, meaning those wherein the land for the Proposed Development is in the authority's area. Stamford Town Council is located within the administrative boundaries of the South Kesteven District</p>



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>applicants really want input or whether this is merely a box ticking exercise.</p>	<p>Council and Lincolnshire County Council, both LPAs the Applicant consulted with throughout the entirety of the pre-application period.</p>
		<p>In addition, the council strongly feels that, in the light of Mallard Pass being such an important proposal for our town and it environs, we should have continued to be included as direct/primary statutory consultees at this stage and beyond. We would like to request that, moving forward, both these issues are addressed and rectified.</p>	<p>The Applicant noted this comment and agreed to consult with the Stamford Town Council (as well as other host/neighbouring Parish Councils and Meetings) more closely. The Applicant considered the Stamford Town Council's feedback on the draft SoCC as it would a LPA. Further, from this point forward the Applicant ensured Stamford Town Council (as well as all other relevant host and neighbouring Parish Councils and Meetings) were provided with the same digital notifications and materials as the three host authorities, South Kesteven District Council, Rutland County Council and Lincolnshire County Council.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Furthermore, we would also like to point out that at no point has information regarding the SoCC been posted on the Planning Inspectorate or Mallard Pass websites.</p>	<p>The Applicant noted this comment. Under the Planning Act 2008, Section 47 (2), the Applicant has a duty to consult each local authority that is within Section 43 (1) on the content of the SoCC before its publication; on the Planning Inspectorate website or elsewhere. The SoCC was published on the project website following comments and feedback from the LPA.</p>
		<p>Section 6</p> <p>In addition to towns and villages specified in the consultation zone, the following should also be included: Bourne, Witham, Thurlby, Belmesthorpe, Pickworth, Castle Bytham and Little Bytham.</p>	<p>The Applicant expanded the Town and Parish Council consultation to include groups listed. These were explicitly specified in this section of the SoCC.</p>
		<p>Section 6 [cont.]</p> <p>Also, landowners with property adjoining the proposed site should be included as direct/primary consultees.</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted with landowners in proximity to Mallard Pass Solar Farm in accordance with Section 44 of the Planning Act (2008).</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Section 6 [cont.]</p> <p>In addition to the groups and locations already listed, 'Hard to Reach Groups' in Stamford can also be contacted at the following points [long list of suggestions to be included here?]</p> <p>In addition to the groups and locations already listed, 'Hard to Reach Groups' throughout the consultation zone can also be contacted at the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All Post Offices</li> <li>- All Libraries</li> <li>- All Arts Centres (Bourne &amp; Deepings)</li> <li>- All Village Halls</li> <li>- All Public Houses and Hostelries</li> <li>- All Registry Offices</li> <li>- All GP Practices and Health Centres</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant considered suggestions for local information points and means of contacting seldom heard groups by contacting the establishments listed and offering to provide them with publicity materials for the statutory consultation. The list provided by the stakeholder in response to the draft SoCC can be found in The Applicant contacted seldom heard groups suggested as part of the statutory consultation, as outlined in Chapter 7. A full list of 'seldom heard' and Community Groups contacted as part of the Section 47 statutory consultation can be found in Appendix 9.2.9 of this Report.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All Pharmacies</li> <li>- All Sporting Facilities and Leisure Centres</li> </ul>	
		<p>Section 7</p> <p>There needs to be a wider range of informational events across the area. The current proposal is three events in total; one in Essendine, one in Ryhall and one in Stamford. Our recommendation, however, is that there should be three events in each of the three locations stated, i.e. one evening, one Saturday and one weekday in each place. This will ensure that the widest possible cross-section of people can access the events.</p>	<p>The Applicant designed consultation events to be accessible by holding the events on different days of the week and with a range of hours so as to accommodate different availability during the community (e.g. in the evening; during the weekend; online). In response to these comments and others, the Applicant held an additional in-person exhibition event at Greatford Village Hall on Thursday 30 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm. The Applicant considers the six public exhibition events held over the course of the ten-week statutory period to meet the statutory requirements set by the Planning Act 2008 Section 47, these totalling 24-hours of direct engagement with the public and local communities.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Section 7 [cont.]</p> <p>Market days can also provide a very good opportunity for project presentation. The use of market stalls has proved an extremely effective way of interfacing with the public for other similar projects.</p>	<p>The Applicant noted this comment however preferred to host its own statutory consultation events in order to ensure compliance with the consultation requirements as set out in the SoCC (disabled access; exhibition materials and hard copy consultation materials to take home etc.) and Planning Act 2008 were satisfactorily met.</p>
		<p>Section 7 [cont.]</p> <p>In addition, information events should be held throughout the wider consultation zone which must include the Deepings and Bourne.</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of this comment however preferred to hold in-person events within the core consultation zone, as originally suggested, so as to maximise accessibility for those likely to be most impacted by the Proposed Development. These events were held in Essendine, Stamford, Greatford and Ryhall.</p> <p>The Applicant advertised all statutory consultation events in local, regional and</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>national papers (Rutland Times; Bourne Local; Stamford Mercury; the London Gazette; the Guardian) as well as other local media outlets (Lincs FM; Rutland &amp; Stamford Sound; BBC East Midlands) to ensure any interested parties seeking to participate in the statutory consultation were able to do so. The Applicant also did this by creating a digital mailing list that members of the public were encouraged to sign up to in order to receive direct communications regarding the project, which included means of participating in the consultation digitally and/or from a distance if applicable.</p> <p>The Applicant further ensured widespread accessibility to the consultation by holding two of the six public events online, as digital community webinar sessions. These sessions were respectively held on Friday 17 June 2022</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>from 11 am to 1 pm and Tuesday 05 July 2022 from 6 pm to 8 pm, so as to accommodate for varying availability and accessibility needs amongst members of the public. The Applicant published a step-by-step guide to accessing online webinar events which was promoted alongside public exhibition event details. Members of the public were able to join webinar events at any point during the session, via telephone or internet.</p>
		<p>Section 8</p> <p>A hard copy of the full consultation document should be available at more locations across the consultation zone including Stamford Library, Stamford Arts Centre and Market Deeping Library and Town hall</p>	<p>In response to this comment and those made by South Kesteven District Council and others, the Applicant designated Stamford Arts Centre at 27 St Mary's Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 2DL as a CAP site for the duration of the statutory consultation. Three locations are considered sufficient as CAP sites (deposit locations), and the Applicant also designated Essendine Village Hall at</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Section 8 [cont.]</p> <p>It is not stated how long the consultation period will run for. We recommend a period of at least 12 weeks.</p>	<p>Bourne Road, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ and Ryhall Village Hall at Church Street, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR as CAP sites so as to maximise public accessibility to hard copy consultation materials across the wider consultation area. Please see Section 8 for further information on the Ryhall Village Hall CAP site.</p> <p>The Applicant provided a response period of 42 days for the non-statutory Stage One public consultation, going beyond the minimum 28-day statutory period. The Applicant proposed to extend the response period to 56 days for the statutory consultation period in the draft SoCC. As a response to feedback, the Applicant further extended the response period for the statutory consultation to 70 days.</p>



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>The Applicant stated the dates of the statutory consultation period, running for ten weeks between Thursday 26 May 2022 and Thursday 04 August 2022.</p>
		<p>Section 8 [cont.]</p> <p>In the event that covid restrictions are reinstated, the consultation period must be extended.</p>	<p>The Applicant noted and agreed that should any restrictions related to Covid-19 be reinstated, changes to statutory consultation activities would be considered. A section on Covid-19 is published in the SoCC wherein the Applicant committed to their approach guided by Government policy and the need to keep people safe. The Applicant ensured all consultation materials are easily accessible and that consultation events were proportionate to allow for open dialogue, whilst protecting public health.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
Essendine Parish Council	22/04/2022	<p>Whilst I write this on behalf of the village and residents of Essendine, I do believe my points could be pertinent to every village and Parish in your ward and the wider RCC area.</p> <p>To put my comments in context this proposed development will take approximately 2 years to construct with up to 400 workers visiting the construction location daily, with potentially hundreds of thousands of vehicle movements, the development is proposed to be in operation for 40 years, in view of this the developer and RCC should be doing everything humanly possible to ensure the residents and businesses in Essendine have the maximum amount of opportunity to listen to the developers proposal and then comment.</p> <p>I write my comments below with reference to the document identified above and the relevant sections;</p> <p>Section 6 Who will we consult?</p> <p>Section 7 How will we consult?</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of these comments. In response to these comments and others, the Applicant ensured that its consultation made it easier for a wide range of people to be involved, increased the number of ways and frequency that people could be involved and increased the influence the local community had on the proposals by doing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopting an iterative consultation process which welcomed comments and feedback throughout;</li> <li>• Making consultation events accessible by holding the events during daytime and evening hours as well as holding a Saturday event in Essendine on 25 June 2022;</li> </ul>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		Section 8 Community access Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming feedback via digital and hard copy feedback forms, Freepost and via email;</li> <li>• Welcoming enquiries via Freephone, Freepost, in person and via email;</li> <li>• Making all project materials available to download from the project website <a href="http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk">www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk</a>;</li> <li>• Providing updates via social media on Twitter @MallardPass and via email through the digital mailing list; and</li> <li>• Providing a response period of 42 days (6 weeks) for Stage One and 70 days (10 weeks) for Stage Two, going beyond the minimum 28-day statutory period.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>Chapters 8 and 11 of this Consultation Report set out how the Applicant has consulted with members of the community during the Section 47 consultation, and how their comments have influenced the Proposed Development. Throughout the consultation period the Applicant has had regard to all feedback received from members of the community (see Appendix 4).</p>
		<p>Section 6 Who will we consult?</p> <p>RCC issued a document titled Proposed Local Information Points and Hard to Reach Groups. The document issued states “The tables below present the Local Information Points and Hard to Reach groups identified by the Mallard Pass Solar Farm project team.”</p>	<p>The Applicant considered suggestions for local information groups, seldom heard groups and community groups. The Applicant contacted the establishments listed as part of the statutory consultation and, where applicable, included these in the statutory consultation.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>This document fails to include the following, Local Information Points and Hard to Reach Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essendine Parish Council Notice Board</li> <li>• Essendine Village Hall</li> <li>• Post Office in Essendine</li> <li>• Post Office in Ryhall</li> <li>• Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools in Ryhall and Great Casterton and Stamford</li> <li>• Medical Centres in Stamford, Little Bytham and Bourne</li> <li>• Police, Fire and Ambulance locations</li> <li>• CPRE Rutland</li> <li>• Mallard Pass Action Group</li> </ul>	<p>The Essendine Parish Council (as with all host and neighbouring Parish Councils and Meetings, as well as local organisations) was provided digital advertisement materials at the start of the consultation period and encouraged to promote these as they saw fit. Essendine Village Hall was a designated LIP and CAP site for the duration of the statutory consultation. The Applicant endeavoured to contact all other locations and groups listed, where applicable adding these to the community and seldom heard groups distribution list. This includes local schools, CPRE Rutland, and Mallard Pass Action Group.</p>
		<p>Section 7 How will we consult?</p> <p>The document states.</p>	<p>The Applicant noted these comments and in response, held the in-person event in Essendine on Saturday 25 June 2022 between 11 am and 5 pm. As a response to this comment and others, the Applicant</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>“We will hold three information events during our Stage Two consultation, including an event in Essendine...”</p> <p>“A statutory Stage Two consultation lasting eight weeks...”</p> <p>“Mallard Pass is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)...”</p> <p>As a Nationally significant infrastructure project the developer is offering the residents and business of Essendine one event in Essendine, this cannot be considered acceptable for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project Community Consultation?</p> <p>One event in Essendine is not acceptable there should a physical face to face event in Essendine for every week of the Stage Two consultation. I would expect the Stage Two consultation to last 12 weeks as a minimum.</p> <p>The information events held each week of the Stage Two consultation should be on different days of the week</p>	<p>extended the statutory consultation period to ten weeks, or 70 days.</p> <p>The six statutory public exhibition events were held across four weeks of this ten-week period, allowing these to be sufficiently spread out so as to maximise accessibility across a range of different availabilities, preference and accessibility needs across local communities. Online webinar sessions were available to any party interested in the consultation, who could join and drop off at any time in the session. In-person events were drop-in and as such did not require pre-registration.</p> <p>The Applicant designed the consultation events to be accessible by holding the events on different days of the week and</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>including Saturdays and Sundays and at extended periods of different times to cover the time period 06.00hrs to 22.00hrs. This will allow the maximum amount of time for residents and business to attend who work shifts, different days and work away from home during the week.</p>	<p>with a range of hours so as to accommodate different availability during the community (e.g. in the evening; during the weekend; online).</p> <p>Through a combination of carefully designed online and in-person events, the Applicant enabled those who work away from home, prefer to work remotely, have differing availability hours and accessibility modes, to participate in the statutory consultation.</p>
		<p>Section 7 How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>The information events should allow appointments to be made with the relevant developer experts and not be a, free for all, as per the last event which denied the residents of Essendine access to some of the developers experts.</p>	<p>The Applicant ensured a range of experts were present at public exhibition events in order to maximise attendees' ability to speak with team members having relevant technical expertise.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>The appointments should allow the residents a minimum of 30 minutes per appointment, this would stop the monopolisation of the developer experts conversations with individuals.</p>	<p>During these events, the Applicant met requests made by members of the public for separate one-on-one meetings or site visits where possible, as detailed in Sections 8 of this Report. The Applicant did not seek to set up private meetings and/or appointments during the information events so as to allow the maximum number of those interested to attend and get the opportunity to speak with a member of the team and provide feedback. Further, the Applicant also preferred this option because of feedback received from Essendine Parish Council on its Stage One in-person consultation events, which required pre-registration for a given timeslot as a Covid-19 prevention measure. The Applicant considered measures such as pre-registration and/or appointments as potential barriers to access.</p>



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Section 7 How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>The information events should include a plenary session, this will allow questions to be asked and answers provided to a wide group of people.</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of this comment and ensured the format of exhibition events did not prohibit any 'plenary session' style of engagement. Both webinar events were held in this style, with attendees putting questions and comments to the project team who provided responses in front of the live audience. In-person events often times resulted in a wider group of people having back-and-forths with a single or few members of the project team at once.</p>
		<p>Section 7 How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>The developer offers webinars, these are a useful tool to provide a communication vehicle for people spread across large geographical areas. The proposed development is surrounding Essendine and as such webinars are not as</p>	<p>The Applicant designed its webinar events for any member of the public to join, via telephone and internet. A step-by-step guide to accessing community webinar sessions was made available on the project website to further facilitate widespread accessibility to the session.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>helpful to the residents of Essendine as physical face to face events.</p>	<p>In addition to publishing recordings of the sessions and providing follow-up responses to unanswered questions, the Applicant also ensured communications lines remained open throughout the pre-application stage so as to allow for any local resident to contact the project team directly.</p>
		<p>Section 7 How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>Additionally, not every person is computer literate, some may feel intimidated by webinars plus the webinar chairperson controls the narrative and the timings not the person asking the questions.</p>	<p>The Applicant recognises different capabilities and accessibility needs amongst the public and designed the consultation to make it easier for a wide range of people to be involved. By holding both in-person and online sessions, as well as keeping communications lines open, the Applicant sought to accommodate those who may not have computer literacy, as well as those who may be more vulnerable and prefer to engage in the consultation remotely.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>The Applicant also accomplished this by increasing the number of ways that people could provide their feedback to the consultation and get involved, welcoming comments and feedback via Freepost, in-person and via email. Alternative formats of documents (for example in large print, audio or braille) were offered to be provided upon request, and members of the public unable to submit a hard copy or digital feedback form were able to contact the Freephone line and submit oral feedback directly to the project team.</p> <p>The Applicant notes this comment. All questions asked during the webinar sessions can be viewed by all attendees and project team members endeavoured</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>to answer as many questions as possible in the 2-hour time slots for each session.</p> <p>During the first statutory Webinar held on Friday 17 June 2022 between 11 am and 1 pm, the public made a total of 54 questions and/or comments, 45 of which the project team responded to live.</p> <p>During the second statutory Webinar held on Tuesday 05 July 2022 between 6 pm and 8 pm, the public made a total of 143 questions and/or comments, 99 of which the Applicant provided live responses to.</p> <p>Recordings of both sessions are publicly available on the project website, along with follow-up responses to questions the project team did not have time to respond to during each of the live sessions.</p>
		Section 7 [cont.]	The Applicant made note of this comment and offered meetings and briefing

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>The developer offers “Meetings and briefing sessions will be offered to local parish councils...These meetings may be in-person or virtual depending on circumstances at the time.”</p> <p>Parish Councils when holding PC meetings must by law meet physically in person, these meetings offered by the developer should be in person with all of the relevant developers’ experts in the room so that questions can be asked and answered and not responded to by the developer representative with a potential response of; I do not know I will come back to you.</p>	<p>sessions to local parish councils, elected members and key stakeholder groups that are present within the CCZ. The details of these sessions –including whether these would be in-person or virtual—were arranged in liaison with attendees on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>As a response to this comment, the Applicant offered one-on-one meetings to all host and neighbouring Parish Councils and Meetings on Wednesday 11 May 2022, ahead of the start of the statutory consultation period of Thursday 26 May 2022. The Applicant also met with local parish councils in a joint session on Tuesday 24 May 2022 at 5:30 pm via Zoom.</p>
		Section 7 [cont.]	As a response to this comment, the Applicant offered all host and

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Page 18 of the document states “Parish councils will be provided with digital materials to enable them to advertise and promote the consultation via their own website, social media and community forums. Requests for hard copy materials will also be considered.</p> <p>Hard copy should be issued to all Parish Council and be the minimum standard, more people walk past the Essendine Parish Council Notice Board than visit the Essendine Parish Council website.</p>	<p>neighbouring Parish Councils and Meetings the option to request hard copies of consultation materials on 11 May 2022 via email, ahead of the start of the statutory consultation on 26 May 2022. The Applicant met all requests received as detailed in Section 8 of this Report.</p> <p>Upon the launch of the Stage Two Statutory Consultation, these Parish Councils and Meetings were provided with direct links to all statutory consultation materials, as well as PDF copies of materials advertising the details of the consultation events. These stakeholders were encouraged to advertise and promote the consultation via their own websites, social media, and online community forums as they saw fit.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Section 8 Community access Points</p> <p>The following locations should be included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essendine Post Office</li> <li>• Essendine Village Hall</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant considered this suggestion as well as those made by others and designated Essendine Village Hall a CAP site for the statutory consultation. The Applicant also hosted the Essendine event at the Village Hall, on Saturday 25 June 2022 from 11 am to 5 pm.</p> <p>The Applicant considered this suggestion and contacted the Essendine Post Office to enquire whether there was interest to be designated as either a CAP and/or LIP. Due to a lack of space in the establishment, the postal service clerk preferred to be provided with an information poster and was subsequently added to the Applicant's list of Local Information Points (LIPs).</p>
		<p>Again I state I write this as Chairman of Essendine Parish Council on behalf of the residents and business of</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of this comment. As previously outlined in</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Essendine, I do believe anywhere you see the word Essendine this could be replaced with any village name and the points raised could be pertinent to every such village and Parish in your ward and the wider RCC area.</p>	<p>response to the first comment made by Essendine Parish Council, the Applicant designed the statutory consultation to make it easily and widely accessible, increasing the number of ways and frequency that people could be involved, and increasing the influence the local community had on the Proposed Development.</p>
<p>Little Casterton Parish Council</p>	<p>22/04/2022</p>	<p>Initially we are disappointed that we have not been included in the circulation of the document by Mallard Pass Solar as our village is well inside the “Core Consultation Zone” outlined on pages 14/15.</p>	<p>Under the Planning Act 2008, Section 42 (1) (b) the Applicant has a duty to consult each local authority that is within Section 43, meaning those wherein the land for the Proposed Development is in the authority’s area. Stamford Town Council is located within the administrative boundaries of the South Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council, both LPAs the Applicant consulted with throughout the pre-application period.</p>



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>The Applicant noted this comment and agreed to continue close consultation with the Little Casterton Parish Council (as well as other host/neighbouring Parish Councils and Meetings). The Applicant considered Little Casterton Parish Council's feedback on the draft SoCC as it would a LPA. Further, the Applicant ensured Little Casterton Parish Council (as well as all other relevant host and neighbouring Parish Councils and Meetings) were provided with the same digital notifications and materials as the three host authorities, South Kesteven District Council, Rutland County Council and Lincolnshire County Council.</p>
		<p>No meetings or events have been proposed/suggested in our village and yet we are likely to be heavily impacted by construction traffic and ongoing vehicles to and from the</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of this comment and considered holding an in-person event in Little Casterton, however felt the</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>proposed site. In fact, we would suggest that the road through our village is not actually able to support construction traffic and we would fiercely oppose its use for this purpose.</p>	<p>selected locations of Essendine, Stamford, Greatford and Ryhall (in addition to two digital webinar events accessible to any member of the public) was the option that would enable the widest range of attendance all the while ensuring that those likely to be most impacted by the Proposed Development are able to have their say.</p>
		<p>Page 2 Item 3</p> <p>We would question the initial statement made. They do not have a “strong track record of delivering” anything as yet. All the projects are still in the development stages – as they say in the next paragraph. Canadian Solar has manufactured nothing – it is purely a vehicle to process/transport Chinese made equipment.</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of these comments however kept the relevant statement as originally drafted. Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is a partnership between Windel Energy and Canadian Solar, who together have appointed a professional team to provide support and expertise throughout the consenting stages of the Proposed Development.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>Canadian Solar is one of the world's largest solar power companies and over the past 21 years has successfully delivered over 49 GW of solar photovoltaic modules to customers in over 150 countries. Canadian Solar is a leading manufacturer of solar photovoltaic modules and also a provider of solar energy solutions, having a geographically diversified pipeline of utility-scale solar power projects in various stages of development.</p>
		<p>Page 4 Item 3</p> <p>The components should all have an indication of size – both height and width - so that people can gauge the impact of the installation. Indeed, their consultation meetings should have a full-size model of both a Solar Panel and the perimeter fence. These items are what the general public will be confronted with on a daily basis if the project goes ahead.</p>	<p>The Applicant noted this comment and included the maximum dimensions of solar panels being proposed in statutory consultation materials such as the Main Consultation Document. The Applicant also clarified in the SoCC that the parameters of the Proposed Development (including the maximum size and scale of the project) would be</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>discussed in the consultation materials, such as the PEIR and PEIR NTS.</p> <p>The Applicant did consider including these details in the relevant Figure 1 of the SoCC however felt this may be misleading considering the specific components to be used for the Proposed Development have yet to be decided. As the only available dimensions for components are in the Project Envelope as the parameters of what is being proposed (i.e. the absolute maximum height/width), the Applicant again felt including these and producing a full size model would mislead the public.</p> <p>The Applicant made available all consultation materials on the project website at</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Documents. The Applicant also ensured two copies of the full PEIR and PEIR NTS, including a number of plans, cross-sections, photomontages and visualisations of the solar farm from local viewpoints, were available for the public to view and (excepting the PEIR and NTS) take home from in-person exhibition events. Hard copies of the PEIR and NTS were provided free of charge to members of the Mallard Pass Action Group following the Ryhall event on Friday 01 July 2022 between 12:30 pm and 4:30 pm.</p> <p>All hard copy consultation materials were available free of charge upon request to the Applicant, excepting hard copies of the PEIR which could be provided at a cost of £350 as stated in the Section 48 Notice. USBs containing a full set of</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Page 8 Item 4</p> <p>There is no feedback from the initial consultation process which had many written documents of opposition. When do they intend to publish them?</p>	<p>documents including the full PEIR and PEIR NTS were available upon request to the Applicant, and to take home from in-person consultation events.</p> <p>The Applicant published a Community Newsletter on Wednesday 16 February 2022 which includes a summary of the feedback received during the Stage One non-statutory consultation. This newsletter was published on the project website at <a href="http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Documents">www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Documents</a> and mailed directly to all households in the Core Consultation Zone.</p> <p>The Applicant notified MPs, LPAs, host and neighbouring Parish Councils and Meetings, and all members of the public signed up to the digital mailing list of the publication of the Community Newsletter</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>on Wednesday 16 February, including an attached PDF copy of the newsletter and the direct link to view it online through the project website. This digital notification was sent to Little Casterton Parish Council.</p>
		<p>Page 16 Item 7 The meetings need to be in the particular villages that are in the Core Area and not by webinar.</p>	<p>The Applicant further specified in the SoCC that meetings and briefing sessions may be in-person or virtual depending upon circumstances at the time, and the details of these sessions would be arranged in liaison with attendees on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>The Applicant held in-person exhibition events across the Core Consultation Zone, hosting these in Essendine, Stamford, Greatford and Ryhall in order to consult with communities likely to be most impacted by the Proposed</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			Development. Two webinar sessions were held for any member of the public to join, helping to meet the different capability and accessibility needs of the public.
		The Parish Council would be extremely disappointed if this project were to go ahead, and we urge Rutland Planning Department to oppose the Project at every opportunity.	The Applicant made note of this comment.
Mallard Pass Action Group (MPAG)	22/04/2022 submitted as an Appendix to South Kesteven District Council and Rutland County	<p>Over-arching objectives – what outcomes are residents seeking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To not disadvantage or discriminate against any group in receiving or accessing information eg. elderly, disabled, no transport, no broadband, not IT literate etc</li> <li>- Accessibility of information – for MPSF to focus on distributing information rather than residents having to collect it.</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant made note of these comments.</p> <p>The Applicant recognises that some individuals or groups may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons, and developed the consultation to be accessible to all groups in the community. The Applicant did this by doing the following:</p>



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
	<p>Council feedback</p> <p>25/04/2022</p> <p>2 submitted via the project inbox by MPAG directly</p>	<p>- Consultation distribution – to recognise wider and different impacts on communities during both construction and operation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directly distributing the Community Consultation Leaflet (see Appendix 7.2) to over 13,300 local residents and businesses at the start of the statutory consultation. This document provided notification of the statutory consultation period and activities, offered updated information regarding the Proposed Development and indicated upcoming feedback and consultation opportunities for the public;</li> <li>• Advertising the consultation by placing notices and ads in local, regional and national media outlets;</li> <li>• Providing direct digital notifications to the nearly 400 individuals signed up to the community mailing list at key points in the</li> </ul>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>statutory consultation process (e.g. at launch; at the four-week, eight-week and tenth week mark);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring all event venues had disabled access and making available upon request consultation documents in USB format, large print, audio or braille;</li> <li>• Making all hard copy project materials available upon request (excepting the PEIR, see Chapter 10 of this Consultation Report for more details on the Section 48 notice) and at designated Community Access Points (CAPs);</li> <li>• Making all project materials and a virtual exhibition available to view, download and print at <a href="http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk">www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk</a>;</li> </ul>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming feedback and enquiries via Freephone, Freepost, in person and via email;</li> <li>• Producing a feedback form in both hard copy and digital form; and</li> <li>• Providing a response period of 70 days for the Stage Two statutory consultation.</li> </ul>
		<p>Over-arching objectives – what outcomes are residents seeking [cont.]</p> <p>- Accessibility of event locations – staying local requires more venues</p>	<p>In response to this comment and others, the Applicant scoped in an additional in-person public exhibition event for the statutory consultation and held this fourth event in Greatford.</p> <p>Taking accessibility and proximity to the Proposed Development into consideration, the Applicant hosted the consultation event at Greatford Village</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Over-arching objectives – what outcomes are residents seeking [cont.]</p> <p>- Time to digest information before events begin.</p>	<p>Hall on Thursday 30 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm.</p> <p>As a response to this comment and those by Rutland County Council and others, the Applicant made sure to hold events in the middle of the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>Over the 70-day (ten-week) statutory consultation, the Applicant ran information events over a four-week period. The first began 22 days into the statutory consultation period, with the Community webinar event held on Friday 17 June 2022 from 11 am to 1 pm. The last public exhibition event was held 40 days into the statutory consultation period, with the Community webinar event held on Tuesday 05 July 2022 from 6 pm and 8 pm.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>The Applicant also provided various means for the public to participate in the consultation process following events, and preceding these. Project communications lines remained open for the duration of the statutory consultation period, and all project information was available online and upon request for interested parties to access at their own pace.</p>
		<p>Over-arching objectives – what outcomes are residents seeking [cont.]</p> <p>- For events to be informative, conveying accurate information clearly and answering questions</p>	<p>The Applicant held six information events wherein project information was exhibited, and project team members were available to answer questions and discuss the proposals with residents and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>At in-person events, project materials setting out the Proposed Development</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>were displayed and available to take away.</p> <p>Digital webinar events featured presentation slides containing key project information, which the Applicant also made available via the project website.</p> <p>All project materials are available to view, download and print on the project website, including a virtual exhibition containing all the same information as was presented at the in-person events.</p>
		<p>Over-arching objectives – what outcomes are residents seeking [cont.]</p> <p>- For information to be transparent, not misleading, clear, realistic and allay certain fears</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of this comment and designed its consultation to ensure maximum transparency with the public.</p> <p>This included making all project information (including the PEIR and NTS) digitally available on the project website</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>or on USBs upon request. Hard copies were made available to view at CAP sites and could be provided upon request at a cost of £350 per copy.</p> <p>The opposition group MPAG were provided with two copies of the PEIR and PEIR NTS upon request, free of charge, following the Ryhall consultation event at Ryhall Village Hall held on Friday 01 July 2022.</p> <p>The Applicant also published recordings of the two live webinar sessions and follow-up responses to questions there hadn't been time to respond to during the live session. These were published on the project website so as to maximise transparency with the public.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Over-arching objectives – what outcomes are residents seeking [cont.]</p> <p>- To manage expectations of the process and clearly communicate next steps</p>	<p>The Applicant explicitly mentioned the Proposed Development’s nature as a NSIP and the associated planning process being undertaken in all project materials across both the non-statutory and statutory consultation periods.</p> <p>Space permitting, this process was set out by the Applicant in various ways: explained in writing, visually depicted via infographics (timelines, charts) and referenced with direct links to the Planning Inspectorate website. These details were also made available on the project website from the start of the non-statutory consultation period.</p> <p>Next steps were clearly outlined on the statutory consultation Feedback Form, the Applicant ensuring all those who</p>



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>participated in the statutory consultation were made aware of the planning process, what was to happen next and how the information they had provided would be used as part of this process.</p>
		<p>4. Our consultation process</p> <p>- 8 weeks is not long enough taking account of the impact of Jubilee long bank holiday weekend, and half term holidays. There should be 3 phases to the timing for residents:</p> <p>Distribution, collection and review of new materials (time consuming) – 4 weeks</p> <p>Events, public meetings and webinars – 4 weeks</p> <p>Feedback phase giving residents time to review the 1st &amp; 2nd phases and give feedback – 4 weeks</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of these comments and further extended the statutory consultation period beyond the 56 days originally suggested, to 70 days (10 weeks).</p> <p>The Applicant accounted for the 22 days of holiday (Jubilee bank holiday on 02 June 2022, 03 June 2022; Lincolnshire school term holidays from 28 May 2022 to 05 June 2022, from 23 July 2022 to 05 September 2022) in its initial suggestion for a 56-day consultation, as well as its ultimate decision to hold a 70-day statutory Section 47 and Section 42</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>consultation. Both options considered went beyond the minimum 28-day statutory period.</p> <p>In response to this comment also echoed by others, the Applicant designed the consultation to accommodate for the '3 phases' suggested, across periods of 3 weeks minimum with events to be spread across 4 weeks. There were therefore 22 days for the public to review project materials before the first statutory information event on Friday 17 June 2022 (online), and 40 days to review these before the last on Tuesday 05 July 2022 (online). Digital and in-person events were spread over the course of 18 days, after which the public still had 30 days to find out more about the Proposed Development and provide feedback to the statutory consultation. Project</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			communications lines remained open for the duration of the public consultations.
		<p>5. What will we consult on?</p> <p>As this is the final public consultation residents want clear, transparent, realistic feedback &amp; details on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visual impact (worst case scenarios): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• panel layout, panel type, fencing, security lighting, CCTV, mitigation areas</li> <li>• glint &amp; glare mitigation;</li> <li>• accurate and relevant visual representations (ZTVs etc). Scoping Opinion highlighted inherent weaknesses with MPSF’s visual impact proposals.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Safety for residents, their households and environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Battery fire safety management plan and full layout details of battery storage including noise</li> <li>• Clear flood mitigation strategy for areas affected by fluvial and pluvial run-off outside the site boundary</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant made note of these comments and clarified in the final SoCC that further details on these topics would be presented through the Stage Two Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>Based on Section 47 feedback received during the non-statutory consultation and this comment by Mallard Pass Action Group, the Applicant was clear on which key EIA topics the public found most important throughout the consultation. These were expressly mentioned as much as possible when describing the PEIR (in the SoCC and other project materials), but also helped structure the statutory Main Consultation Document,</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>- Clear community benefits and impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping a PRow as MPSF state is not a benefit</li> <li>• Forecast Mw output (not max) taking account of CuF factor (c11-15%). Misleading to say powers 92,000 homes, also misleading to suggest residents will pay a lower tariff (no evidence to support that when the output produced goes through the National Grid)</li> <li>• Recreational benefits – what are they, are they temporary or permanent?</li> <li>• Transport impacts and plans for all phases, especially for construction phase</li> </ul> <p>- Environmental benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify design for every mitigation area – every habitat is different</li> <li>• How bio-diversity net gain will be achieved on-site under panels and by when?</li> <li>• When does the project become carbon neutral, with data to back up claims?</li> </ul>	<p>which focussed on summarising PEIR information on these topics of interest.</p> <p>The PEIR and PEIR NTS details all potential construction, operation and decommissioning impacts of the Proposed Development. At the start of the statutory consultation on 26 May 2022, the Applicant made the PEIR and PEIR NTS (along with all other consultation documents) available on the project website for the public to freely read, download and print. USBs containing these documents were available on request to the Applicant. Over the course of Stage Two, the Applicant posted eight USBs and more than twenty were taken home from in-person events.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>- Decommissioning impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not clear in Scoping Report if application permanent or 40 years. Need to be clear about the impacts, taking account replacement life cycle of panels.</li> </ul>	<p>Hard copies of the PEIR and PEIR NTS were also made publicly available to view at designated CAP sites across the core consultation zone and could be provided upon request at a cost of £350 per copy, as publicised in the Section 48 Notice (shown in Appendix 8.2).</p> <p>Following the Ryhall event on 01 July 2022, the Applicant provided two hard copy PEIRs and PEIR NTS' to members of the Mallard Pass Action Group free of charge.</p>
		<p>5. What will we consult on? [cont.]</p> <p>Content</p> <p>- The website and literature must not be misleading in its visualisation of the site, whether in respect of panels or mitigation areas. It must give an accurate representation of</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of these comments and provided various means for the public to visualise the Proposed Development during its statutory consultation. This included producing CGI eye level visualisations of the project from fourteen local viewpoints agreed in</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>all equipment including battery storage, transformers, inverters, fencing, CCTV, security lighting etc</p>	<p>consultation with LPAs (Figure 6.9 of the PEIR); a series of indicative cross-sections, which are illustrations to show the proposed proportions of the project relative to walkers by; and a number of illustrated maps and aerial photographs indicating what the Proposed Development would look like from a birds' eye view.</p> <p>The Applicant noted in the SoCC that the parameters of Mallard Pass, including the maximum size and scale of the project, would be discussed in the consultation materials.</p>
		<p>5. What will we consult on? [cont.]</p> <p>- Information must be clear consistent and accurate</p>	<p>The Applicant clarified the final SoCC so that the list of villages pertains to those Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings that were contacted as part of the statutory consultation. This is</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eg. the listed villages and the actual villages receiving leaflets does not appear to be the same. Maps and village lists need updating to be consistent.</li> <li>• eg. The site boundary map on P6 is wrong. The corner triangular plot by the junction of Carlby Rd and A6121 does not belong to any of the farmers involved in the proposed scheme</li> <li>• eg. the map on P14 should show all the villages, particularly Essendine which is surrounded, they are just referred to on P12, missing out Pickworth. It does not show the East Coast Mainline either or the sub station</li> </ul> <p>I know this is a draft and there will be changes, but there were glaring errors in the first consultation with maps, so not to repeat these careless errors.</p>	<p>separate to the Core Consultation Zone (CCZ), which centres on the proposed site and extends by a minimum distance of 2,000 metres from the Proposed Development area. Properties within the CCZ are those who the Applicant sent direct communications to in the post.</p> <p>The Applicant's CCZ distribution list is based on data collected from the Royal Mail Postcode Address File (PAF), which is an 'up-to-date address database containing over 30 million UK postal addresses' (Ordnance Survey, 2020). The Applicant sent direct communications to the over 13,300 local residents and businesses in the CCZ.</p> <p>As a response to this comment and those by Rutland County Council, South Kesteven and others, the Applicant</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>clarified the site boundary in the relevant Figure 2 by using shading/hatching to better indicate the proposed site boundary and exclude the triangle of land at the junction of the A6121 and Carlby Road.</p> <p>As a response to this comment and others, the Applicant amended the relevant Figure 3 to show all the villages listed on page 12, including Essendine and Pickworth. The Applicant also amended Figure 3 to include the substation, however the East Coast Main Line was not shown due to the Figure's main focus on the Consultation Zone and local authority and county boundaries in and surrounding the Proposed Development area. The East Coast Main Line is shown in Figure 2 of the SoCC.</p>



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>6. Who will we consult?</p> <p>Outcome: to reach the people most affected which are the rural communities, not just those adjacent to the site. MPSF claim to issue consultation leaflets to 13000 households, the majority of those are in Stamford to an urban community. The real impact is on rural communities and a distance of 2km from the site is inadequate in rural terms.</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of this comment and recognises the importance of making local communities near the Proposed Development aware of the project and public consultation opportunities. By placing advertisements in local, regional and national papers, as well as via LIPs and social media, the Applicant ensured the consultation process was open to anyone who may be interested in, or in any way feels impacted by, the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The CCZ centres on the proposed site and extends by a minimum distance of 2,000 metres from the Proposed Development area, and the Applicant directly posted communications regarding the project and consultation to the over</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>13,300 local residents and businesses in the CCZ.</p> <p>The aim of the CCZ is to ensure those likely to be most impacted by the Proposed Development are properly notified of the Proposed Development and consultation opportunities. Based on the various other means through which the Applicant advertised the consultation, as well as the CCZs of similar DCOs, the Applicant considers its CCZ to be sufficient.</p>
		<p>6. Who will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>- Core consultation zone : should be Essendine, Carlby, Braceborough &amp; Wilsthorpe, Greatford, Barholm &amp; Stowe, Uffington, Tallington, Belmesthorpe, Ryhall, Pickworth</p>	<p>In response to this comment and others, the Applicant clarified Figure 3 so it indicated where the listed villages are located relative to the CCZ. Of the list provided, only Pickworth lies beyond the CCZ. The Applicant nevertheless consulted with Pickworth Parish Meeting</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>6. Who will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>- Wider consultation zone : should include the next village out from each village in the core consultation area and other villages particularly affected by construction phase: Witham-on-the-Hill, Manthorpe, Toft, Lound, Thurlby, Obthorpe, Little Bytham, Castle Bytham, Baston, West Deeping, Langtoft, Barnack, Bainton.</p>	<p>in the same way as Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings within the CCZ.</p> <p>As a response to this comment and others, the Applicant consulted with these Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings during the statutory phase of consultation.</p> <p>The list of Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings the Applicant committed to contacting was also amended to explicitly mention a number of the villages suggested, including Witham-on-the-Hill, Thurlby, Little Bytham and Castle Bytham. The Applicant made the choice to not explicitly refer to the other villages suggested, who were also consulted, (Manthorpe, Toft, Lound, Obthorpe, Baston, West Deeping, Langtoft, Barnack and Bainton) for</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>purposes of clarity and length, seeking to keep the SoCC as succinct and focussed on areas most affected as possible.</p> <p>The Applicant did however make sure to include these villages where possible in Figure 3 of the final SoCC, which showed the consultation zone (Appendix 6.4). In response to this comment and others, the Applicant indicated the following villages on Figure 3 (of those suggested here): Witham-on-the-Hill, Thurlby, Little Bytham, Castle Bytham, Baston, Market Deeping and Deeping St James, Langtoft, Barnack and Bainton.</p>
		<p>6. Who will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>- Hard to reach groups &amp; Local Information points – see additions/amends file. There is too big a focus on Stamford and not on the rural communities.</p>	<p>The Applicant considered suggestions for local information points by contacting the new establishments listed via phone call and offering to provide them with publicity materials for the statutory consultation (information poster). Project materials</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Many of the LIPs and HtRGs are not viable. Will MPSF send them a poster hoping they will put it up, or will they tactically call each one and get their permission? A local vicar who looks after 7 local churches said they would not normally post a planning consultation on church property. These groups should be in addition to the core consultation zone activity, on the basis you cannot guarantee their participation.</p>	<p>were only provided should the establishment consent to receiving such project materials.</p> <p>The Applicant contacted seldom heard groups suggested before the start of the statutory consultation as well as during. These groups were consulted in addition to activity in the CCZ, which the Applicant clarified in the final SoCC.</p>
		<p>6. Who will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>- Work with the local communities ie. parish councils/village halls/Mallard Pass Action group. But MPSF need to plan in advance with these stakeholders to ensure there is enough time to prepare for the consultation – before the consultation actually begins and respecting our proposed 3 stages of the consultation.</p>	<p>The Applicant contacted local Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings and Mallard Pass Action Group on Wednesday 11 May 2022 to ensure these groups were provided with advance notice of the upcoming statutory consultation beginning on Thursday 26 May 2022, and extending invitations to meet with the project team.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			The Applicant made note of this comment and designed the statutory consultation to reflect the '3 stages' suggested.
		<p>7. How will we consult? Need multiple ways to reach people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility, reliability and frequency of distribution</li> </ul> <p>The underlying assumption that if an advert goes into the local paper and MPSF put something on Twitter, that the majority of residents will see it, is flawed. Information needs to be distributed and accessible through a variety of means. Some areas in the zone claimed they never received booklets last time, MPSF need to vet the distribution/postcode vs their current 2km radius assumption or any revised assumption.</p> <p>✓ Also include an advertorial/editorial at the same time as the advert in the local paper</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of this comment and primarily seeks to host a meaningful, inclusive and productive consultation that is open to anyone who may be interested in, or in any way feels impacted by, the Proposed Development. The Applicant's CCZ distribution list is based on data collected from the Royal Mail Postcode Address File (PAF), which is an 'up-to-date address database containing over 30 million UK postal addresses' (Ordnance Survey, 2020).</p> <p>The Applicant advertised the statutory consultation through a wide variety of means in order to maximise local</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>✓ Ask Mallard Pass Action Group to post content on their Facebook page.</p>	<p>accessibility, awareness and participation, doing this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directly mailing project materials and newsletters to over 13,300 local residents and businesses;</li> <li>• Placing ads and notices in local, regional and national papers. These included contact information and consultation event details;</li> <li>• Advertising across 106 Local Information Points (listed in Appendix 10.5) in the local vicinity;</li> <li>• Providing consultation updates via Twitter @MallardPass;</li> <li>• Providing digital materials to Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings, and Community and Seldom Heard Groups to enable</li> </ul>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>them to advertise and promote the consultation as they saw fit; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digitally notifying over 400 individuals who signed up to the community mailing list of the consultation period, events, contact details and project information.</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant provided a press release to over 100 local and industry outlets to be published at the start of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>Before the launch of the Stage Two Statutory Consultation, on Wednesday 11 May 2022, the Applicant took up the offer to work with Mallard Pass Action Group in order for the group to share information about the consultation on Facebook, contacting MPAG directly to express this and ask whether it was still of interest.</p>



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>7. How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>✓ Prepare an insert to go in the local village newsletters (probably 1500-1700 households), residents expect to receive this 1st of every month so it is a guaranteed method of communication. (Stamford don't have a monthly newsletter in the same way the villages do, where they communicate parish and church information). Contact details can be supplied.</p> <p>eg. 'Village News' for Ryhall, Belmesthorpe, Essendine and Ryhall;</p> <p>eg. 'Tower &amp; Spires' for Braceborough, Wilsthorpe, Uffington, Barholm &amp; Stowe, Tallington, West Deeping;</p> <p>eg. Newsletter for Little &amp; Great Casterton</p>	<p>As a response to this comment, the Applicant directly contacted the Village News, Tower &amp; Spires and Newsletter for Little and Great Casterton during the statutory consultation, providing notification of the statutory consultation period, direct links to project materials, contact details and information on how to provide feedback to the consultation. Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings and Community and Seldom Heard Groups (including MPAG) were provided with digital materials at the start of the consultation to enable these to further advertise and promote the consultation in a community newsletter or elsewhere.</p>
		<p>7. How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>Literature - accessibility is the key</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of these comments.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>- Basic consultation leaflet – should go to all in Core &amp; Wider Consultation area and available via Local Information Points (LIPs), Hard-to-Reach groups (HtRGs), CAPs.</p>	<p>The Applicant issued the Community Consultation Leaflet to over 13,300 local residents and businesses in the CCZ. Hard copies of the Leaflet and additional project materials were made available at CAPs, could be taken home from in-person events, and were available free of charge (in original or alternative formats) upon request to the Applicant. Information posters displayed at LIPs provided notification of the consultation period, event details (dates, times, locations), means of accessing updated project information and project team contact details. Seldom Heard and Community Groups were provided with direct links to all project materials, available to view, print and download on the project website, and hard copies of the Leaflet were available upon request to the Applicant.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>7. How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Main Consultation document – should go to all in the Core Consultation area, currently most are unaware.</li> <li>- PEIR &amp; Non-technical summary – should be available via CAPs and village halls. Keep the access points as close as possible to the residents. Representatives of the Action Group or Parish Council or Village Hall committees could man the village halls at allotted hours and also post leaflets on village notice boards.</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant did not post the statutory Main Consultation Document to the CCZ, considering the Leaflet sufficient to notify local communities of key information and consultation opportunities. The Applicant did ensure to include explicit reference to the Main Consultation Document, PEIR and PEIR NTS in the Community Consultation Leaflet (Page one of the document) that was directly distributed, making local residents aware of the materials and where these could be accessed.</p> <p>Hard copies of the PEIR and PEIR NTS were provided to CAPs and available for the public to read onsite. Digital copies of these materials are available on the project website and USBs containing all project information (including the PEIR</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>and NTS) were available upon request. As a response to this comment and others, the Applicant considered designating Essendine Post Office as a CAP site. However due to a lack of space in the establishment, the Applicant designated Essendine Village Hall as a CAP site for the purposes of the statutory consultation.</p>
		<p>7. How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More events, better access. 3 events are not enough, it focuses on Essendine, Ryhall and Stamford and none of the other rural communities adjacent/butting up to the site boundary. eg. Carlby (has huge village hall), Braceborough, Greatford and Uffington. There should be min 5-6 events.</li> </ul>	<p>In response to this comment and others, the Applicant scoped in an addition in-person statutory consultation event, seeking a venue to the east of the Proposed Development area in order to maximise the reach of the consultation. This event was held in Greatford at Greatford Village Hall on Thursday 30 June 2022 between 3 pm and 8 pm. The Applicant hosted a total of six information</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Across different weeks. The events should not be held in the same week as residents may be on holiday that particular week. It is their only opportunity to see maps and details and talk directly to individuals.</li> </ul>	<p>events for the purposes of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant hosted information events across a 4-week period (18 days), beginning the week commencing Monday 13 June 2022 and ending the week commencing Monday 04 July 2022. Two of these events were held digitally, helping include any stakeholders who may not physically be in the consultation area during the relevant time period. This was also accomplished by publishing all project information (including maps and a virtual exhibition) on the project website and keeping communications lines open for the duration of the pre-application stage. This meant individuals had opportunities outside of the six events to</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>see maps and details and speak directly with members of the project team.</p> <p>As a response to this comment and others, the Applicant designed the consultation events to be accessible by holding the events on different days of the week and with a range of hours so as to accommodate different availability during the community (e.g., in the evening; during the weekend; online). No pre-registration was required (via Eventbrite or other), enabling attendees to drop-in at whatever point during the sessions and stay as long as they sought.</p>
		7. How will we consult? [cont.]	The Applicant held each community webinar event (17 June 2022 and 05 July 2022) for two hours, between 11 am to 1 pm and between 6 pm to 8 pm,

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longer. The events need to be longer in duration as residents found the Eventbrite slots became fully booked and did not take sufficient account of working hours for many.</li> </ul>	<p>respectively. In-person events were held over a minimum 4-hour period, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 hours for the Essendine Village Hall consultation event on 25 June 2022 (11 am - 5 pm);</li> <li>• 5 hours for the Stamford Town Hall consultation event on 29 June 2022 (3 pm - 8 pm);</li> <li>• 5 hours for the Greatford Village Hall consultation event on 30 June 2022 (3 pm - 8 pm); and</li> <li>• 4 hours for the Ryhall Village Hall consultation event on 01 July 2022 (12:30 pm - 4:30 pm).</li> </ul>
		<p>7. How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixture of presentation/Q&amp;A and an exhibition area. The exhibition format meant residents could not access feedback</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant made note of this comment. The Applicant designed statutory consultation information events to ensure that attendees had the</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>fully which a public Q&amp;A/presentation would address. Sharing 6-7 MPSF people amongst a large group of residents on a 1:1 basis with MPSF was not effective.</p>	<p>opportunity to be presented with project information, ask questions and provide feedback. In-person events enabled attendees to speak with project team members one-on-one, or in a more 'plenary session,' as suggested by Essendine Parish Council in their response to the draft SoCC. Both community webinar sessions enabled a public Q&amp;A and presentation that was recorded and subsequently published on the project website. One-on-one meetings were set up on request to the Applicant.</p>
		<p>7. How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meetings and briefing sessions with key stakeholders (PCs, elected officials, action group etc) need to be held in advance of the consultation meetings to inform MPSF on what residents are looking for.</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant contacted Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings and key stakeholders (including MPAG) ahead of the start of the statutory consultation and offered invitations to meet before launch. This engagement is further detailed in Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report.</p>



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>1. What is MPSF's intended format and frequency for those meeting?</p> <p>2. All meetings should be face-to-face where possible given there are no legal Covid restrictions anymore.</p>	<p>The Applicant arranged details of these meetings (including format and frequency) in liaison with attendees and on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>The Applicant's intended format was to make a presentation to key stakeholders outlining updates and key information about the Proposed Development and statutory consultation programme. The Applicant's intended frequency for meetings and briefing sessions was at least once, and any more additional times as were requested.</p> <p>The Applicant's approach is guided by the Government's policy on Covid-19 restrictions and the need to keep people safe. Meetings and briefing sessions were offered in-person or virtually, depending upon circumstances at the time.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>7. How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>Online</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media – only Twitter is mentioned which few people use. Facebook is the main form of communication and regular updates to your website, rather than being static. The Action Group could post content on their Facebook page</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant considered using Facebook as part of its direct social media engagement strategy. However, due to the challenge of introducing a new communications medium and concerns regarding the specific platform features for Facebook Groups, (e.g. privacy; membership; ‘rules’), the Applicant continued to use Twitter as its exclusive means of direct social media communication. As further detailed in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report, the Applicant made 25 social media posts on ten separate occasions during the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>On Wednesday 11 May 2022 (Before the launch of the Stage Two statutory consultation on 26 May 2022), the Applicant took up the offer to work with</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>Mallard Pass Action Group in order for the group to share information about the consultation on Facebook, contacting MPAG directly via email to express this and ask whether this was still of interest. The Applicant did not receive a response.</p>
		<p>7. How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 2 webinars required to cover day time and evening times, over different weeks due to holidays. Must have a back-up for recording – last time it was conveniently corrupted.</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant designed its two webinar sessions to cover daytime and evening times, and held these over different weeks. The first Community webinar event was held on Friday 17 June 2022 from 11 am to 1 pm, and the second was held on Tuesday 05 July 2022 from 6 pm to 8 pm. Recordings of both webinars were published on the project website at <a href="http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say">www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say</a>.</p>
		<p>7. How will we consult? [con.]</p>	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. FAQs were published for the purposes of the</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>- MPSF website needs to be updated through the consultation process, providing up-to-date FAQs.</p>	<p>statutory consultation (Appendix 9.2.1), however these were not updated throughout the consultation period to include questions asked at information events or other enquiries received.</p> <p>The Applicant did publish recordings of the two webinar events on the project website, enabling those who may not have been able to attend or who would like to review the session to access the live presentation made by the project team and the Q&amp;A portion where team members responded to questions posed by the public. As set out in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report and shown in Appendix 9, the Applicant provided live responses to 144 questions/comments received across both statutory community webinar sessions. The Applicant received a total of 197 questions/comments across both community webinar sessions.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>The Applicant also published follow-up responses to unanswered questions from these two webinar sessions on the project website.</p> <p>All consultation information and details regarding the project are publicly available on the project website.</p> <p>Communications lines remained open throughout the pre-application stage, enabling the public to contact the project team directly and ask questions, request information (including in alternative formats) and provide feedback.</p>
		<p>7. How will we consult? [cont.]</p> <p>Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I suggest MPSF review all the media activity over the last 4 months (which they should be doing regularly) and add all the channels locally/regionally that have been involved. Eg.</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant made note of this comment and included suggested media outlets in the media distribution list for the consultation.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Missing: BBC Radio Leicester, The Lincolnite, BBC Radio Lincoln, Greatest Hits Radio etc.</p> <p>8. Community Access Points (CAPs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the majority of the affected population they are not going to trek to Bourne or Stamford, pay for parking, to pick up consultation materials. It is not clear the purpose of a CAP over and above a LIP. Does it need to take display stands or just store consultation materials?</li> <li>• Bourne is not listed for anything else during the consultation, yet you have made it a CAP. Focus on the actual communities and how information is currently distributed and/or could be made available at a local level. Mail the main consultation document to Core consultation zone to guarantee receipt of it.</li> <li>• What about Stamford library – currently out of town, so parking less of an issue?</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant clarified the purposes of both CAPs and LIPs in the final SoCC, stating that CAPs host hard copies of materials for those who may prefer to work with print/paper, and LIPs are provided with posters containing consultation information.</p> <p>In response to this comment and others, the Applicant designated CAP sites in Essendine, Stamford and Ryhall, removing the South Kesteven District Council Office and Library in Bourne.</p> <p>The Main Consultation Document is available on the project website for the public to view, download and print, could be taken home from in-person events,</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village halls could be a CAP if arranged and planned in advance.</li> <li>• Post Offices? (Essendine, Ryhall, Langtoft, Baston and Thurlby)- all used by the affected local communities.</li> </ul>	<p>was provided to CAP sites and provided upon request to the Applicant. The Community Consultation Leaflet (including reference and information regarding the Main Consultation Document) was directly posted to the CCZ.</p> <p>As a response to these comments, the Applicant considered the Stamford Library, local village halls and post offices as designated CAP sites for the statutory consultation. The Applicant designated Essendine Village Hall, Stamford Arts Centre and Ryhall Village Hall as CAP sites. The Ryhall CAP site was changed to the Ryhall Library (121 feet away) on Monday 06 June 2022, more information on this is available in Section 8 of this Report.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
Uffington Parish Council	22/04/2022	The Parish council noted that Uffington Village Hall is not included on the hard to reach list and would like this to be added as Uffington feel that they have not been fully included enough to give residents and parishioners enough information to comment on the proposed plans. Most residents were unaware of the full scale of the operation.	<p>In response to this comment, the Applicant included Uffington Village Hall on the Seldom Heard and Community Groups list. Uffington Village Hall was therefore notified of consultation opportunities and directly provided with project information, as well as contacted ahead of the statutory consultation to ensure that the Applicant's approach best meets the needs of their members.</p> <p>The Applicant consulted Uffington Parish Council during both non-statutory and statutory phases of public consultation.</p>
Greatford Parish Council	22/04/2022	Our primary concern as a Parish Council is that Mallard Pass are not planning to hold a consultation event in Greatford.	As a response to this comment and those by others, an additional event was scoped into the statutory consultation period. This public exhibition event was held at Greatford Village Hall on Thursday 30 June 2022 between 3 pm



Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			and 8 pm, so as to accommodate different availability within the community.
		Given the magnitude of the proposed project, and the many wider concerns about the project among our local community, I am somewhat dismayed at the apparent low number of consultation opportunities proposed.	The Applicant provided a response period of 42 days for the non-statutory Stage One public consultation, going beyond the minimum 28-day statutory period. The Applicant proposed to extend the response period to 56 days for the statutory consultation period in the draft SoCC. As a response to feedback, the Applicant further extended the response period for the statutory consultation to 70 days. Over the course of Stage Two, there were six information events held by the Applicant (held over a range of hours and formats) to allow ample opportunity for the public consultation. Project-dedicated communications lines remained open for the entire pre-application stage, enabling consultation

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>As a Parish Council we believe that there should be many more opportunities for the local community to provide their thoughts and opinions on the proposal, and as such I would like to draw your attention to the attached documents provided to us by Mallard Pass Action Group.</p>	<p>opportunities across the 70 day (10 week) statutory period.</p> <p>The Applicant made note of this comment and responded to feedback on the draft SoCC provided by Mallard Pass Action Group in this Table.</p> <p>The Applicant provided a wide range of opportunities and means for the local community to provide their thoughts and participate in the Section 47 consultation. The Applicant provided a total response period of 70-days for the statutory Stage Two Section 47 consultation, going beyond the 28-day statutory requirement. Over this ten-week period, members of the community could provide their thoughts at any point via Freephone, Freepost, email, a digital feedback form or hard copy feedback form. Both in-</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>person and webinar events were also an opportunity for members of the public to provide their thoughts on the Proposed Development. Local residents and any interested parties could also provide their opinions and feedback to the statutory consultation via a wide variety of means (email, letters through Freepost, digital/hard copy feedback forms), and alternative requests were considered by the Applicant. In one instance, a stakeholder was unable to provide feedback via these means and the Applicant met the request to manually submit a digital feedback form on the stakeholders' behalf. Such exceptions are to further ensure widespread accessibility to the consultation, regardless of ability or means.</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>Greatford Parish Council fully endorse the recommendations about the draft SoCC made by MPAG in these documents as a means of ensuring that the views of as many local residents as possible are registered about this proposal, and would urge SKDC to respond to the draft SoCC in a similar manner.</p>	<p>Further details regarding statutory consultation activities and feedback mechanisms are further detailed in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report.</p> <p>The Applicant made note of this comment.</p>
Careby Parish Meeting	22/04/2022	<p>The key factor in this, and any other consultation, is to ensure that everyone in the affected and nearby areas are kept fully informed. SKDC and Rutland has full lists of all residents and should ensure that Mallard Pass Solar Farm sends everything relevant to everyone in these areas.</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of this comment and chiefly sought to host a meaningful, inclusive and productive consultation that is open to anyone who may be interested in, or in any way feels impacted by, the Proposed Development. The Applicant's CCZ distribution list is based on data collected from the Royal Mail Postcode Address File (PAF), which is an 'up-to-date address database containing over</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			<p>30 million UK postal addresses' (Ordnance Survey, 2020).</p> <p>The Applicant ensured to maximise information accessibility and awareness via a variety of means. A key part of this was the direct distribution of the Community Consultation Leaflet to over 13,300 local households and businesses in the core consultation zone. This Leaflet included (on page one) explicit references to where interested parties could find all further information relating to the Proposed Development and consultation programme, including reference to the PEIR, NTS and Main Consultation Document. The Leaflet itself did contain key information for the purposes of the Section 47 statutory consultation, setting out key aspects of the Proposed Development up for public</p>

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
			consultation, providing detailed description of the developed concept plan, design and layout, as well as suggested mitigation and improvement measures, and listing all consultation event details (including times, dates, locations and the step-by-step guide for how to access community webinars).
		It is also of concern that MPSF in their 13-page document failed to give any dates for their 'Stage Two' consultation.	The Applicant specified the dates of the Stage Two statutory consultation period, running for ten weeks between Thursday 26 May 2022 and Thursday 04 August 2022.
Peterborough City Council	22/04/2022	Notwithstanding that the Core Consultation Area within the Draft Statement of Community Consultation is not displayed on a mapping base that allows for accurate plotting of Parish Council Boundaries, it would appear that the CCA includes Wothorpe, St Martins Without and Barnack Parish Councils.	The Applicant considered including Parish Council and Meetings boundaries to the relevant Figure 3 of the SoCC. However, as this map already included Local Authority Boundaries and County Boundaries, the Applicant felt adding

Stakeholder	Date	Comment to draft SoCC	Applicant Response
		<p>The Parishes beyond this, in the Peterborough area, include Wittering, Southorpe, Ufford and Bainton.</p>	<p>further elements would overcomplicate the graphic.</p> <p>The Applicant contacted neighbouring Parish Councils and Meetings in the Peterborough area, including Barnack Parish Council and Bainton and Ashton Parish Council.</p>
		<p>Further information about Parish Councils within the Peterborough area can be found at <a href="https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/governance/parish-councils">https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/governance/parish-councils</a>.</p> <p>For further information on the Peterborough Statement of Community Involvement please see <a href="https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/planning-and-development/planning-policies/statementof-community-involvement">https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/planning-and-development/planning-policies/statementof-community-involvement</a>.</p>	<p>The Applicant made note of this comment.</p>





#### 7.4. **PUBLICATION OF SoCC**

- 7.4.1. The Applicant published the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) on Thursday 19 May 2022. Evidence of the Applicant's compliance with the SoCC can be found in Table 17.
- 7.4.2. In accordance with Section 47(6) of the PA 2008, the Applicant published in a local newspaper a notice stating where and when the SoCC could be inspected. This notice was published on Friday 20 May 2022 in the Rutland and Stamford Mercury. A copy of the Section 47 notice advertising the SoCC's publication as it appeared in the local newspaper Rutland and Stamford Mercury is included in Appendix 9.4. The coverage area for this publication is shown in Appendix 10.
- 7.4.3. On Thursday 19 May 2022, the Applicant also delivered hard copies of the SoCC at Community Access Points (CAP) sites and published a digital copy on the project website at [www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documents](http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documents). Copies of the SoCC as it appeared in hard copy and on the website are included in Appendix 6 of this Consultation Report.
- 7.4.4. In accordance with Section 42 of the PA 2008, and as further detailed in Chapter 9 of this Consultation Report, the Applicant consulted with statutory stakeholders in the prescribed manner, which included notifying Section 42 stakeholders of the SoCC's publication on 23 May 2022 and providing the link to view, download and print the document. These communications also included a hard and/or digital copy of the Section 48 Notice, which references the SoCC and where and when it could be publicly inspected, as shown in Appendix 8.
- 7.4.5. In accordance with Section 48 of the PA 2008, the Applicant publicised the proposed application in the prescribed manner, including a deadline for receipt by the Applicant of responses to the publicity. As is further

detailed in Chapter 10 of this Consultation Report, the Applicant published the Section 48 Notice in (also seen in Appendix 8):

- The London Gazette, published online on Thursday 19 May 2022 and in print on Friday 20 May 2022 ;
- The Rutland and Stamford Mercury on Friday 20 May 2022;
- The Guardian on Tuesday 24 May 2022; and
- The Rutland and Stamford Mercury on Friday 27 May 2022

## 7.5. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH SoCC

**Table 17: Evidence of Applicant Compliance with SoCC**

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<b>1. Introduction</b>	
<p>Stage Two Statutory Consultation for Mallard Pass Solar Farm will run for 10 weeks, between Thursday 26 May and Thursday 04 August 2022.</p> <p>All Stage Two materials will be made available for public consultation upon formal launch, on Thursday 26 May 2022.</p>	<p>The Applicant ran the Stage Two Section 47 consultation on the dates publicised, between 26 May 2022 and 04 August 2022.</p> <p>At the start of the statutory consultation period, all project materials were made publicly available on the project website at <a href="http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documents">www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documents</a>. This statutory consultation literature comprise the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Consultation Leaflet;</li> <li>• Main Consultation Document;</li> <li>• Feedback form;</li> <li>• Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR);</li> <li>• PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS);</li> </ul>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan;</li> <li>• Maps;</li> <li>• Cross Sections;</li> <li>• Visualisations;</li> <li>• Exhibition materials;</li> <li>• Poster.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Our public consultation process</b></p>	
<p>We are undertaking an iterative consultation process for Mallard Pass.</p> <p>The feedback and information we receive will help inform the final design of the project that we submit to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for approval. Our consultation will consist of at least two stages of consultation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Stage One non-statutory consultation, lasting six weeks, from 04 November 2021 to 16 December 2021.</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant commenced early consultation with the community on Thursday 04 November 2021 with the launch of the non-statutory Stage One consultation. The Applicant ran a multi-phase and iterative consultation process in order to inform the iterative design of the Proposed Development in response to feedback held at Stage One and Two Section 47 consultation and in response to Section 42 consultation.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Stage Two Statutory Consultation, lasting ten weeks, from 26 May 2022 to 04 August 2022.</li> </ul> <p>This SoCC relates to the carrying out of the Stage Two Statutory Consultation.</p>	
<p><b>Stage One non-statutory consultation (04 November 2021 – 16 December 2021)</b></p> <p>During our Stage One non-statutory phase of public consultation, we introduced our early-stage proposals for Mallard Pass to the community. We received community feedback on our concept plan and gained a broader understanding of the local area.</p> <p>The feedback received, together with information from our environmental surveys and discussions with technical stakeholders, informed the development of our design.</p>	<p>The Applicant commenced Stage One non-statutory Section 47 consultation on Thursday 04 November 2021. The phase one consultation ran until 16 December 2021 (therefore exceeding the 28 days statutory minimum period for consultation).</p> <p>The Applicant sought to gather feedback to the Proposed Development through a feedback form available online or in hard copy and held consultation events between 17 November and 02 December 2021. This feedback along with technical information was used to refine the proposals for the statutory period of consultation.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>Stage One consultation was open to all interested members of the public and featured digital and non-digital methods for engagement.</p>	
<p><b>Stage Two Statutory Consultation (26 May 2022 – 04 August 2022)</b></p> <p>During our Stage Two Statutory Consultation, in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act, we will update you on our proposals for Mallard Pass.</p> <p>We plan to consult on our developed proposals along with the results from the ongoing environmental surveys and studies that have been carried out to date, which will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and summarised in the PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS).</p> <p>Stage Two is statutory because it is the consultation that we must carry out by law. More specific details of what we will consult on</p>	<p>The Applicant held the Stage Two Statutory consultation as publicised, commencing on Thursday 26 May 2022 and closing on 04 August 2022 (therefore exceeding the 28-day statutory minimum period).</p> <p>Consultation began with the publication of the PEIR and all other statutory project materials on Thursday 26 May 2022, which included more developed plans for the Proposed Development as compared to the initial proposals set out at Stage One. These included more detailed layout options, visualisations, environmental findings regarding potential impacts and mitigation measures, as well as proposed enhancements and benefits.</p> <p>In undertaking a multi-phase, iterative consultation, the Applicant was also able to account for Section 47 and Section 42 feedback received during its Stage One non-statutory</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>are listed in Section 5 of this SoCC, and the methods for how we will consult are listed in Section 7.</p> <p>You will still have the opportunity to formally comment on our proposals when the DCO application is submitted to PINS. PINS will invite public views on the proposals and interested parties will be able to register and submit their views for consideration during the Examination. Guidance on the process can be found at: <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-andadvice/">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-andadvice/</a>.</p>	<p>consultation (please see Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report and Appendices 4 and 5). The Proposed Development put up for statutory consultation had regard to these comments, updated based on environmental information as well as feedback received.</p> <p>The Applicant publicised the Stage Two Statutory Consultation through a Community Consultation Leaflet, online and offline media, and via its CAP sites and Local Information Points as detailed in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report.</p>
<p>COVID-19</p> <p>Our approach will be guided by the Government’s policy on COVID-19 restrictions at the time of each stage of consultation, and the need to keep people safe. We will ensure that all consultation material is easily accessible and that consultation events are proportionate to allow for open dialogue whilst protecting public health.</p>	<p>The Applicant followed Government guidance and policy, which did not result in changes to the consultation as publicised in the SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant published all statutory project materials available at the start of the statutory consultation on the project website at <a href="http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documents">www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documents</a>. Consultation events were held in-person and digitally, enabling accessibility for those who may be vulnerable and/or prefer to work remotely.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>Consultation reporting</p> <p>As part of the DCO application to be submitted to PINS planned for the end of 2022, we will publish a Consultation Report that:</p> <p>Describes our consultation process.</p> <p>Explains how we have satisfied and adhered to legal requirements.</p> <p>Details how we have worked with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to ensure our consultation is suitable for the area through the proposals set out in this SoCC.</p> <p>Details the feedback and consultation responses we have received.</p> <p>Responds to this feedback, including explaining how we have had regard to your feedback and how it has influenced our proposals.</p>	<p>The Applicant has prepared and submitted this Consultation Report in accordance with Section 37(3)(c) and (7) of the PA 2008.</p>
<p><b>5. What will we consult on?</b></p>	
<p>The aim of our pre-application consultation is to ensure that both community and technical consultees have a chance to understand and influence our proposals.</p>	<p>The Applicant has consulted on the Proposed Development, requesting feedback to the following information:</p>



Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>At each stage of consultation, we will be seeking feedback to help develop our proposals. This will include potential issues such as, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short term and temporary impacts during construction, such as upon wildlife and local residents.</li> <li>• Long term operational impacts, such as upon wildlife, landscape, local residents, and views.</li> <li>• Benefits, such as the opportunity for biodiversity and recreational improvements.</li> </ul> <p>The parameters of Mallard Pass, known as the Project Envelope, will be discussed through the consultation materials. These include the maximum size and scale of the project and information on the potential construction methodologies of the project. More information will become available regarding these aspects as our proposals develop.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage One non-stutory consultation leaflet, including initial design proposal and supported by a range of consultation materials as detailed in Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report. This included requests for feedback via the feedback form (Appendix 7.2.3) including but not limited to information about traffic, transport, and construction, local species, habitats of importance, recreational and visual amenity;</li> <li>• Stage Two Section 47 and Section 42 consultation requested responses to PEIR and PEIR NTS.</li> <li>• In addition, the Applicant proposed a range of recreational improvements at the Proposed Development, including but not limited to inviting feedback to proposed wetland, wildflower and grassland areas, the introduction of calcareous species, tree belts, permissive paths, and a low-key nature area with picnic benches.</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant provided illustrative details of the Proposed Development design including worst-case Proposed</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
	Development design details in the Stage One and Stage Two consultation materials. The Applicant consulted on a worst-case candidate design for the Proposed Development in the PEIR and NTS.
<p><b>What we will consult on during the Stage One non-statutory consultation (held 04 November – 16 December 2021)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early-stage concept plan of Mallard Pass including potential mitigation and enhancement areas</li> <li>• Vision for the project</li> <li>• Opportunities for delivering biodiversity net gain</li> <li>• Opportunities for recreational improvements</li> </ul>	<p>A six-week Stage One non-statutory consultation was held between 04 November and 16 December 2021. During this period, we consulted on an early-stage concept plan of Mallard Pass including potential mitigation and enhancement areas. We consulted on our vision for the projects, as well as opportunities for delivering biodiversity net gain, and opportunities for recreational improvements.</p>
<p><b>What we will consult on during the Stage Two Statutory Consultation (held 26 May – 04 August 2022)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed plans which have had regard to the comments received during our Stage One consultation</li> <li>• Developed design proposals for how Mallard Pass could look to local residents and visitors. This will include visualisations of the solar farm from local viewpoints</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant consulted on more developed and detailed proposals for the Proposed Development that had regard to comments received during the non-statutory consultation, as set out in Chapter 4. The Applicant summarised and circulated the feedback it received following the close of the non-statutory consultation, issuing a newsletter Consultation Summary Report (shown in Appendix 7.5.12) to over 13,300 households and businesses in the core consultation zone.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggested mitigation measures</li> <li>• Our PEIR and PEIR NTS, including but not limited to chapters on: wildlife, water resources and ground conditions, agriculture, and construction and traffic</li> </ul>	<p>Changes between Stage One and Stage Two, based on feedback but also environmental assessments, are expressly outlined by the Applicant in the Stage Two Community Consultation Leaflet, which was also directly distributed to the more than 13,300 households in the CCZ.</p> <p>Statutory consultation materials comprised more specific proposals for suggested mitigation and enhancement measures, visualisations and preliminary environmental information.</p>
<p><b>6. Who will we consult?</b></p>	
<p>Our consultation process is open to anyone who may be interested in, or in any way feels impacted by, our proposals for Mallard Pass.</p> <p>You can get in touch with us at any stage of the development process. Our contact details can be found in Section 12 of this SoCC.</p>	<p>The Applicant provided various means for the public to directly contact members of the project team for the duration of the pre-application stage.</p> <p>The Applicant manages a project email address, Freepost address and Freephone information line (since November 2021).</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>We are seeking to actively engage with the widest possible range of individuals and groups, and want our consultation to be accessible to everyone, regardless of personal circumstances.</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook the consultation activities with the Core and Wider Consultation Zones set out in the SoCC as detailed, as is explained in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report.</p>
<p><b>A Core Consultation Zone (consultation area shown in Figure 3)</b></p> <p>The consultation area includes the Core Consultation Zone, which centres on the proposed site and extends by a minimum distance of 2,000 metres from the proposed development area. Properties within the Core Consultation Zone will directly receive communications such as consultation leaflets (as set out in Section 7) from us in the post. Information events will be held at locations within the Core Consultation Zone, and relevant organisations, such as parish councils and community groups, will be notified of consultation opportunities.</p>	<p>The Applicant posted the Community Consultation Leaflet to 13,328 local residents and businesses in the Core Consultation Zone at the start of the statutory consultation, on Thursday 26 May 2022. Details of the consultation activities including the direct delivery of consultation materials and newsletters are included in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report.</p> <p>Information events were held at locations within the Core Consultation Zone, in Essendine, Stamford, Greatford and Ryhall. The four in-person events were held in the following local establishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford, PE9 4LQ;</li> <li>• Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford, PE9 2DR;</li> </ul>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greatford Village Hall, Carlby Road, Greatford, PE9 4PR; and</li> <li>• Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford, PE9 4HR.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A Wider Consultation Area</b>, as we recognise that there may be some interested individuals or parties who are not within the Core Consultation Zone.</p> <p>We are committed to ensuring that these interested parties still have an opportunity to view our proposals and have their say. We will publicise consultation opportunities to communities outside the Core Consultation Zone by advertising in local media, using social media, and maintaining a register of interested individuals.</p> <p>Informative consultation materials will be published online and be available to view and collect via our contact details.</p>	<p>The Applicant undertook the consultation activities with the Wider Consultation Zone set out in the SoCC as detailed and explained in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertising project and event information across local, regional and national media;</li> <li>• Making available a project website and Twitter account;</li> <li>• Making hard copy project materials and USBs containing project materials available upon request;</li> <li>• Maintaining a register of interested individuals.</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant provided notifications of consultation opportunities to the register of interested individuals (mailing list), ensuring these parties were made aware of the statutory consultation period, how to find out more about the Proposed Development, how to provide feedback, and how to contact</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>the project team. These digital communications were sent on (and can be found in Appendix 9):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday 26 May 2022</li> <li>• Thursday 23 June 2022</li> <li>• Thursday 21 July 2022</li> <li>• Tuesday 02 August 2022</li> </ul> <p>As further detailed in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report, the Applicant met a number of requests received from members of the public for hard copy consultation materials to be posted directly to them. The Applicant also made the statutory consultation literature available for the public to view, print and download on the Proposed Development website at the start of the Stage Two statutory consultation, on 26 May 2022. The full list of literature made publicly available is as follows (available in Appendix 9.2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Consultation Leaflet</li> <li>• Main Consultation Document</li> </ul>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback Form (in addition to the online feedback form via the digital engagement platform)</li> <li>• Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR);</li> <li>• Preliminary Environmental Information Report Non-Technical Summary (PEIR NTS);</li> <li>• Draft Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Employment Plan (OESSCEP)</li> <li>• Selection of Maps showing key PEIR Plans and Figures</li> <li>• Indicative cross-sections showing illustrations of the Proposed Development from worm’s-eye view</li> <li>• Photomontages showing visualisations of the Proposed Development from various viewpoints</li> <li>• Consultation event display boards</li> <li>• Poster advertising Stage Two statutory consultation events</li> <li>• Statement of Community Consultation (copies to take away)</li> <li>• Section 47 Notice</li> </ul>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 48 Notice</li> <li>• List of Community Groups and Seldom Heard Groups</li> </ul>
<p><b>Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings</b> that we will contact include: Essendine; Ryhall; Little Casterton; Great Casterton; Careby, Aunby and Holywell; Carlby; Pickworth; Bourne; Witham on the Hill; Thurlby; Belmesthorpe; Castle Bytham; Little Bytham; Tallington Braceborough and Wilsthorpe; Greatford, Barholm and Stowe; Uffington; and Stamford.</p>	<p>The Applicant publicised consultation opportunities via email to Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings, including to all those listed as well as others in the vicinity such as Toft, Lound and Manthorpe Parish Council; Baston Parish Council; West Deeping Parish Council; Langtoft Parish Council; Barnack Parish Council; and Bainton and Ashton Parish Council. These organisations were notified of statutory consultation opportunities on Wednesday 11 May 2022 and Thursday 26 May 2022.</p>
<p>As well as the community consultation, we will be consulting with a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees on Mallard Pass Solar Farm, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land included within the DCO application.</li> <li>• MPs, Local Planning Authorities and Parish Councils.</li> <li>• Statutory stakeholders, such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant consulted with landowners in proximity to Mallard Pass Solar Farm in accordance with Section 44 of the Planning Act (2008). Consultation with owners, tenants and occupiers of the land is detailed in Chapter 9 of this Consultation Report.</p> <p>The Applicant met with the local authorities regularly as detailed in Chapter 4 and 9 of this Consultation Report, to discuss the Proposed Development and provide consultation</p>



Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental groups, including RSBP and the local Wildlife Trusts.</li> <li>• Local interest and community groups.</li> </ul>	<p>updates. The Applicant undertook ongoing consultation with MPs and parish councils across the consultation zone through bespoke briefing meetings, project updates and as part of wider consultation with Section 47 consultees as detailed in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report.</p> <p>Section 42 consultation with statutory bodies including nature conservation bodies is detailed in Chapter 9 of this Consultation Report.</p> <p>In support of the Stage Two statutory Section 42 consultation, the Applicant undertook ongoing non-statutory consultation with technical consultees as detailed in Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report. As explained in Chapter 9 of this Consultation Report, the Applicant consulted with Natural England, RSPB and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>The Applicant consulted with environmental groups, local interest and community groups, and seldom heard groups to introduce the Proposed Development proposals and</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>receive feedback as detailed in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report. These non-prescribed organisations and key stakeholders were directly contacted by the Applicant for the purposes of the statutory consultation on Wednesday 18 May 2022, Thursday 26 May 2022, and Thursday 28 July 2022.</p>
<p><b>Seldom heard groups</b></p> <p>We have developed our consultation to be accessible to all groups in the community. We recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons.</p> <p>We have identified a number of organisations representing seldom heard groups in the consultation area. These organisations are listed on our project website and will be contacted ahead of Stage Two consultation to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of their members.</p>	<p>On Wednesday 18 May 2022, the Applicant published the list of Seldom Heard and Community Groups contacted as part of the consultation on the project website at <a href="http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Documents">www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Documents</a>, and contacted these via email to ask for any suggestions they may have regarding additional ways we may be able to consult with their organisation and help provide information for and gather feedback from members.</p>
<p><b>Ongoing engagement</b></p>	<p>The Applicant provided various means for the public to directly contact members of the project team for the duration of the pre-application stage.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>Anyone is welcome to get in touch with us at any point before, during or in-between stages of consultation. Our contact details are listed in Section 12 of this SoCC.</p> <p>From now until our application is submitted, we will consider the feedback and comments we receive and incorporate these within our proposals where possible.</p> <p>You will also have the opportunity to formally comment on our proposals for Mallard Pass when the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Guidance on the process can be found on the PINS website at: <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice</a>.</p>	<p>The Applicant manages a project email address, Freepost address and Freephone information line (since November 2021).</p>
<p><b>7. How will we consult?</b></p>	
<p>The consultation activities described in this section of the SoCC ensure inclusive, meaningful and open consultation.</p> <p>The activities include a range of methods to ensure our consultation can be accessed by all members of the community.</p>	<p>The Applicant commenced early consultation with the community on 04 November 2021 with the launch of the Stage One non-statutory consultation. The Applicant ran a multi-phase and iterative consultation process in order to inform the iterative design of the Proposed Development in response to feedback held at Stage One and Two Section 47 consultation</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>Our Stage Two Statutory Consultation is planned to take place between 26 May 2022 and 04 August 2022, and will be carried out in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings and events;</li> <li>• Literature;</li> <li>• Open communication;</li> <li>• Our project website and online information;</li> <li>• Advertising and local notices;</li> <li>• Local media engagement.</li> </ul> <p>Should any changes to our consultation activities be required due to unforeseen events outside of our control, new details will be publicised in line with the methods set out in this SoCC.</p>	<p>and in response to Section 42 consultation. Two rounds of community consultation events were held throughout the core consultation zone: Essendine, Stamford and Ryhall (Stage Two included an event in Greatford).</p> <p>The Applicant designed the consultation to maximise public accessibility, as detailed in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report.</p> <p>As explained in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report, the Applicant held the statutory consultation during the publicised dates and through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings with key stakeholders;</li> <li>• Events open to any interested parties;</li> <li>• Literature comprising all publicly available information relating to the Proposed Development;</li> <li>• Communications lines (Freephone, email, Freepost) that remain open and managed by the Applicant;</li> </ul>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project website, including a virtual exhibition and accessible PDF format copies of consultation documents (highly suitable for screen readers);</li> <li>• Local, regional and national advertising and notices; and</li> <li>• Local media engagement (ads, press releases, interviews).</li> </ul> <p>Consultation activities were not changed and therefore no new details needed to be publicised in line with the methods set out in the SoCC.</p>
<p><b>Meetings and events</b></p> <p>Information events will be held during Stage Two, including a series of in-person public exhibition events and digital webinars. These events will be held in accessible locations, on different days of the week and with a range of hours so as to accommodate different availability and needs within the community.</p>	<p>The Applicant held the Stage Two Statutory Consultation events as publicised. Six public exhibition events were held over the course of the statutory period, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online community webinar event. Friday 17 June 2022 from 11 am to 1 pm.</li> <li>• Essendine Village Hall consultation event. Saturday 25 June 2022 from 11 am to 5 pm.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>Members of the Mallard Pass team will be in attendance to answer questions and discuss the proposals with residents and other key stakeholders in more detail. Project materials setting out the developed proposals will be displayed and available to take away.</p> <p>All events will be advertised in the Consultation Leaflet, advertisements and notices published across local, regional and national media, at Local Information Points (LIPs) and Community Access Points (CAP) sites, and on our website.</p> <p><b>During Stage Two, we will hold four in-person public exhibition events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saturday 25 June 2022 – 11 am to 5 pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford, PE9 4LQ</li> <li>• Wednesday 29 June 2022 – 3 pm to 8 pm – Stamford Town Hall, St Mary’s Hill, Stamford, PE9 2DR</li> <li>• Thursday 30 June 2022 – 3 pm to 8 pm – Greatford Village Hall, Carlby Road, Greatford, PE9 4PR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stamford Town Hall consultation event. Wednesday 29 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm.</li> <li>• Greatford Village Hall consultation event. Thursday 30 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm.</li> <li>• Ryhall Village Hall consultation event. Friday 01 July 2022 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.</li> <li>• Online community webinar event. Tuesday 05 July 2022 from 6 pm to 8 pm.</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant ensured project team members with a wide variety of technical expertise were in attendance at each event so as to enable more detailed and technical discussions with stakeholders. The Applicant brought sufficient project materials to both display and distribute, including copies of the SoCC, Community Consultation Leaflet, Main Consultation Document, Feedback Form, and maps, to in-person events. After these in-person events, leftover materials were offered to CAP sites and two hard copies of the PEIR and PEIR NTS were directly distributed to MPAG.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday 1 July 2022 – 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford, PE9 4HR</li> </ul> <p>Webinar events will additionally be held for any member of the public to join via telephone and internet. A step-by-step guide to access our community webinars is available on our website at <a href="http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-Your-Say">www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-Your-Say</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday 17 June 2022 – 11 am to 1 pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 05 July 2022 – 6 pm to 8 pm</li> </ul> <p>During our webinars, participants will be invited to submit questions, and members of the Mallard Pass project team will then respond on the webinar. All questions will be recorded, and a follow up response will be provided to questions that we weren't able to answer during a webinar event.</p> <p><b>Meetings and briefing sessions</b> will be offered to local parish councils, elected members and key local stakeholder groups that are present within the Core Consultation Zone. These meetings</p>	<p>The Applicant advertised all six events set out in the SoCC as detailed (in-person and webinar).</p> <p>The Applicant recorded all questions received during webinar sessions and provided follow-up responses to questions the project team did not have time to answer during the session. Full recordings of the live sessions, follow-up responses and presentation slides are available on the project website at <a href="http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say">www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say</a>.</p> <p>The Applicant offered meetings and briefing sessions to local parish councils, elected members and MPAG on Wednesday 11 May 2022.</p> <p>The Applicant hosted a briefing session for host and neighbouring parish councils and meetings on Tuesday 24 May 2022, providing details regarding the content and materials for the statutory consultation.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>may be in-person or virtual depending upon circumstances at the time, and the details of these sessions will be arranged in liaison with attendees on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>The Applicant offered individual meetings to elected members (Alicia Kearns MP; Gareth Davies MP; Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council, South Kesteven District Council).</p> <p>Please see Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report for more details regarding meetings and briefings held before the start of the statutory consultation.</p>
<p><b>Literature</b></p> <p>All consultation materials are available at the Community Access Points (CAP) sites listed in Section 8 of this document, and will be available to take home from our events. These are also accessible to view, print and download from our website at <a href="http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Documents">www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Documents</a>.</p> <p><b>A Consultation Leaflet</b> will be posted to all properties in the Core Consultation Zone at the start of Stage Two. This document will also be available online, to collect from CAPs, and to take away</p>	<p>The Applicant provided designated CAP sites with hard copies of the SoCC, Community Consultation Leaflet, Main Consultation Document, Feedback Form, PEIR and PEIR NTS. The CAP site change from Ryhall Village Hall to Ryhall Library is explained in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report. The Applicant ensured enough project materials were available for the public to take home from in-person events and made accessible PDF format copies of all materials available on the project website as publicised. The Applicant posted hard copies to a number of community stakeholders upon request.</p>



Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>from our information events. Leaflets can also be posted to those outside the Core Consultation Zone on request.</p> <p>Our Leaflet will publicise the Stage Two consultation opportunities and the information being consulted on. This will include the details of the consultation period and the activities being undertaken, such as dates, times and locations of information events and community webinars. It will also include details of how to access the project website and communications channels.</p> <p><b>A Main Consultation Document</b> will include more detail on the developed proposals for Mallard Pass. This document will be provided to elected representatives and key stakeholders, available online, at CAPs and to take away from our information events.</p> <p><b>Feedback forms</b> will be made available for community members to respond to the consultation. These will be available online and in hard copy at CAPs, information events, and by request. Feedback</p>	<p>The Applicant distributed consultation leaflets ahead of each consultation stage to over 13,300 properties and local businesses throughout the core consultation zone and made these available online and at the CAP sites. As shown in Appendix 9.2.1, the Stage Two Statutory Consultation Leaflet includes relevant consultation details as advertised in the SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant published a Main Consultation Document (see Appendix 9.2.2) that included more detail on the Proposed Development at Stage Two. This included summarised environmental information on topics most important to the local community (ecology and biodiversity; landscape and visual; agriculture and land use). This document was made available on the project website, at CAPs, and to take away from events. The Applicant also provided direct links to the digital version of the Main Consultation Document to elected representatives and key stakeholders on Thursday 26 May 2022 upon the launch of the statutory consultation. The letter (see Appendix 9.3) was sent to MPs, Lincolnshire County Council councillors,</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>forms can be returned free of charge using the Mallard Pass FREEPOST address (FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm).</p>	<p>Rutland County Council councillors and South Kesteven District Council councillors.</p> <p>The Applicant made feedback forms available online, on the project website via a digital engagement platform (Survey Monkey), and in an accessible PDF format that is highly accessible for screen readers, and residential download and print. Hard copy forms were also available in hard copy at CAPs, information events and by request, and were received by the Applicant at the project dedicated Freepost address.</p>
<p><b>Open communication</b></p> <p>Our communications lines are open throughout the entire pre-application stage.</p> <p>Through these channels you will be able to speak to a member of our consultation team to ask questions, request information (including in alternative formats) and provide feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By emailing: <a href="mailto:info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk">info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk</a>.</li> </ul>	<p>The Applicant provided various means for the public to directly contact members of the project team for the duration of the pre-application stage.</p> <p>The Applicant manages a project email address, Freepost address and Freephone information line (since November 2021).</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By calling: 0808 196 8717 (open 09:00-17:00, Monday-Friday. A voice message service will operate for out of office hours and all missed phone enquiries will result in a callback within 24 hours during the working week.)</li> <li>• By writing to: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm* *Free of charge, no need for a stamp.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Our project website and online information</b></p> <p>A dedicated project website (<a href="http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk">www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk</a>) is live for you to find out more information and provide your feedback. Consultation material will be presented digitally, providing information consistent with that available at events and through hard copy materials.</p>	<p>At the start of the statutory consultation period, all project materials were made publicly available on the project website at <a href="http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documents">www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/documents</a>. This statutory consultation literature comprise the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Consultation Leaflet;</li> <li>• Main Consultation Document;</li> <li>• Feedback form;</li> <li>• Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR);</li> <li>• PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS);</li> <li>• Draft Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain (OESSCEP);</li> <li>• Maps;</li> </ul>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross Sections;</li> <li>• Visualisations;</li> <li>• Exhibition materials; and</li> <li>• Poster.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Advertising and local notices</b></p> <p><b>Local press adverts</b> will be placed in Rutland Times, Stamford &amp; Rutland Mercury and Bourne Local to inform local communities of the forthcoming Stage Two consultation. Adverts will include contact information and consultation event dates, times and locations.</p> <p><b>Local Information Points (LIPs)</b> in the local vicinity, such as village halls, places of worship, shops and civic buildings will be provided with posters containing consultation information.</p>	<p>The Applicant placed advertisements in local outlets to inform local communities of the statutory Section 47 consultation. These included contact information, statutory consultation dates, consultation event details (dates, times, locations) and signposts to the project website. Advertisements were placed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rutland Times on Thursday 26 May 2022</li> <li>• The Bourne Local on Friday 27 May 2022</li> <li>• The Rutland and Stamford Mercury on Friday 27 May 2022</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant sent hard copy information posters publicising consultation information to 106 Local Information Points to</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p><b>Social media</b> will be used to share information about our consultation process via our dedicated project Twitter account: @MallardPass.</p> <p><b>Parish councils</b> and community groups will be provided with digital materials to enable them to advertise and promote the consultation via their own websites, newsletters, social media and online community forums as they see fit. Requests for hard copy materials will also be considered.</p>	<p>land on Thursday 26 May 2022 at the start of the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>Via the project Twitter account @MallardPass, the Applicant published information and updates regarding the statutory consultation. These social media communications occurred on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 30 May 2022</li> <li>• Wednesday 01 June 2022</li> <li>• Thursday 23 June 2022</li> <li>• Friday 01 July 2022</li> <li>• Wednesday 06 July 2022</li> <li>• Thursday 21 July 2022</li> <li>• Tuesday 02 August 2022</li> <li>• Wednesday 03 August 2022</li> <li>• Friday 05 August 2022</li> </ul>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>The Applicant shared PDF copies of advertisement materials (Information poster; half-page advertisement) with Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings, Community Groups and Seldom Heard Groups on Thursday 26 May 2022 upon the launch of the statutory consultation. The letter encouraged these key stakeholders to pass the information along to their members and share the graphics provided as they saw fit. All advertising and local notices can be found in Appendix 9.4.</p> <p>As is further detailed in Section 8 of this Report, the Applicant received a number of requests for materials from parish councils, and met these in accordance with its SoCC commitment. The Applicant did not receive any hard copy requests from community groups contacted as part of the statutory consultation.</p>
<p><b>Local media engagement</b></p> <p>We will be promoting our Stage Two consultation by engaging with local media outlets, including: Rutland &amp; Stamford Mercury, Rutland Times, Lincs FM, Rutland &amp; Stamford Sound, and BBC</p>	<p>The Applicant placed advertisements in local outlets to inform local communities of the Stage Two statutory consultation. Advertisements were placed in (available in Appendix 9.4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rutland Times on Thursday 26 May 2022</li> <li>• The Bourne Local on Friday 27 May 2022</li> </ul>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>East Midlands. This will support with broadcasting the consultation to a wider audience and further ensure that interested individuals and parties have an opportunity to comment on our proposals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rutland and Stamford Mercury on Friday 27 May 2022)</li> </ul> <p>The Applicant issued a press release to 27 local press outlets (see Appendix 10.6) on Wednesday 25 May 2022 for publication on Thursday 26 May 2022 upon the launch of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The 27 outlets contacted include the Rutland and Stamford Mercury, Rutland Times, Lincs FM, Rutland &amp; Stamford Sound, and BBC East Midlands.</p> <p>The Applicant further promoted the statutory consultation via these local media outlets by engaging with BBC Radio Lincolnshire (Interview on 17 June 2022); BBC East Midlands (Interview on 23 June 2022); Rutland and Stamford Mercury (Request for correction on 14 June 2022; Media enquiries on 28 June 2022 and 21 July 2022) and the Peterborough Telegraph (Request for correction on 26 June 2022).</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p><b>8. Community Access Points (CAPs)</b></p>	
<p>Hard copies of this SoCC and Stage Two consultation materials, including our Leaflet, Main Document, PEIR and PEIR NTS, will be available at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford, PE9 4LQ.</li> <li>• Stamford Arts Centre, 27 St Mary's St, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 2DL.</li> <li>• Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford, PE9 4HR.</li> </ul> <p>Due to COVID-19, some public buildings may be unable to host documents, may be accessible by appointment only, or opening times may vary. Please check with venues for up-to-date information.</p> <p>All documents are available on our project website (<a href="http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk">www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk</a>) or hard copies may be posted on request.</p>	<p>The Applicant provided designated CAP sites with hard copies of the SoCC, Community Consultation Leaflet, Main Consultation Document, Feedback Form, PEIR and PEIR NTS. These CAP sites were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ</li> <li>• Stamford Arts Centre, 27 St Mary's St, Stamford PE9 2DL</li> <li>• Ryhall Library, Coppice Road, Ryhall, Rutland PE9 4HY. The change from Ryhall Village Hall to Ryhall Library is explained in Section 8.6 of this Consultation Report.</li> </ul> <p>CAP sites displayed these project materials for the duration of the statutory consultation and were provided with additional materials when necessary. Both Essendine Village Hall and Ryhall Library were provided with additional project materials at different points within the statutory consultation period.</p>



Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
	<p>None of the designated CAP sites were unable to host documents due to COVID-19 during the statutory period of consultation. Opening times for CAP sites were as publicised in the Section 48 Notice (Appendix 2.4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essendine Village Hall, Friday 10 June, 5 pm – 7 pm; Friday 17 June, 10 am – 12 pm. (Venue organised and publicised additional opening hours via local media.)</li> <li>• Stamford Arts Centre, Monday – Saturday, 9 am – 10 pm.</li> <li>• Ryhall Library Open Mon 9 am to 1 pm, 1:30 pm to 5 pm. Tues 2 pm to 4pm. Thurs 9 am to 1 pm, 1:30 pm to 5 pm. Fri 2 pm to 4pm. Sat 9 am to 1 pm.</li> </ul> <p>As set out in Section 8 of this Report, the Applicant made available all statutory consultation documents on the Proposed Development website upon launch, on 26 May 2022. Hard copies were available upon request, and the Applicant met the several requests as explained in Section 8.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<b>9. The planning process</b>	
<p>Mallard Pass is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it has a proposed generating capacity of over 50 MW. As an NSIP we must apply for a DCO.</p>	<p>The Applicant has prepared and submitted an DCO application to the Secretary of State with this Consultation Report forming part of the suite of application documents.</p>
<p>The DCO application will be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), the agency responsible for managing the examination process for NSIPs. It will then, if accepted, be examined by an independent Examining Authority, who will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The SoS will then review this before making a decision on whether to grant a DCO.</p> <p>For more information on this process, or for advice on how to respond to our preapplication consultation, you can access the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note 8 at:  <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advicenotes/advice-note-eight-overview-of-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-planningprocess-for-members-of-the-public-and-others/">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advicenotes/advice-note-eight-overview-of-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-planningprocess-for-members-of-the-public-and-others/</a>.</p>	

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p><b>Process timeline</b></p> <p><b>Pre-application (Winter 2021 – Autumn 2022)</b></p> <p>Mallard Pass must consult with the community and statutory consultees (such as the host Local Planning Authorities and Natural England) in compliance with the Planning Act 2008. To demonstrate this to the Planning Inspectorate, we will submit a consultation report alongside the DCO application, containing details of our method for consulting, the feedback submitted in response to the consultation, and how this has influenced our proposals.</p> <p><b>Acceptance (Winter 2022)</b></p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, has 28 days to decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination, including whether our consultation has been adequate.</p> <p><b>Pre-examination (Winter 2022 – Spring 2023)</b></p> <p>You will be notified that the application has been accepted and will be invited to register as an interested party – you will be kept</p>	<p>In accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008, the Applicant has prepared and submitted this Consultation Report as part of its application submission to the Planning Inspectorate. In accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008, this Consultation Report sets out how the feedback received to the consultation under Sections 47, 42 and 48 has influenced or changed the design of the Proposed Development. This is detailed in Chapters 8 and 9 of this Consultation Report with all individual comments and responses provided in Appendix 4 and 5.</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>informed of progress and opportunities to put your case forward. Inspectors will hold a preliminary meeting and set the timetable for examination.</p> <p><b>Examination (Spring 2023 – Autumn 2023)</b></p> <p>You can send your comments in writing. You can request to speak at a public hearing. The Planning Inspectorate has six months to carry out the examination.</p> <p><b>Decision (Autumn 2023 – Winter 2023)</b></p> <p>A recommendation to the Secretary of State will be issued by the Planning Inspectorate within three months. The Secretary of State then has a further three months to issue a decision on the proposal.</p> <p><b>Post-decision (Winter 2023)</b></p> <p>Once a decision has been issued by the Secretary of State, there is a six-week period for legal challenge on the decision.</p>	
<p><b>10. Environmental information</b></p>	
<p>Mallard Pass is classed as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development and will therefore undertake the EIA process. The methodology the EIA will be agreed with the relevant</p>	<p>The Applicant submitted a Scoping Report on 07 February 2022 to the Secretary of State. The Scoping Report and</p>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>regulatory and environmental bodies and your Local Planning Authorities (LPAs). The following reports will be informed by consultation as part of the EIA process and as the DCO application is prepared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Scoping Report</b>            Our Scoping Report was published in February 2022 and presented the Project Envelope and the processes we will undertake to assess any potential impacts to the existing environment. Feedback on this from LPAs and statutory consultees resulted in a Scoping Opinion, which was published by the Planning Inspectorate in March 2022. Both of these documents are available to view on the Planning Inspectorate’s website at: <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/mallardpass-solar-project">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/mallardpass-solar-project</a> </li> <li> <b>Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)</b>            The PEIR will build upon the findings from the previous scoping documents and the feedback received through the Stage One consultation and engagement with stakeholders. It will be         </li> </ul>	<p>subsequently the Scoping Opinion received on 18 March 2022 were available to view on the Planning Inspectorate’s website:  <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/mallard-pass-solar-project/?ipcsection=docs">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/mallard-pass-solar-project/?ipcsection=docs</a></p> <p>The Applicant made available the PEIR and PEIR NTS in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signposted to all Section 42 consultees;</li> <li>• Downloadable via the project website <a href="http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk">www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk</a>;</li> <li>• In hard copy format at all of Stage Two statutory consultation events;</li> <li>• In hard copy at all CAP sites;</li> <li>• On USBs upon request.</li> </ul>

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>accompanied by a PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS), which presents the information in the PEIR in non-technical language so that it may be understood by a wider audience.</p> <p>These documents will incorporate findings of the surveys and preliminary environmental assessments that have been carried out to date. This will enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely potential impacts that Mallard Pass may have on the local environment. In our Stage Two Statutory Consultation, we will be seeking feedback on the findings of the PEIR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Environmental Statement (ES)</b></li> </ul> <p>The ES will advance the content of the PEIR and continue to incorporate the responses from the Stage Two consultation, stakeholder engagement and results of the surveys undertaken. It will also describe any changes to the project and any mitigation measures that need to be implemented. The ES forms part of the DCO application for submission.</p>	
<p><b>11. Consultation timeline</b></p>	

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 2021 Early engagement with local authorities</li> <li>• November – December 2021 Stage One consultation</li> <li>• January – May 2022 Refinement of proposals, preparation for Stage Two</li> <li>• February 2022 Scoping request submitted to the Planning Inspectorate</li> <li>• April 2022 Consultation on the Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with Local Planning Authorities</li> <li>• May – August 2022 Stage Two Statutory Consultation and publication of the SoCC and Preliminary Environmental Information Report</li> <li>• End of 2022 DCO application submission</li> </ul> <p>*All future dates are indicative and subject to change.</p>	<p>The consultation timeline did not change substantially throughout the pre-application consultation.</p> <p>Regular digital updates provided the community and interested parties with the latest consultation timeline updates. As set out in Section 8 of this Report, the Applicant contacted the nearly 400 individuals signed up to the digital mailing list four times during the statutory consultation period. These direct notifications were provided at key points in the statutory consultation process (e.g. at launch; at the four-week, eight-week and ten-week mark).</p> <p>Further, as listed in Table 30 of this Report and shown in Appendix 9.4.10, the Applicant also provided digital updates on social media via Twitter, making 25 social media posts on ten separate occasions throughout the statutory period of consultation. These notifications were similarly at key points in the consultation programme (e.g. ahead of events; at the four-week, eight-week and ten-week mark).</p>
<p><b>12. Contact us</b></p>	

Commitment Made	Evidence of compliance
<p>You can get in touch with members of our stakeholder engagement team using any of the communication lines listed below.</p>	<p>The Applicant provided various means for the public to directly contact members of the project team for the duration of the pre-application stage.</p> <p>The Applicant manages a project email address, Freepost address and Freephone information line (since November 2021).</p>
<p>Should you require any documents in large print, audio or braille, please contact us at the details provided.</p>	<p>No requests were received by the Applicant.</p>



## 8.0 **STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 47 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 (MAY 2022 – AUGUST 2022)**

### 8.1. **INTRODUCTION**

8.1.1. This chapter of the Consultation Report sets out the consultation activities undertaken by the Applicant with the people living in the vicinity of the land ('the community') to which the Proposed Development relates under Section 47 of the PA 2008.

8.1.2. As required under Section 47(7) of the PA 2008, the Applicant carried out statutory consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). A summary of how the Applicant complied with Section 47(7) of the PA 2008 through commitments placed in the SoCC is detailed in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report. Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report sets out the Section 47 statutory consultation undertaken in line with the commitments set out in the SoCC in chronological order, covering the period from 26 May 2022 until 04 August 2022. This period includes:

- The Stage Two Section 47 consultation which commenced on 26 May 2022 in parallel to the start of Section 42 consultation and Section 48 consultation, inviting comments to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) during this 70-day consultation period;
- The Applicant providing direct notification of the launch to over 13,300 local households and businesses ('the core consultation zone'), MPs, elected representatives, parish councils, seldom heard groups, community groups, and nearly 400 individuals who signed up to the digital community mailing list;
- The Applicant holding six Stage Two community consultation events between 17 June and 05 July 2022, and a number of

briefing meetings with locally elected representatives, parish councils, and near neighbours and residents; and

- The Applicant considering late responses beyond 04 August 2022, up until the point of Application submission.

8.1.3. Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations stipulates that the SoCC states whether the proposal is an EIA development and how preliminary environmental information will be consulted on. The Applicant included this information in the SoCC, which also comprised the dates of the Stage Two Statutory Consultation period, signposts to digital Stage Two Statutory Consultation materials (via a direct link), and hard copy materials (CAP site details) as is shown in Appendix 10.2. As detailed in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report, the Applicant publicised this to the community by publishing the Section 47 notice in the Rutland and Stamford Mercury on 20 May 2022, in accordance with Section 47(6) of the PA 2008.

8.1.4. Further publicity for the Stage Two Statutory Consultation is detailed in Section 8 of this Chapter. All Stage Two Statutory Consultation materials (as listed in Section 8 of this Report and as shown in Appendix 9.2), including the PEIR and PEIR NTS were made available on 26 May 2022 on the Proposed Development website and in hard copy at Community Access Points (CAP) sites for community consultees to comment on as part of the Stage Two Section 47 consultation.

8.1.5. Early engagement with the community prior to Stage Two Section 47 consultation (i.e. before 26 May 2022) is detailed in Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report. Chapter 4 also includes a description of the Applicant's additional non-statutory engagement with MPs, elected representatives and parish councils.

8.1.6. All ongoing engagement with the community beyond the Stage Two Section 47 Consultation (i.e. after 04 August 2022) that took place up to the point of the DCO Application submission is detailed in Chapter 13 of this Consultation Report.

## 8.2. **SECTION 47 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AREA**

8.2.1. Section 47(1) of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult on the proposed application with people living in ‘vicinity’ of the land to which the Proposed Development relates.

8.2.2. A core consultation zone and a wider consultation area were identified for the Proposed Development and presented in the draft SoCC for the local authorities to comment on. The Applicant had regard and responded to comments made by local authorities regarding the proposed consultation area (see Table 16).

8.2.3. The core consultation zone for the Proposed Development was identified by:

- Encompassing a minimum area of 2,000 metres immediately surrounding the Proposed Development, measured from the centre point;
- Extending the search area beyond this minimum 2km area to ensure the inclusion of settlements that may have otherwise been bisected, for example including properties situated to the north of the Proposed Development up to Witham on the Hill;
- Extending the area to include the 22 properties located in proximity to the small area of the A1 highway included in the Proposed Development boundary as these may have required improvement

works to allow for construction access. Since Stage Two statutory consultation, this area has been taken out of the Order Limits.

- Using natural and human geographical boundaries; and
- Using a zone of theoretical visibility to assess the areas in the ‘vicinity’ of the land which may experience a degree of visual impact from the Proposed Development.

8.2.4. Throughout the core consultation area, which included 13,328 local homes and businesses, the following statutory consultation activities took place:

- Direct mailing of Community Consultation Leaflet;
- Advertising across media channels covering the core consultation zone (as detailed in Section 8 of this Chapter);
- Holding six community consultation events;
- Displaying hard copy Proposed Development information available across three CAP sites (listed in Table 19 of this Chapter);
- Advertising across 106 Local Information Points (listed in Appendix 10.5);
- Holding near neighbour and stakeholder meetings;
- Hosting a virtual exhibition online;
- Placing site notices;
- Displaying all consultation materials on the Proposed Development website; and
- Providing consultation updates via Twitter.

8.2.5. The wider consultation area for the Proposed Development included coverage of the host local authorities, with all neighbouring authorities being kept informed of the proposals as part of the Applicant's project updates:

- Lincolnshire County Council;
- Rutland County Council; and
- South Kesteven District Council.

8.2.6. Throughout the wider consultation area, the following consultation activities took place:

- Advertising across media channels covering the core and wider consultation area (as detailed in Table 30 of this Consultation Report);
- Engaging with the wider Lincolnshire media as well as regional and national media through press releases and radio, TV and interviews (as detailed in Table 29 of this Consultation Report);
- Making hard copy Proposed Development information available at three CAP sites;
- Advertising across 106 Local Information Points (listed in Appendix 10.5);
- Hosting a virtual exhibition online;
- Holding two community consultation events online, as digital webinar sessions via Zoom;

- Providing four direct digital notifications and reminders of consultation opportunities and project information to the nearly 400 individuals signed up to the mailing list;
- Holding stakeholder meetings throughout the wider consultation area such as consulting with Castle Bytham Parish Council and Little Bytham Parish Council; and;
- Using online and social media techniques: dedicated Proposed Development website and Twitter account.

### 8.3. **ADDITIONAL CONSULTEES AND GROUPS**

8.3.1. In addition to the 13,328 properties and local businesses consulted within the core consultation zone, the Applicant identified additional local community groups, local nature conservation bodies, interest groups and seldom-heard groups such as youth groups. These consultees were identified through early suggestions from the local authorities and feedback received at the Applicant's stage one community consultation. The full list of these additional Section 47 consultees are listed in Table 18 of this Consultation Report.

8.3.2. The Applicant shared consultation information with seldom heard and community groups throughout the Section 47 consultation, along with the pre-Stage Two engagement detailed in Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report. The Applicant contacted these additional Section 47 consultees on 26 May 2022 providing direct notification of the start of the statutory consultation, along with digital materials advertising the consultation period and how to find project information. The Applicant encouraged organisations to share information regarding Stage Two consultation on the organisations' internal newsletters, social media platforms or mailing lists, See Appendix 7.6 for a copy of the covering letter sent to seldom-heard groups and community groups. The

Applicant also contacted additional Section 47 consultees on 28 July 2022 to notify the organisations of the upcoming end of the statutory period (see Table 8).

**Table 18: Additional Section 47 consultees (organisations)**

<b>Section 47 Consultees</b>
Active Rutland
Age UK Leicestershire and Rutland
All Saint's Church
Bluecoat County Primary School
Borderville Sports Centre
BUPA Dental Care
Cottesmore Hunt
CPRE Rutland
Dementia Action Alliance Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
Dementia Support South Lincs
Education Business Partnership - Lincoln (EPB)
Emmaus Leicestershire and Rutland
Evergreen Care Stamford & District
Fight 4 Rutland (F4R)
Greenpeace Leicester
Jules House Youth Group
JUST Lincolnshire
LAMP (Leicester Action for Mental Health Project)
Leicester and Rutland Federation of WIs
Leicester and Rutland Walking Group

<b>Section 47 Consultees</b>
Leicestershire & Rutland Ramblers
Leicestershire and Rutland Cyclists' Touring Club
Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust
Lincolnshire Climate Conscious Students
Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service: South Kesteven Volunteer Centre
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Mallard Pass Action Group
MHM (Mental Health Matters)
MindSpace Stamford
Nature Spot
Peterborough Ramblers
Railfuture East Midlands (Rutland and Leicestershire)
Railfuture Lincolnshire
Rutland Access Group
Rutland Community Ventures
Rutland Ramblers
Rutland Riding Club
Rutland Youth Council
Ryhall Church of England Academy Primary School
Second Helpings Stamford
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School
St George's Church of England Primary School
St Martin's Church



<b>Section 47 Consultees</b>
St Mary & St Augustine Catholic Church
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Dental Practice
Stamford & Rutland Hospital
Stamford and Bourne District Scout Council
Stamford and District Young Farmers Club
Stamford Arts Centre
Stamford Association Football Club
Stamford Community Energy
Stamford Corn Exchange Theatre
Stamford Cricket Club
Stamford Diversity
Stamford Endowed Schools: Nursery; Juniors, High Schools, Sixth Form Schools
Stamford Leisure Pool
Stamford Library
Stamford Lions FC
Stamford Masonic Centre
Stamford Methodist Church
Stamford Registration Office
Stamford Rotary Club
Stamford Rugby Club
Stamford Striders
Stamford Tourist Information Centre

<b>Section 47 Consultees</b>
Stamford Welland Academy
TCOS The Cyclists of Stamford
The Bertie Arms
The Bridge East Midlands (in partnership with the Rutland Community Wellbeing Service)
The Broad Street Practice
The Bull and Swan
The Crown Hotel
The George Hotel
The Green Man
The Hub / Hatch Desks
The Leicester LGBT Centre
The Millstone Inn
The William Cecil
TOFU (Time Out For Us)
Uffington Village Hall
Voluntary Action Rutland
Wittering Riding Academy

#### 8.4. **UNDERTAKING CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 47 OF THE PA 2008**

- 8.4.1. Statutory consultation under Section 47 ran as the Stage Two community consultation from 26 May until 04 August 2022 (allowing 70 days).
- 8.4.2. The Applicant continued ongoing consultation between the consultation phases to enable comments to be received and considered as part of an

iterative consultation process that fed into an iterative design response for the Proposed Development, demonstrating how consultation had been taken into consideration in the design of the Proposed Development. Ongoing consultation is described in Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report.

8.4.3. The Applicant undertook the following consultation activities as set out in the SoCC:

- Meetings and briefing sessions – the Applicant met with local authorities and locally elected representatives and provided briefings to local interest groups to present information about the Proposed Development, answer key questions and receive feedback (see Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report);
- Stakeholder meetings – the Applicant met with sensitive stakeholders and interest groups including local residents and near neighbours on several occasions to discuss the Proposed Development and receive feedback;
- Consultation events – the Applicant hosted consultation events from Friday 17 June 2022 to Tuesday 05 July 2022;
- Literature – the Applicant published and distributed a range of literature to the consultation area and key stakeholders including: Community Consultation Leaflets, a Main Consultation Document and Feedback Forms;
- Communication lines – a Freephone information line, Proposed Development email address, FREEPOST address and Twitter account were available for interested parties to ask questions and provide feedback;

- Proposed Development website – provided the latest updates and all consultation materials and Proposed Development information;
- Virtual exhibition – the Applicant provided a virtual exhibition, including exhibition banners, maps and feedback links;
- Media and advertising – local media engagement and advertisements informed the wider consultation area of the Proposed Development;
- Local information points – upon publication of Community Consultation Leaflets and Stage Two project materials, the Applicant delivered hard copy posters to local information points for these to be advertised to members of the community; and
- CAP sites – the Applicant provided hard copies of the consultation materials at public locations across the consultation area for people who wished to view hard copies of the Proposed Development information.

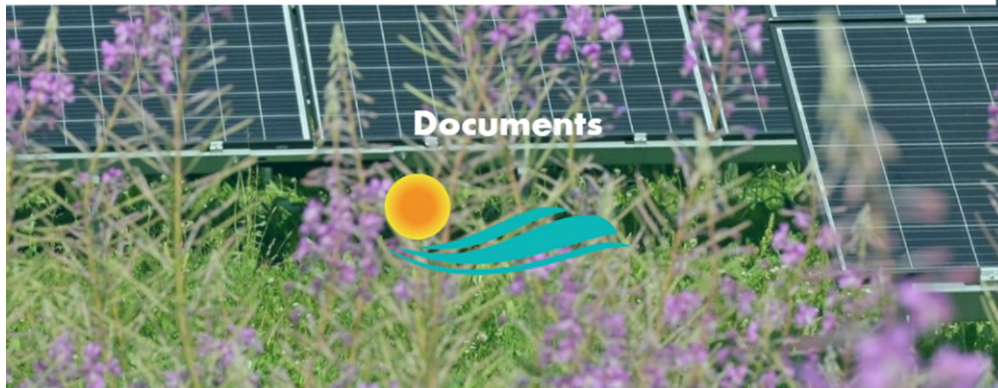
## 8.5. LITERATURE

8.5.1. In accordance with the SoCC , the Applicant made the following consultation literature available for the public to view, print and download on the Proposed Development website at the start of the Section 47 Stage Two consultation, on 26 May 2022 (available in Appendix 9.2):

- Community Consultation Leaflet
- Main Consultation Document
- Feedback Form (in addition to the online feedback form via the digital engagement platform)
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR);

- Preliminary Environmental Information Report Non-Technical Summary (PEIR NTS);
- Draft Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Employment Plan
- Selection of Maps showing key PEIR Plans and Figures
- Indicative cross-sections showing illustrations of the Proposed Development from worm's-eye view
- Photomontages showing visualisations of the Proposed Development from various viewpoints
- Consultation event display boards
- Poster advertising Stage Two Section 47 consultation events
- Statement of Community Consultation (copies to take away) (shown in Appendix 6.4);
- Section 47 Notice (shown in Appendix 6.5);
- Section 48 Notice (shown in Appendix 8.2);
- List of Community Groups and Seldom Heard Groups (shown in Appendix 9.2).

**Figure 1: Screenshot from Proposed Development Website during Stage Two Statutory Consultation**



**This is where you can find all project documentation, ordered from most recent to least.**

**Stage Two Statutory Consultation documents**

- [Community Consultation Leaflet](#) - May 2022
- [Main Consultation Document](#) - May 2022
- [Feedback Form](#) - May 2022
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) - May 2022
  - [Preliminary Environmental Information Report Non-Technical Summary](#)
  - [Preliminary Environmental Information Report Volume 1: Main Text](#)
  - Preliminary Environment Information Report Volume 2: Figures
    - [Figures 11 - 6.8.14](#)
    - [Figures 6.91 - 9.5](#)
    - [Figures 9.6 - 13.2](#)
  - Preliminary Environment Information Report Volume 3: Appendices
    - [Appendices 2.1 - 2.2](#)
    - [Appendices 2.3 - 5.2](#)
    - [Appendices 5.3 - 6.5](#)
    - [Appendices 7.1 - 7.2](#)
    - [Appendices 8.1 - 9.2](#)
    - [Appendices 9.3 - 12.2](#)
    - [Appendix 12.3](#)
    - [Appendix 12.4 Part 1](#)
    - [Appendix 12.4 Part 2](#)
    - [Appendices 13.1 - 19.2](#)
- [Draft Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain \(OESSCEP\)](#) - May 2022
- [Maps](#) - May 2022
- [Cross Sections](#) - May 2022
- Visualisations - May 2022
  - [Visualisations 1 - 20](#)
  - [Visualisations 21 - 40](#)
- [Exhibition materials](#) - May 2022
- [Poster](#) - May 2022

8.5.2. In addition to the Section 47 materials being available at CAP sites (as detailed in Section 8 of this Report), on request to the Applicant (as detailed in Section 8), and to take home from events (as detailed in

Section 8), the Applicant also provided other ways of digitally presenting information about the Proposed Development on the dedicated website. As further detailed in Section 8 of this Consultation Report, these include a virtual exhibition, FAQs and an interactive map tool.

8.5.3. During the Stage Two Section 47 consultation period, the webpage on the Proposed Development website hosting the consultation literature was viewed a total of 1,572 times.

## 8.6. INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION (LEAFLET, CAPs, LIPs)

8.6.1. In addition to sending hard copies of the Stage Two community consultation leaflet to over 13,300 homes and businesses located within the core consultation zone (as detailed in Appendix 10), the Applicant also distributed consultation information by making hard copies available at three Community Access Points (CAP) sites, listed in Table 19, and by providing hard copy posters to 106 Local Information Points, listed in Appendix 10.5.

**Table 19: List of Community Access Points (CAP Site)**

Venue	Opening hours
Essendine Village Hall Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ.	Friday 10 June, 5 pm – 7 pm; Friday 17 June, 10 am – 12 pm.  Venue organised and publicised additional opening hours via local media and personal network.
Stamford Arts Centre 27 St Mary's St, Stamford PE9 2DL	Monday – Saturday, 9 am – 10 pm.
Ryhall Library Coppice Rd, Rutland, PE9 4HY	Mon 9 am to 1 pm, 1:30 pm to 5 pm. Tues 2 pm to 4pm. Thurs 9 am to 1 pm, 1:30 pm to 5 pm. Fri 2 pm to 4pm. Sat 9 am to 1 pm.

8.6.2. On 06 June 2022, the Applicant replaced Ryhall Village Hall with Ryhall Library as a designated CAP site for the Stage Two Section 47 Consultation following a request by the Chair of Ryhall Village Hall. The Chair made the request in light of accessibility concerns, specifically related to the Village Hall's opening hours to the public. The Applicant agreed to change the CAP site location to the Library, a one minute walk away from the Village Hall, to maximise community accessibility to project materials. The Applicant provided signage to the Village Hall, as shown in Appendix 9.4, to be placed on the public information board outside so as to signpost individuals to the Library, located 121 feet away.

8.6.3. The following hard copy Proposed Development information was available to read or take away at the CAP sites:

- The PEIR;
- PEIR NTS;
- Community Consultation Leaflet (copies to take away);
- Main Consultation Document (copies to take away);
- Feedback Form (copies to take away);
- SoCC (copies to take away); and
- Draft Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Employment Plan (copies to take away).

8.6.4. The Applicant provided additional materials to CAP sites at multiple points during the Section 47 consultation. Hard copies were provided to Ryhall Library and Essendine Village Hall on Friday 01 July 2022 following the end of the consultation event at Ryhall Village Hall, which



marked the close of in-person events. The Applicant provided additional hard copy materials to Essendine Village Hall a second time, on 11 July 2022.

- 8.6.5. The Applicant also directly provided hard copies on request to members of the public. As detailed in Section 8.26 of this Report, the Applicant met individual stakeholder requests for hard copy materials and/or USBs containing digital copies of all consultation materials at various points during the Section 47 consultation. This engagement included posting hard copy maps to members of the local community, and providing two hard copy PEIRs and PEIR NTS' free of charge to local campaign group Mallard Pass Action Group. No requests for hard copy documents in alternative formats were made to the Applicant.
- 8.6.6. As is further detailed in Section 8 of this Report, information posters (shown in Appendix 7.4) were sent to 106 Local Information Points (listed in Appendix 10.5) across the consultation area to publicise the Section 47 consultation. As is shown in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report, the Applicant's list of CAPs and LIPs were consulted on with consultees during the development of the SoCC.
- 8.6.7. The Applicant directly contacted all CAPs and LIPs to ensure these establishments agreed and were properly briefed on respective commitments in the Section 47 consultation for the Proposed Development. As addressed in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report, a number of LIPs suggested during draft SoCC consultation were not included in the final list counting 106 LIPs as these were either uncontactable by the Applicant, or unwilling/unable to perform corresponding roles.
- 8.6.8. Stage Two Section 47 information posters (shown in Appendix 9.4) were laminated and packed in hygienic conditions to reduce the risk of Covid-

19. Further, the Applicant published a PDF copy of the Poster on the Proposed Development website for any interested parties to download, print and use as a means to further publicise the Section 47 consultation.

## 8.7. **SECTION 47 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – COMMUNICATIONS LINES**

8.7.1. The Applicant kept all project-dedicated communications lines (as set out in Section 4 of this Consultation Report) open for the entire pre-application stage, from 04 November 2021 to the point of Application submission in November 2022. In total, communications lines were open for over 365 days, going beyond the 28-day statutory minimum. Through these channels, stakeholders were able to speak to a member of the stakeholder engagement team directly to ask questions, and request information (including in alternative formats):

- By emailing: [info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk](mailto:info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk).
- By calling the FREEPHONE line: 0808 196 8717
- By writing to: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

8.7.2. The FREEPHONE information line operated each working day of the Section 47 consultation period between 09:00-17:00, Monday-Friday. The Applicant set up a voice message service to operate for out of office hours and all missed phone enquiries resulted in a callback within 24 hours during the working week. The Applicant made sure to consistently advertise that the FREEPOST postal address would be free of charge to consultees, as there was no need for a stamp. As set out in Table 21, the Applicant received 28 Section 47 responses to the FREEPOST address, 20 hard copy feedback forms and 8 written letters.

8.7.3. Feedback mechanisms for the Section 47 consultation are set out in Section 8.11 of this Report.

8.7.4. The Applicant also managed a public Twitter account for interested parties to ask questions and provide feedback. The Applicant did not receive any direct communications via Twitter during the Section 47 consultation, however utilised the public social media presence to provide information regarding the Section 47 consultation. Details regarding the Applicant's activities on Twitter to publicise the Stage Two Section 47 consultation are detailed in Table 10 of this Report.

## 8.8. SECTION 47 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – WEBSITE AND VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

8.8.1. The dedicated project website and online feedback platform was also updated for Stage Two consultation. This included the Applicant making all consultation materials freely available for the public to view, download and print. A selection of screenshots from this website are shown in Figures 1-4. During the Stage Two consultation there was a total of 5,063 visitors to the consultation website.

### Figure 2: Screenshot of Proposed Development Website (Stage Two Consultation)

This page provides updates on our consultation activities and information on how you can get in touch with the Mallard Pass Solar Farm team.

**Our Stage Two Statutory Consultation is running for 10 weeks, taking place between Thursday 26 May 2022 and Thursday 04 August 2022.**

Our Stage Two events are an opportunity for you to view our updated proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, see the project team and provide your feedback.

- Friday 17 June 2022 from 11 am to 1 pm – Webinar event
- Saturday 25 June 2022 from 11 am to 5 pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford, PE9 4LQ
- Wednesday 29 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm – Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford, PE9 2DR
- Thursday 30 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm – Greatford Village Hall, Cariby Road, Greatford, PE9 4PR
- Friday 01 July 2022 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford, PE9 4HR
- Tuesday 05 July 2022 from 6 pm to 8 pm – Webinar event

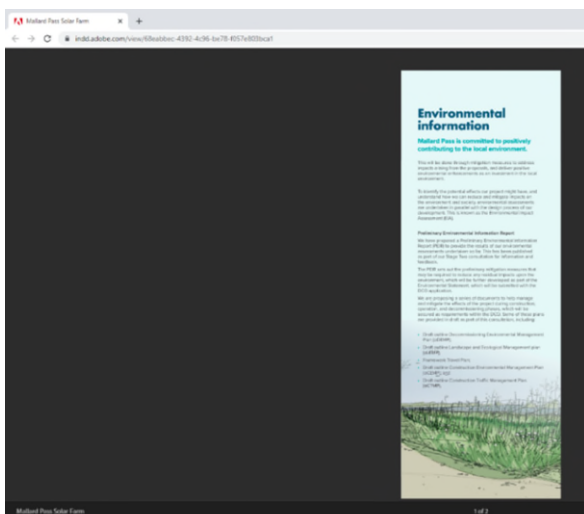
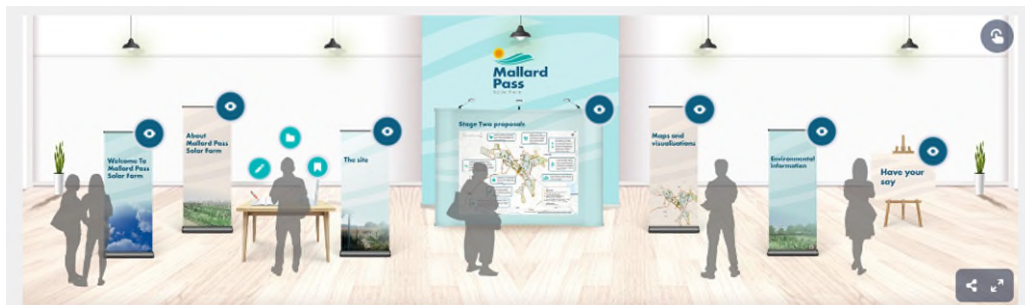
Please click [here](#) for a detailed step-by-step guide for how to access our community webinars, along with webinar links and telephone dial-in details.

You can also visit our virtual exhibition, which contains all the same information as will be at our events. [Please click here to view and explore our Stage Two virtual exhibition.](#)

You can also provide your feedback via our online feedback form, which is identical to the hardcopy. Click [here](#) to access the online version of our questionnaire. Click [here](#) to view, download and print the hard copy.

- 8.8.2. In compliance with the SoCC, the Stage Two Section 47 Consultation featured digital and non-digital methods of engagement.
- 8.8.3. The Applicant managed the online digital engagement platform for the duration of the Section 47 consultation, which appeared as shown in Figures 1-4. As set out in Table 21, the Applicant received a total of 270 Stage Two Section 47 responses via the digital engagement platform.
- 8.8.4. An updated virtual exhibition was created, which included display boards, videos, maps and links to provide feedback. A screenshot of the Stage Two virtual exhibition is shown in Figure 3. During Stage Two consultation there was a total of 529 visitors to the virtual exhibition.

**Figure 3: Screenshots of Stage Two virtual exhibition**



**How to explore the virtual exhibition:**

1. Make the room larger by clicking the arrows on the bottom right-hand of the image.
2. Take your time to understand our proposals by clicking on the information boards.
3. Make the information boards bigger by selecting 'View' when the information board pops up. Use the arrow to the right of the screen to click through the boards in order.
4. If you are viewing the exhibition on a mobile phone, for the best view, turn your mobile to landscape.
5. For the best experience use an up-to-date browser, such as; Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge or Safari.
6. Once you've viewed our exhibition, please provide your feedback on our [have your say page](#).

For the most accessible experience of this exhibition, you can [download the boards in an accessible PDF format](#) (suitable for screen readers).

**Communications lines**

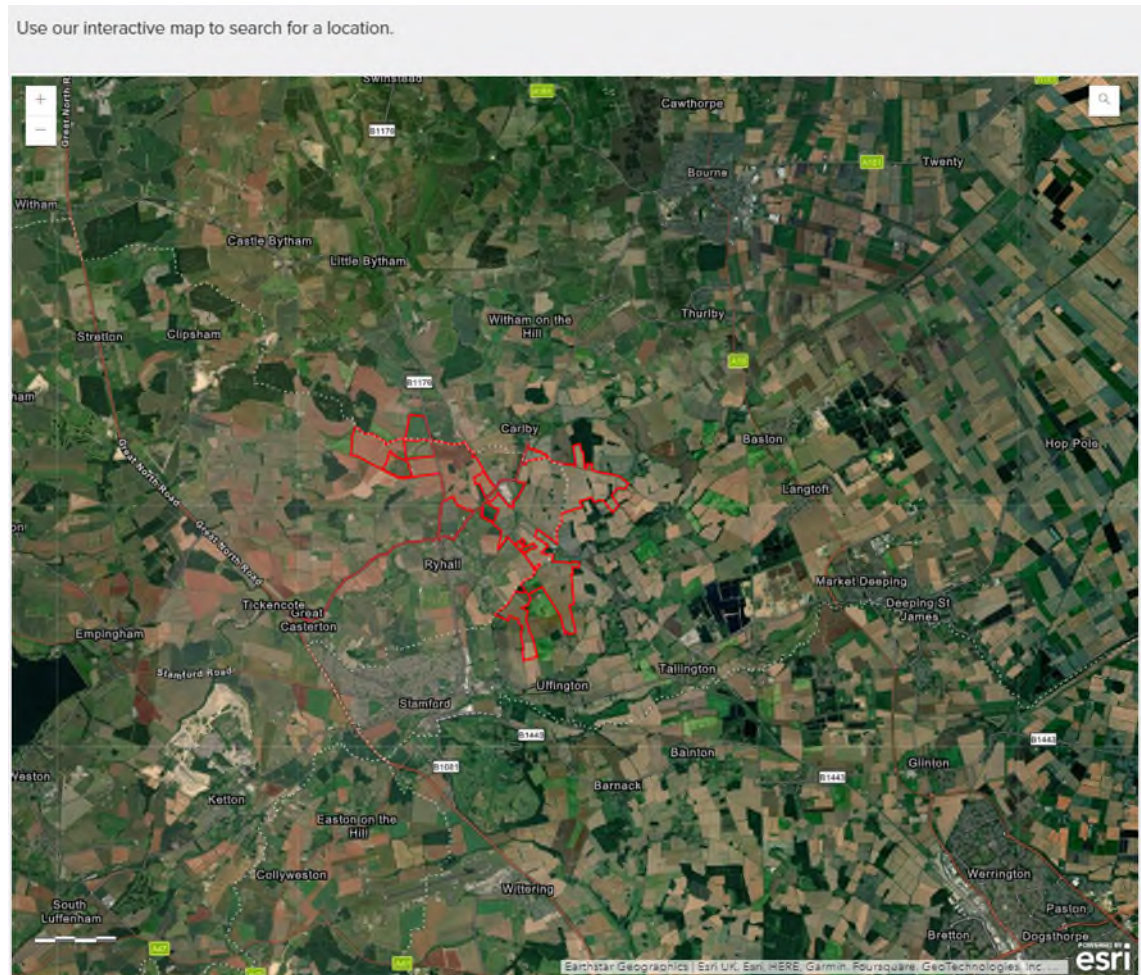
Call us at: [0808 196 8717](tel:08081968717)  
 Email us at: [info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk](mailto:info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk)  
 Send us a letter at: FREEPOST MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM

Please contact us at the details provided should you require any documents in large print, audio, or braille.

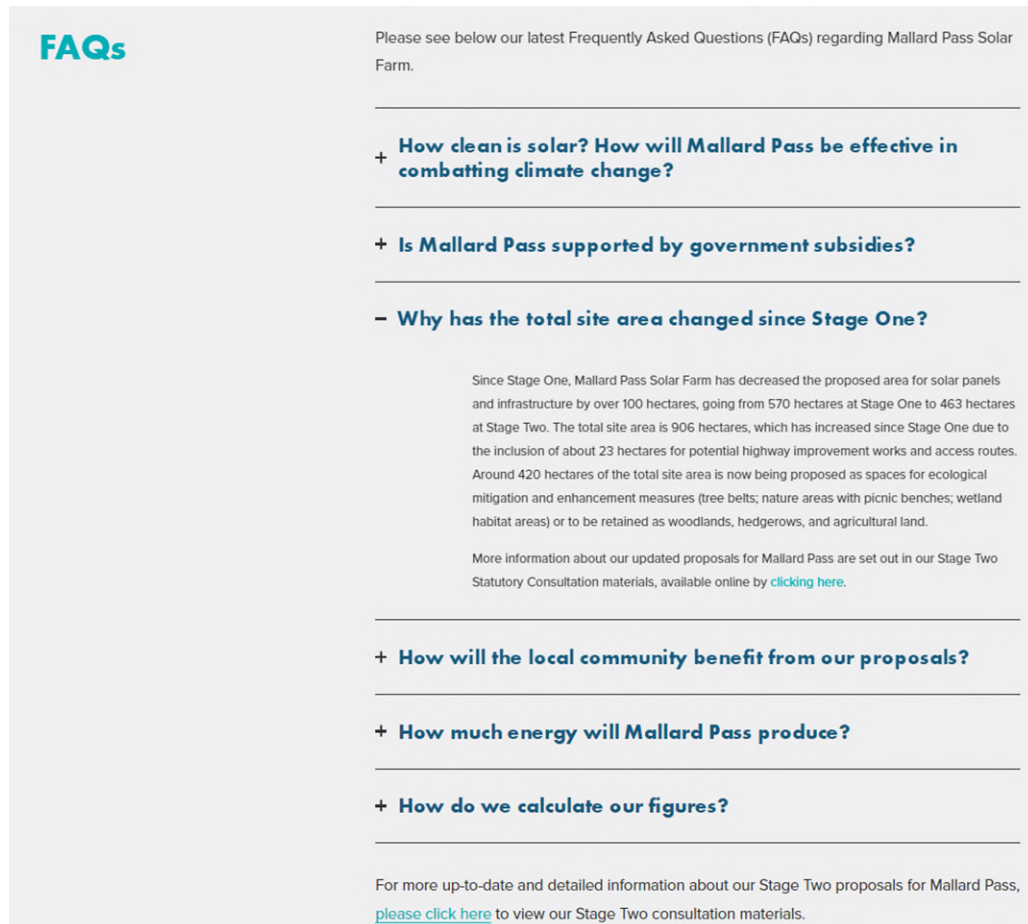


- 8.8.5. Copies of the information presented within the virtual exhibition are shown in Appendix 9.2.
- 8.8.6. The landing page of the dedicated website included updated FAQs (as shown in Figure 5) and an interactive map, which showed the Stage Two Proposed Development boundaries. This map tool, shown in Figure 4, allowed stakeholders to pan around the map and search for their desired location.

Figure 4: Screenshot of Stage Two consultation interactive map



**Figure 5: Screenshot of Stage Two FAQs section**



**FAQs**

Please see below our latest Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

---

+ **How clean is solar? How will Mallard Pass be effective in combatting climate change?**

---

+ **Is Mallard Pass supported by government subsidies?**

---

- **Why has the total site area changed since Stage One?**

Since Stage One, Mallard Pass Solar Farm has decreased the proposed area for solar panels and infrastructure by over 100 hectares, going from 570 hectares at Stage One to 463 hectares at Stage Two. The total site area is 906 hectares, which has increased since Stage One due to the inclusion of about 23 hectares for potential highway improvement works and access routes. Around 420 hectares of the total site area is now being proposed as spaces for ecological mitigation and enhancement measures (tree belts; nature areas with picnic benches; wetland habitat areas) or to be retained as woodlands, hedgerows, and agricultural land.

More information about our updated proposals for Mallard Pass are set out in our Stage Two Statutory Consultation materials, available online by [clicking here](#).

---

+ **How will the local community benefit from our proposals?**

---

+ **How much energy will Mallard Pass produce?**

---

+ **How do we calculate our figures?**

---

For more up-to-date and detailed information about our Stage Two proposals for Mallard Pass, [please click here](#) to view our Stage Two consultation materials.

## 8.9. STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENT

8.9.1. As per the SoCC, the Applicant held stakeholder meetings during the Section 47 consultation, engaging directly with elected members, MPs, and a number of sensitive stakeholders, including local residents and near neighbours. Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report details all stakeholder engagement before the Section 47 consultation (including Stage Two pre-briefings and invitations to meet). Chapter 13 of this Consultation Report details all ongoing community engagement.

8.9.2. The Applicant contacted South Kesteven District, Rutland County and Lincolnshire County Councillors on 26 May 2022 to provide a direct

digital notification of the Section 47 consultation period. This email (shown in Appendix 9.3) included:

- An introduction to the updated Proposed Development proposals;
- A direct link to a digital copy of the Main Consultation Document (as per SoCC commitments set out in Appendix 6.4)
- Section 47 consultation period and event details (including references to the step-by-step webinar guide, dates, times, and locations);
- A direct link to the webpage comprising all Section 47 literature, including reference to the PEIR and PEIR NTS;
- CAP site details; and
- A direct link to the updated Proposed Development website.

8.9.3. On 02 August 2022, the Applicant undertook further engagement with elected members, speaking on the phone with South Kesteven District Councillor and Lincolnshire County Councillor Ashley John Baxter for over an hour to discuss the Proposed Development. Further engagement with Local Planning Authorities under Section 43 of the PA 2008 is described in Chapter 9 of this Consultation Report.

8.9.4. As per SoCC commitments, the Applicant engaged with both host and neighbouring parish councils during the Section 47 consultation. Engagement with host parish councils is detailed in Chapter 9 of this Consultation Report. The Applicant contacted neighbouring Parish Councils, Town Councils and Parish Meetings, considered under Section 47 of the PA 2008 for the purposes of this Report, on 26 May 2022 to provide a direct digital notification of the Section 47 consultation period as shown in Appendix 9.3.



- An introduction to the updated Proposed Development proposals;
- PDF copies of materials advertising the details of the Stage Two Section 47 consultation, which the Applicant encouraged parishes to share online, in a community newsletter or wherever they saw fit;
- Section 47 consultation period and event details (including references to the step-by-step webinar guide, dates, times, and locations);
- A direct link to the webpage comprising all Section 47 literature, including reference to the PEIR and PEIR NTS;
- CAP site details; and
- A direct link to the updated Proposed Development website.

8.9.5. The Applicant further engaged with these neighbouring parishes during the Section 47 consultation as follows:

- Provided 6 USBs to Clerk to Carlby Parish Council Sarah Gresty;
- Provided one USB to Stamford Town Councillor Elaine Hooper;
- Sent a digital copy of the of the Draft Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan to Stamford Town Councillor Shaun Ford;
- On 27 July 2022, the Applicant spoke with Planning Rep. for Careby with Aunby and Holywell Parish Meeting Andrew Hoyle and followed up via email to fulfil the member's request for direct links to visualisations of the Proposed Development and other related information;

- On 04 August 2022 replied to an enquiry made via email containing feedback received by Carlby Parish Councillor Sue Robinson;
- On 05 August 2022, the Applicant provided direct confirmation of feedback receipt to Planning Rep. for Careby with Aunby and Holywell Parish Meeting Andrew Hoyle following the request made at a Section 47 in-person event; and
- On Thursday 30 June 2022, following a request made during the Section 47 consultation event at Greatford Village Hall, the Applicant held a meeting with Greatford Flood Warden Chris Granville-White.

8.9.6. As set out in Section 8 this Report, the Applicant contacted MPs (Alicia Kearns MP and Gareth Davies MP), on 26 May 2022 to provide a direct digital notification of the Section 47 consultation period. This email (shown in Appendix 9.3) included:

- An introduction to the updated Proposed Development proposals;
- A direct link to a digital copy of the Main Consultation Document (as per SoCC commitments set out in Appendix 6.4)
- Section 47 consultation period and event details (including references to the step-by-step webinar guide, dates, times, and locations);
- A direct link to the webpage comprising all Section 47 literature, including reference to the PEIR and PEIR NTS;
- CAP site details; and
- A direct link to the updated Proposed Development website.

8.9.7. The Applicant further engaged with the MPs as follows:

- On 01 June 2022 and 12 July 2022 the Applicant followed up with Alicia Kearns MP to follow up on the cancelled pre-briefing discussed in Section 4 of this Consultation Report.
- Gareth Davies MP agreed to the Applicant's request for a meeting to be held on 25 May 2022, however the MP's Office cancelled the meeting via telephone that morning. On the call, the Applicant encouraged Gareth Davies MP's Office to get in touch if rearranging the meeting was of interest however the Applicant was not contacted.
- On 01 July 2022, Alicia Kearns MP attended the Applicant's Section 47 consultation event at Ryhall Village Hall.

8.9.8. The Applicant engaged with a number of near neighbours, residents and local interest groups during the Section 47 consultation period, holding digital and in-person meetings. Early engagement is detailed in Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report.

8.9.9. The Applicant further engaged with the near neighbours and residents as follows:

- Contacted near neighbour on 30 June 2022 via email to follow up on the stakeholder's request to meet in-person. The Applicant offered potential dates to meet and reiterated the interest to meet the request however the stakeholder never responded.
- Contacted near neighbour via email on 11 July 2022 to provide further information regarding Section 44 correspondence provided (as detailed in Chapter 9 of this Consultation Report).
- Following a request for a meeting at in-person events, the Applicant contacted near neighbour on 20 July 2022 and 26 July 2022 via telephone, and on 27 July 2022 and 29 July 2022 via

email to answer various stakeholder questions and arrange the details for an on-site meeting. This included providing direct references and links to consultation materials such as the Consultation Leaflet and PEIR.

- Contacted the Lincolnshire Community Foundation on 14 July 2022 via email to provide further details on the Proposed Development and encourage the organisation to submit feedback.
- Contacted campaign group Mallard Pass Action Group on 14 July 2022 via email to request a correction in promotion materials that misdirected consultees to the incorrect Proposed Development website.
- Engaged with the CPRE, The Countryside Charity on 29 July 2022 to explain the Applicant’s inability to attend the group’s Future Energy Workshops, but encourage the organisation to respond to the Stage Two consultation including the provision of links to consultation materials, the feedback webpage and Proposed Development website.
- On 04 August 2022 the Applicant replied to a query made by the Stamford Ramblers via email, including providing direct links to relevant maps and Figures from the PEIR.

**Table 20: Section 47 Meetings with Near Neighbours and Local Residents during Stage Two Statutory Consultation**

Stakeholder	Meeting date	Topics discussed
Newstead Hall	01/07/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape and visual impacts from the property.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder	Meeting date	Topics discussed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecological and landscape mitigation, including additional planting on the perimeter of the Proposed Development.</li> </ul>
Heath Farm	13/07/2022	Potential ecology and land management opportunities.
Heath House	29/07/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape and visual impacts from the property</li> <li>Ecological and landscape mitigation, including additional planting on the perimeter of the Proposed Development</li> </ul>
Heath Cottage	02/08/2022	Ecological mitigation and enhancement measures; potential impacts upon property.

## 8.10. SECTION 47 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – COMMUNITY REQUESTS

8.10.1. As outlined in this section, hard copies of the Stage Two community consultation leaflet were also sent to all homes and businesses located within the core consultation zone. In order to ensure the Stage Two consultation was accessible to those without website access, the

Applicant also sent hard copies of any Stage Two consultation materials on request. The Applicant provided the following Proposed Development information in hard copy following stakeholder requests:

- One Main Consultation Document (via postal mail);
- Two PEIR Plans and Figures (via postal mail);
- Four Cultural heritage and Archaeology Maps (via postal mail); and
- Two PEIRs and PEIR NTS' free of charge (instead of providing this at a cost of £350 per copy, as stated in the Section 48 notice) to local campaign group Mallard Pass Action Group (in-person following the consultation event at Ryhall Village Hall on Friday 01 July).

8.10.2. In accordance with SoCC commitments, the Applicant sent out eight USBs containing Proposed Development Section 47 consultation materials (including all PEIR information) following stakeholder requests. More than twenty pre-loaded USBs were taken home by members of the public from Section 47 consultation events.

## 8.11. **SECTION 47 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

8.11.1. Feedback to Stage Two consultation was accepted via the following online and offline methods:

- Hard copy feedback forms sent to the Proposed Development Freepost address;
- Submitted through the digital engagement platform via the Proposed Development website;
- Emailed to the Proposed Development inbox; and

- Sent via letter to the project Freepost address.

8.11.2. In total 1042 responses were received ahead of the deadline of 04 August 2022, as shown in Table 21. Six responses were provided after the deadline and duly regarded by the Applicant meaning that a total of 1048 Section 47 responses were received to the Stage Two consultation. Section 47 comments are summarised in Chapter 11 of this Consultation Report and recorded and responded to in Appendix 4.

**Table 21: Total Amount of Section 47 Stage Two Feedback Received by the Applicant**

Feedback Type	Breakdown	Amount Received
Feedback Form	Digital	270
	Hard copy (Freepost)	20
	Hard copy (Events)	12
	Hard copy (Scanned and submitted via email)	2 (incl. 1 late)
Communications lines	Project inbox (Emails)	736 (incl. 5 late)
	Freepost address	8
Total		1048

## 8.12. STAGE TWO SECTION 47 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION EVENTS

8.12.1. The Section 47 community consultation commenced on 26 May 2022 with a response deadline of 04 August 2022.

8.12.2. In response to comments received to the SoCC, a Saturday event was included in the Stage Two Section 47 consultation events to enable commuters arriving home in the late evening during the week to attend during the weekend. Webinar events held online and with a range of hours also helped maximise public accessibility to events. The venue for

the weekend was chosen as Essendine, which was suggested as part of the draft SoCC feedback and was the most attended event during the stage one Section 47 consultation events as shown in Table 22.

- 8.12.3. In compliance with the SoCC, Section 47 consultation events took place between 17 June and 05 July 2022 as detailed in Table 22. As discussed and agreed in consultation with local authorities on the draft SoCC (further detailed in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report) four sites were selected at key locations throughout the core consultation area, for in-person consultation events during which the Applicant received twelve hard copy feedback forms provided by Section 47 consultees. The two online community webinar events were held via Zoom, during which members of the public were able to join at any point via telephone or internet.

**Table 22: Attendance at Stage Two Community Consultation Events**

<b>Event details</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
Friday 17 June 2022 from 11 am to 1 pm, on Zoom	19
Saturday 25 June 2022 from 11 am to 5 pm at Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford, PE9 4LQ	62
Wednesday 29 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm at Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford, PE9 2DR	43
Thursday 30 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm at Greatford Village Hall, Carlby Road, Greatford, PE9 4PR	86
Friday 01 July 2022 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm at Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford, PE9 4HR	88
Tuesday 05 July 2022 from 6 pm to 8 pm on Zoom	23



Event details	Attendees
Total attendees	321

**Figure 6: Photograph of Community Consultation Event at Stamford Town Hall on Wednesday 29 June 2022**



8.12.4. All materials were available on the Proposed Development website. The following Proposed Development information was available at the Stage Two Section 47 events on display and/or to take away (available in Appendix 9.2):

- Community Consultation Leaflet (copies to take away)
- Main Consultation Document (copies to take away);

- Feedback Form (copies to take, feedback form also available online);
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR);
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report Non-Technical Summary (PEIR NTS);
- Draft Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Employment Plan (copies to take away);
- Selection of Maps showing key PEIR Plans and Figures (certain copies to take away);
- Indicative cross-sections showing illustrations of the Proposed Development from worm's-eye view;
- Photomontages showing visualisations of the Proposed Development from various viewpoints;
- Consultation event display boards;
- Statement of Community Consultation (copies to take away) (shown in Appendix 6.4).

8.12.5. Following the four in-person Section 47 events, the Applicant fulfilled a number of individual stakeholder requests put forth to various members of the team. The Applicant fulfilled the following requests:

- Four requests for site visits and/or individual meetings with the project team;
- One request for hard copies of two PEIR Plans and Figures;

- One request for a digital copy of the Draft Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan;
- One request for Proposed Development information on the EIA topic of Ecology and Biodiversity;
- One request for personal Applicant confirmation of Section 47 feedback receipt.

8.12.6. Two community webinar sessions were held during Stage Two consultation. These were held on the Zoom platform and were accessible to any party interested in the consultation, who could join and drop off at any time in the session, via either the phone or online. The Applicant published a step-by-step guide to accessing online webinar events (see Appendix 9.2.12) on the Proposed Development website and promoted this alongside Section 47 event details to further maximise accessibility. In total there were 42 attendees to community webinar events.

8.12.7. During each session, the Applicant's team presented key display materials regarding the Proposed Development and responded to questions and comments posed by the public in the live Q&A box. The total amount of questions/comments received and responded to during the Section 47 online community events is shown in Table 23 and are listed in Appendix 9.2.15. Questions and comments made in the Q&A box by members of the public could be viewed by all webinar attendees for the duration of the live session, helping maximise transparency of the consultation process.

**Table 23: Q&A Report at Stage Two Community Consultation Online Events**

<b>Digital event details</b>	<b>Questions and comments received</b>	<b>Responded live by the Applicant</b>
Friday 17 June 2022 from 11 am to 1 pm, on Zoom	54	45
Tuesday 05 July 2022 from 6 pm to 8 pm on Zoom	143	99
<b>Total</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>144</b>

8.12.8. The Applicant published recordings of the two webinar events, as shown in Appendix 9.2.13, on the Proposed Development website, enabling those who may not have been able to attend or who would like to review the session to access the live presentation made by the project team and the Q&A portion where team members responded to questions posed by the public. The Applicant also published follow-up responses to unanswered questions from these two webinar sessions on the Proposed Development website, along with the presentation slides used for the session.

## Figure 7: Proposed Development Webpage comprising Post-webinar Information

This page provides updates on our consultation activities and information on how you can get in touch with the Mallard Pass Solar Farm team.

### **Our Stage Two Statutory Consultation is running for 10 weeks, taking place between Thursday 26 May 2022 and Thursday 04 August 2022.**

#### To provide your feedback to our consultation, you can:

- Complete our online feedback form, which is identical to the hardcopy. Please [click here](#) to access the online version of our questionnaire.
- Return a hardcopy feedback form to **FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm**, free of charge (no need for a stamp). This can also be scanned and submitted to us via email to [info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk](mailto:info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk). Please [click here](#) to view, download and print the hard copy.
- Tell us your comments by contacting us by email at [info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk](mailto:info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk).

**Our Stage Two events are an opportunity for you to view our updated proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, see the project team and provide your feedback. Thank you to all who attended our Stage Two exhibition events.**

- Friday 17 June 2022 from 11 am to 1 pm – Webinar event. [You can watch the recording back by clicking here.](#)
- Saturday 25 June 2022 from 11 am to 5 pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford, PE9 4LO
- Wednesday 29 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm – Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford, PE9 2DR
- Thursday 30 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm – Greatford Village Hall, Carby Road, Greatford, PE9 4PR
- Friday 01 July 2022 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford, PE9 4HR
- Tuesday 05 July 2022 from 6 pm to 8 pm – Webinar event. [You can watch the recording back by clicking here.](#) To view our presentation slides, [please click here.](#)

Please click [here](#) for a detailed step-by-step guide for how to access our community webinars, along with webinar links and telephone dial-in details.

You can also visit our virtual exhibition, which contains all the same information as presented at our events. [Please click here to view and explore our Stage Two virtual exhibition.](#)

- 8.12.9. During all six information events, the Applicant's team across the relevant disciplines, including consultants from key environmental disciplines, were on hand to explain the Proposed Development and answer questions from members of the local community in attendance.
- 8.12.10. As set out in Table 22, 321 people attended the Stage Two Section 47 community consultation events.
- 8.12.11. As set out in Table 21, the Applicant received 1048 responses to the Stage Two Section 47 community consultation. This includes 6 submissions past the deadline of 04 August 2022. Section 47 feedback is summarised in Chapter 11 of this Consultation Report and all full responses are recorded and responded to in Appendix 4.2.

### 8.13. **STAGE TWO SECTION 47 CONSULTATION EVENT PUBLICITY**

- 8.13.1. In addition to the publication of the SoCC on 19 May 2022 as discussed in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report, the consultation events were publicised the following ways:
- A Community Consultation Leaflet (see Appendix 9.2) was issued to over 13,300 properties and local businesses across the core consultation area on 26 May 2022, three weeks ahead of the events;
  - Information posters were sent to 106 Local Information Points across the consultation area. Posters were laminated and packed in hygienic conditions to reduce the risk of Covid-19;
  - Direct digital notifications were provided to MPs, elected representatives, Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings, Community Groups, Seldom Heard Groups, and the nearly 400

individuals signed up to the digital mailing list; The consultation event details were posted on the Proposed Development website (as shown in Appendix 9.3);

- Social media updates via Twitter were shared, promoting event and consultation details to both the core and wider consultation zones (see Appendix 9.4);
- Adverts were placed across local media (Advert shown in Appendix 9.4);
- Poster advertising the Section 47 consultation event details was published on the Proposed Development website for any interested parties to download, print and use as a means of further publicity; and
- A press release was issued to over 70 local and industry media outlets and 120 contacts across these organisations (outlets that published features and editorial stories are detailed in Appendix 10.6).

8.13.2. The Applicant made hard copy Section 47 consultation materials (including the PEIR and PEIR NTS) publicly available at three CAP sites in the consultation area (listed in Table 19), and information posters (shown in Appendix 9.4.5) publicising the consultation events and programme were directly sent to 106 Local Information Points for these to be advertised to members of the local community. The Applicant publicised CAP site locations in the:

- SoCC;
- Community Consultation Leaflet (directly distributed to 13,328 addresses);

- Section 47 notice (as detailed in Chapter 8 of this Consultation Report);
- Section 48 notice (as detailed in Chapter 10 of this Consultation Report);
- Digital notifications directly provided to Section 47 consultees and a number of Section 42 consultees (as outlined in Appendix 9).

8.13.3. The Applicant also publicised the Section 47 consultation via email to Section 42(1)(b) consultees, including Local Planning Authorities under Section 43, as well as Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings. This Section 42 engagement is further detailed in Chapter 9 of this Consultation Report. The Applicant directly publicised the statutory consultation period and events by providing a digital notification at the start of the Section 47 consultation, on 26 May 2022, to Section 42 consultees as listed in Appendix 3 including MPs, Section 43 Local Planning Authorities, and host and neighbouring Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings.

**Table 24: Section 42 Recipients of Section 47 and Section 42 consultation launch notification**

<b>Section 42 Consultees</b>
Alicia Kearns MP (Rutland and Melton)
Gareth Davies MP (Grantham and Stamford)
South Kesteven District Council (local authority 'B')
Rutland County Council (local authority 'B')
Lincolnshire County Council (local authority 'C')
Essendine Parish Council (host)
Ryhall Parish Council (host)
Little Casterton Parish Council (host)



<b>Section 42 Consultees</b>
Carlby Parish Council (host)
Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Parish Council (host)
Greatford Parish Council (host)
Stamford Town Council (host)
Bainton and Ashton Parish Council (neighbouring)
Baston Parish Council (neighbouring)
Great Casterton Parish Council (neighbouring)
Careby, Aunby and Holywell Parish Meeting (neighbouring)
Barholm and Stowe Parish Meeting (neighbouring)
Uffington Parish Council (neighbouring)
Castle Bytham Parish Council (neighbouring)
Pickworth Parish Meeting (neighbouring)
Bourne Town Council (neighbouring)
Witham on the Hill Parish Council (neighbouring)
Thurlby and Obthorpe Parish Council (neighbouring)
Little Bytham Parish Council (neighbouring)
Tallington Parish Council (neighbouring)
Toft, Lound and Manthorpe Parish Council (neighbouring)
West Deeping Parish Council (neighbouring)
Langtoft Parish Council (neighbouring)
Barnack Parish Council (neighbouring)

8.13.4. The Applicant digitally engaged with seldom heard groups and community groups for the purposes of the Stage Two Section 47 consultation by contacting these via email on three separate occasions,

ensuring the statutory consultation was well publicised to these additional Section 47 consultees. The Applicant engaged with these groups as detailed in Table 25.

**Table 25: Digital Engagement with Additional Section 47 Consultees**

Purpose of engagement	Date of engagement
To encourage groups to share any additional ways the Applicant may be able to consult with, help provide information to, and gather feedback from, organisation members) (see Appendix 9.3)	18 May 2022
To notify groups of Section 47 consultation launch and encourage them to share Stage Two details on the organisations' internal newsletters, social media platforms, mailing lists or however they saw fit) (see Appendix 9.3)	26 May 2022
To notify groups of Section 47 consultation close and encourage them to share Stage Two details with organisation members) (see Appendix 9.4.10)	28 July 2022

8.13.5. To support organisations sharing consultation information, the Applicant provided links to PDF copies of materials advertising the details of the Stage Two Section 47 consultation events for the organisations to share if desired. A copy of the covering email sent to seldom heard and community groups can be found also be found in Appendix 9.3.

8.13.6. The Applicant publicised the consultation to individuals signed up to the digital mailing list four times during the Section 47 consultation (see

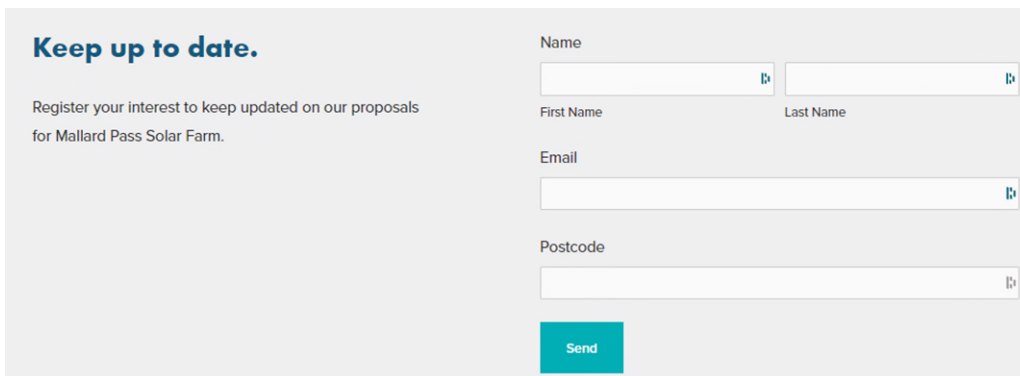
Appendix 9.3), along with earlier engagement as detailed in Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report.

8.13.7. Throughout the Stage Two Section 47 consultation, fourteen individuals signed up to the digital mailing list through the Proposed Development website (as shown in Figure 8). As detailed in Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report, 109 individuals registered to the digital mailing list via the Proposed Development website. At the launch of the Section 47 consultation, this mailing list comprised 387 individuals, which grew to 394 by 02 August 2022 when the Applicant provided the last notification regarding the close of Stage Two. Seven more individuals signed up before the 04 August 2022 deadline, totalling 401 individual Section 47 consultees forming part of the Applicant’s digital mailing list. As of DCO submission, there are 406 individuals signed up to the Proposed Development digital mailing list.

**Table 26: Digital notifications provided to mailing list**

<b>Notification of</b>	<b>Date</b>
Section 47 consultation launch	26 May 2022
Six weeks since launch, four weeks to close	23 June 2022
Eight weeks since launch, two weeks to close	21 July 2022
Ten weeks since launch, two days to close	02 August 2022

**Figure 8: Screenshot of digital mailing list sign-up webpage on Proposed Development website**



**Keep up to date.**

Register your interest to keep updated on our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

Name

First Name Last Name

Email

Postcode

Send

## Figure 9: Example of digital mailing list notification of the Stage Two Statutory Section 47 Consultation

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk  
Sent: 26 May 2022 18:18  
To: info@mallardpassolar.co.uk  
Subject: R.e: Mallard Pass Solar Farm Statutory Consultation Launch.

Thank you for having registered your interest to keep up to date with our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

We are pleased to announce that today (Thursday 26 May 2022), the Stage Two consultation on Mallard Pass is beginning. The consultation period will run for ten weeks, until Thursday 04 August 2022.

During this time, the Mallard Pass project team will be presenting more developed plans for the solar farm. The updated proposals have been informed by Stage One feedback and the results of environmental surveys and assessments. This more detailed design includes suggested mitigation and enhancement measures for the proposed area, which include residential 'buffer zones', the creation of 108 hectares of wildflower and tussock grassland areas, and the introduction of 4.7 kilometres of new permissive paths. Since Stage One, the proposed area for solar panels and infrastructure has decreased by over 100 hectares. More information regarding the Stage Two proposals for Mallard Pass can be found at [www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk](http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk).

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to generate around 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy to provide reliable, low-cost electricity to the national grid. The project will be located on either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine and has the potential to deliver enough energy to power the equivalent of 92,000 UK households, while considering the local environment and providing a biodiversity net gain.

In the coming weeks, we plan to hold a series of both in-person and digital exhibition events, providing opportunities for you to find out more and provide their feedback. There is no pre-registration required, and the event dates are as follows:

- Friday 17 June 2022 – 11 am to 1 pm – Webinar event
- Saturday 25 June 2022 – 11 am to 5 pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford, PE9 4LQ
- Wednesday 29 June 2022 – 3 pm to 8 pm – Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford, PE9 2DR
- Thursday 30 June 2022 – 3 pm to 8 pm – Greatford Village Hall, Carby Road, Greatford, PE9 4PR
- Friday 01 July 2022 – 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford, PE9 4HR
- Tuesday 05 July 2022 – 6 pm to 8 pm – Webinar event

Full details of all these events, including a step-by-step guide to accessing our webinars, can be found at [www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk](http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk).

The Mallard Pass Stage Two Statutory Consultation features the results from environmental studies and surveys that have been carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. These have been published in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and summarised in the PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS). These, as well as other Stage Two materials, are available for you to view, download and print at: [www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Documents](http://www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Documents).

These are also available to read and collect at the project's designated Community Access Points (CAP) sites in the local area. Please note that CAP site opening hours may vary as these are dependent on the organisation itself.

- Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ
  - (Opening hours Friday 10 June, 5 pm – 7 pm; Friday 17 June, 10 am – 12 pm. Venue to organise and publicise additional opening hours via local media.)
- Stamford Arts Centre, 27 St Mary's St, Stamford PE9 2DL
  - (Opening hours Monday – Saturday, 9 am – 10 pm.)
- Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford PE9 4HR
  - (Opening hours Monday – Friday, 9 am – 9 pm. Saturday - Sunday, 9 am – 12 pm.)

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team at the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Price



For and on behalf of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm.



Email: [info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk](mailto:info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk)  
Phone: 0808 196 8717  
Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

- 8.13.8. As detailed in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report, the Applicant published the Section 47 notice in the Rutland and Stamford Mercury on 20 May 2022, publicising a SoCC in accordance with Section 47(6) of the PA 2008, stating where and when the SoCC could be inspected by the public.
- 8.13.9. The Applicant also placed three advertisements across local media. The coverage area of the local newspapers in which the Applicant advertised is shown in Appendix 9.4. The coverage area demonstrates that the publicity activities were carried out in an area that covered and exceeded the consultation area for the Proposed Development ensuring that all interested parties were notified about the events. A full list of media outlets contacted as part of the Stage Two Section 47 consultation is listed in Appendix 10.6.

**Table 27: Advertising schedule for the Stage Two Section 47 community consultation events**

<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Publication dates</b>
The Rutland Times	26 May 2022
The Bourne Local	27 May 2022
Rutland and Stamford Mercury	27 May 2022

- 8.13.10. On 25 May 2022, the Applicant issued a press release (as shown in Appendix 9.4) to a total of 120 media outlets (64 local media outlets; 56 UK general trade / industry outlets). The press release included all Section 47 consultation event details and was published at the launch of the Section 47 consultation, on 26 May 2022. Table 28 shows features and editorial stories regarding the Section 47 consultation. A full list of media outlets contacted as part of the Stage Two Section 47 consultation is listed in Appendix 10.6.

**Table 28: Features and editorial stories regarding the Proposed Development's Stage Two Section 47 community consultation events**

<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Publication dates</b>
Rutland and Stamford Mercury	18 May 2022
Rutland and Stamford Mercury	22 May 2022
ReNews	25 May 2022
Rutland and Stamford Mercury	26 May 2022
BBC News	26 May 2022
Peterborough Telegraph	26 May 2022
Solar Power Portal	27 May 2022
Lincolnshire Live	01 June 2022

8.13.11. In accordance with the SoCC, the Applicant undertook further local media engagement throughout the Stage Two Section 47 consultation period to further promote Proposed Development information and the consultation programme and events. This additional local media engagement is detailed in Table 29.

**Table 29: Further media engagement undertaken by the Applicant throughout the Stage Two Section 47 consultation**

<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Purpose of contact</b>	<b>Date of contact by Applicant</b>
Peterborough Telegraph	Applicant request for correction (requesting use of latest map of Proposed Development)	26 May 2022

<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Purpose of contact</b>	<b>Date of contact by Applicant</b>
BBC Radio Lincolnshire	Written media statement	10 June 2022
Rutland and Stamford Mercury	Applicant request for correction (requesting updated links to Proposed Development website materials)	14 June 2022
SparkSpread Inframation	Written media statement	16 June 2022
BBC Radio Lincolnshire	Interview	17 June 2022
BBC East Midlands	Interview	23 June 2022
Rutland and Stamford Mercury	Written media statement	30 June 2022
Rutland and Stamford Mercury	Written media statement	21 July 2022

8.13.12. In response to SoCC feedback, the Applicant also contacted community newsletters and magazines in close proximity to the Proposed Development to help further promote the Section 47 consultation. The Applicant provided information regarding the Section 47 consultation along with direct links to the Proposed Development website, virtual exhibition, and digital engagement platform and encouraged outlets to share information with their members (as shown in Appendix 9.4). On 05 July 2022, the Applicant contacted:

- Village News (Coverage areas: Belmesthorpe; Essendine; Ryhall);
- Tower & Spires (Coverage areas: Barholm and Stowe; Braceborough; Tallington; Uffington; West Deeping; Wilsthorpe);



- Newsletter for Little and Great Casterton (Coverage areas: Little Casterton; Great Casterton); and
- Lincolnshire Life magazine.

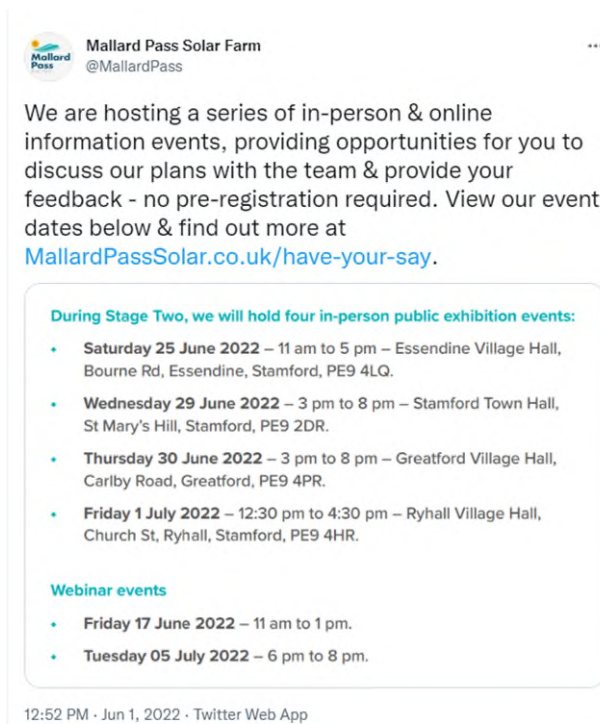
8.13.13. The Applicant also publicised the consultation on social media via Twitter, as detailed in the final SoCC (see Appendix 6.3). The Applicant made 25 social media posts on ten separate occasions (see Table 30) throughout the Section 47 consultation, further ensuring the consultation programme and Proposed Development information was publicised in the core and wider consultation zones and beyond. Please see Appendix 9.4.10 to view all social media posts published during the Section 47 consultation.

**Table 30: Twitter notification schedule publicising the Section 47 consultation**

<b>Twitter notification of</b>	<b>Date</b>
Start of Stage Two Section 47 consultation	30 May 2022
Event publicity	01 June 2022
Four weeks since launch, six weeks to close	23 June 2022
Event publicity	01 July 2022
Webinar video and presentation slides published	06 July 2022
Eight weeks since launch, two weeks to close	21 July 2022
Ten weeks since launch, two days to close	02 August 2022
Ten weeks since launch, 1 day to close	03 August 2022

Twitter notification of	Date
End of Stage Two Section 47 consultation	05 August 2022

**Figure 10: Examples of social media posts publicising Stage Two Section 47 consultation events**



**Mallard Pass Solar Farm**  
@MallardPass

We are hosting a series of in-person & online information events, providing opportunities for you to discuss our plans with the team & provide your feedback - no pre-registration required. View our event dates below & find out more at [MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say](https://MallardPassSolar.co.uk/have-your-say).

**During Stage Two, we will hold four in-person public exhibition events:**

- **Saturday 25 June 2022** – 11 am to 5 pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford, PE9 4LQ.
- **Wednesday 29 June 2022** – 3 pm to 8 pm – Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford, PE9 2DR.
- **Thursday 30 June 2022** – 3 pm to 8 pm – Greatford Village Hall, Carlby Road, Greatford, PE9 4PR.
- **Friday 1 July 2022** – 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford, PE9 4HR.

**Webinar events**

- **Friday 17 June 2022** – 11 am to 1 pm.
- **Tuesday 05 July 2022** – 6 pm to 8 pm.

12:52 PM · Jun 1, 2022 · Twitter Web App



8.13.14. 1042 written responses to the Stage Two Section 47 consultation and PEIR were received ahead of the consultation deadline of 04 August 2022. Six late responses were received. All comments were taken into consideration by the Applicant. The comments received are summarised in Chapter 11 of this Consultation Report and are shown in full in Appendix 4 together with how the feedback influenced the Proposed Development proposals and how the Applicant has responded to the feedback received.

8.14. **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FORMAL CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 47**

8.14.1. In summary, the Applicant fully complied with Section 47 of the PA 2008 because:

- The Applicant prepared the draft SoCC under Section 47(1);
- The Applicant consulted on the draft SoCC with all relevant local authorities as defined within Section 43(1) of the PA 2008 giving them each at least 28 days to respond (in accordance with Section 47(2) and (3));
- In preparing the final SoCC, the Applicant had regard to any responses received from the relevant local authorities during consultation on the draft SoCC under Section 47(5) (see Tables 15 and 16);
- The Applicant made the SoCC available for inspection by the public from 19 May 2022 on the Proposed Development website and in hard copies at CAP sites, in accordance with Section 47(6);
- The Applicant advertised the SoCC in the publications listed in Appendix 6 (under Section 47(6)(a));
- The Applicant commenced statutory consultation with the community through the publication of its SoCC on 19 May 2022 and in accordance with the SoCC (see Appendix 6.4), which also complied with the prescribed requirements in Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations (in accordance with Section 47(6)(b));
- The Applicant consulted with the community i.e. those persons defined under Section 47 of the PA 2008 as living in the vicinity of the land where the Proposed Development is over a core and wider

consultation zone (which was in accordance with the SoCC, in compliance with Section 47(7));

- In addition to those living within the consultation area for the Proposed Development, the Applicant identified and engaged with over 80 local community groups and held briefing meetings and engaged with locally elected representatives (which was in accordance with the SoCC, in compliance with Section 47(7));
- The Applicant held one statutory phase of Section 47 consultation in addition to the non-statutory round detailed in Chapter 4 of this Consultation Report (together comprising two rounds of community consultation events) to enable the iterative design of the Proposed Development in response to the consultation process (which was in accordance with the SoCC, in compliance with Section 47(7));
- The Applicant welcomed 321 people over its six Stage Two events, and over 520 people to its Stage Two virtual exhibition;
- The Applicant purposely ran the Stage Two Section 47 consultation in parallel to Section 42 consultation to invite responses from the community to the PEIR and PEIR NTS; and
- A total response period of 70 days was provided for the statutory Stage Two Section 47 consultation, going beyond the 28-day statutory requirement.

## 9.0 **STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE PA 2008 (MAY 2022 – AUGUST 2022)**

### 9.1. **INTRODUCTION**

9.1.1. This chapter of the Consultation Report details the statutory consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 ('Section 42 consultation') and provides an overview of the formal consultation activities that took place during the formal consultation period commencing 26 May 2022 and closing on 04 August 2022.

### 9.2. **STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE**

9.2.1. Section 42 of the PA 2008 requires that the Applicant must consult the following groups of stakeholders about the proposed Application:

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

9.2.2. Prescribed consultees are defined in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations. This also makes provision through a 'circumstances' test for whether there is a requirement to consult a specific party. Appendix 3.2 sets out which consultee prescribed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations. Regard was had to the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Three: EIA Notification and Consultation in identifying the consultation bodies. As the Proposed Development does not affect any

of the areas specified in S42(2), the applicant was not required to consult the MMO.

- 9.2.3. In addition to the prescribed consultees defined in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations, the Applicant included a further 4 non-prescribed organisations to be consulted as Section 42 consultees (see Appendix 3.2), which details those prescribed and additional non-prescribed consultees). All of these Section 42 consultees received the same Proposed Development information and were included in the same way in the Section 42 consultation as the Section 42 consultees identified by the Secretary of State.
- 9.2.4. In relation to Section 42(1)(b), the local authorities under the definitions set out in Section 43 of the PA 2008 were consulted, which sets out four categories of authority:
- 9.2.4.1 A is a neighbouring local authority that shares a boundary with a unitary council or lower-tier district B council within whose area development is situated;
- 9.2.4.2 B is either a unitary council or a lower-tier district council in which the development is situated – a host local authority;
- 9.2.4.3 C is an upper-tier county council in which the development is situated – a host local authority; and
- 9.2.4.4 D is either a unitary council or an upper tier county council which shares a boundary with a host C authority – a neighbouring local authority.
- 9.2.5. Details of the identification of the relevant local authorities and which category of authority they fall within is included in Table 14 of this Consultation Report.

- 9.2.6. Section 42(1)(c) of the PA 2008 is not relevant to the Proposed Development as no land element of the Proposed Development is within Greater London.
- 9.2.7. For the purposes of Section 42(1)(d), a person is within Section 44 of the PA 2008 if the Applicant knows, after making diligent inquiry, that the person is an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of the land (Category 1 persons, as per section 44(1)); is interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or release the land (Category 2 persons, section 44(2)); or is entitled to make a relevant claim (Category 3 persons, section 44(4)).
- 9.2.8. The relevant persons defined under Section 44 of the PA 2008 were consulted as part of the Section 42 consultation between 26 May 2022 and 04 August 2022. The list of land interests is presented in the Book of Reference [EN010127/APP/4.3]. In parallel to the Section 42 consultation, those consultees identified under Section 44 were engaged by the Applicant's land agents through requests for responses to a landowner questionnaire and request to meet.
- 9.2.9. Section 45(1) of the PA 2008 states that the Applicant, when consulting a stakeholder under Section 42, must provide notification of the deadline for responses to the consultation. Section 45(2) states that such a deadline must not be less than 28 days, beginning the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents. The Applicant gave Section 42 consultees a notification period of 73 days (from 23 May to 04 August 2022) for consultation responses. The Applicant accepted and had regard to the four late responses received past the deadline. The Applicant received a total of 51 responses from Section 42 consultees during the statutory period of consultation.



### 9.3. **PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT**

- 9.3.1. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) were produced as the statutory consultation documents for the Section 42 consultation (and also made available for the parallel Stage Two Section 47 statutory consultation).
- 9.3.2. The PEIR comprised of the information specified in Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations, which has been compiled with by the Applicant and is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the Proposed Development.
- 9.3.3. The PEIR NTS was produced, recognising that some Section 42 consultees may wish to view a more easily digestible and accessible document.

### 9.4. **SECTION 42 CONSULTEES**

- 9.4.1. The Applicant consulted all Section 42 consultees and Appendix 3.2 lists the Section 42 consultees for the Proposed Development.
- 9.4.2. Where consultees were identified as both Section 42 and Section 44, any feedback provided has been included in the Section 42 consultation responses identified in Chapter 12 of this Consultation Report.

### 9.5. **SECTION 44 CONSULTEES**

- 9.5.1. As identified under Section 42(1)(d), the Applicant must consult with the relevant persons defined under Section 44 of the PA 2008. The full list of Section 44 consultees is listed in the Book of Reference [EN010127/APP4.3] The Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought [EN010127/APP/4.4].
- 9.5.2. The Applicant sought to identify the section 42(1)(d) consultees by diligent inquiry before the statutory consultation commenced. The list of land interests is presented in the Book of Reference

[EN010127/APP/4.3] (hereafter referred to in this Consultation Report as 'Section 44 consultees').

- 9.5.3. Where owners, lessees, tenants or occupiers were unknown, the Applicant placed notices detailing the consultation at the relevant locations around the Proposed Development site area. These notices were installed on 26 May 2022 and removed on 07 August 2022, therefore being on display for a 73-day (ten-week) period.
- 9.5.4. An example of the notice and a map showing the locations where the notices were placed is included in Appendix 11.7 of this Consultation Report. During the consultation period, the signs were checked on a weekly basis, with photographs taken on each visit. If a notice was damaged or missing it was replaced during these visits.
- 9.5.5. All persons consulted with under section 42(1)(d) are listed in the Book of Reference [EN010127/APP/4.3] which is up to date at the time of submitting the Application for the DCO. It is noted that the list of section 42(1)(d) consultees may be subject to change over time, as a result of changes in land ownership.
- 9.5.6. The Applicant consulted with landowners as part of the Section 42 consultation between 26 May 2022 and 04 August 2022. The Applicant informed the Section 44 consultees of the consultation:
- 9.5.7. Landowner knowledge and feedback was critical in shaping the final design for the Project and this was demonstrated by a number of iterations, with feedback sought on the proposal as the preferred design emerged.
- 9.5.8. The following correspondence was issued to Landowners to which it related. All parties were given at least the 28 day minimum period to

respond, even where this resulted in a deadline later than 04 August and the close of Stage Two statutory consultation:

**Table 31: Summary of Correspondence issued to Landowners**

<b>Document Type</b>	<b>Date and Reasoning</b>
Land Interest Questionnaires	18 May 2022 LIQ's issued to parties within the Order Limits identified during initial Her Majesty's (HMLR) Land Registry interrogations
S42 (44) notices	23 May 2022 S42 notices issued to parties within the Order Limits identified during initial HMLR interrogations.
Category 3 Land Interests letter	15 June 2022 Sent to all parties identified that may have been able to make a potential claim in relation to section 10 Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 and section 152(3) of the Planning Act 2008.
Subsoil Interest letter relating to properties adjacent to highway within the Proposed Development boundary	17 June 2022 S42 notice issued to parties with land interests adjacent to highways within the order limits.

<b>Document Type</b>	<b>Date and Reasoning</b>
Letter to unknown occupiers of residential properties adjacent to Stamford Road	22 June 2022 S42 notices sent to unregistered properties adjacent to the highways within the order limits.
Letter to Newly Identified Party – Mines and Minerals	04 August 2022 S42 notice issued to a newly identified mines and minerals interest. This party was given 28 days to respond.
Letter to Newly Identified Parties	16 August 2022 S42 notice issued to parties identified after an amendment to the order limits. These parties were given 28 days to respond.
Additional Subsoil Parties – Bourne Road	13 September 2022 S42 notice issued to parties, that had not yet been notified, with land interests adjacent to highways within the order limits. These parties were given 28 days to respond.

9.5.9. A full record of correspondence and engagement with Landowners within and in close proximity to the Proposed Development can be found in the Book of Reference [EN010127/APP/4.3] and the Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought [EN010127/APP/4.4].

9.5.10. In total, the Applicant received 2 responses from Section 44 consultees to the Stage Two statutory Section 42 consultation. The responses to the Section 44 consultees can found in Appendix 5.3.

## 9.6. **SECTION 43 CONSULTEES**

9.6.1. As identified under Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, the Applicant must consult with the relevant persons defined under Section 43 of the PA 2008. The full list of Section 43 consultees is listed in Table 14.

9.6.2. In addition to the Section 43 consultees outlined in Table 14, the Applicant engaged with Peterborough City Council owing to the core consultation zone slightly extending into their administrative boundaries. As a small number of its constituents would be receiving direct communications regarding the Proposed Development, the Applicant felt it appropriate to consult with Peterborough City Council on the draft SoCC as part of preparation for statutory Stage Two consultation. To view the comments made along with the Applicant's response, please see Tables 15 and 16 in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report.

## 9.7. **DUTY TO NOTIFY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE OF THE PROPOSED APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 46 OF THE PA 2008**

9.7.1. Prior to commencing Section 42 consultation, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State of its intention to submit an application for development consent for the Proposed Development under Section 46 of the PA 2008. The notification was sent to the Planning Inspectorate electronically on 20 May 2022, including the following attachments (found in Appendix 2):

- Section 46 cover letter
- Plan showing the location of the Proposed Development
- A link to an electronic copy of PEIR;

- A link to an electronic copy of the PEIR NTS;
- Copy of Section 48 Notice
- Record of consultation materials sent to Section 42 consultees.

9.7.2. The Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State acknowledged receipt of the notification on 23 May 2022.

## 9.8. **UNDERTAKING SECTION 42 CONSULTATION**

9.8.1. All Section 42 consultees were formally written to and notified by recorded post at the commencement of the Section 42 consultation on 23 May 2022. The same notification documents were also provided to all Section 42 consultees via email on 26 May 2022 (available in Appendix 3) :

- Section 42 cover letter
- Plan showing the location of the Proposed Development;
- Copy of Section 48 Notice.
- A link to all consultation materials, including the PEIR, PEIR NTS, Consultation booklet, consultation leaflet and consultation feedback form.

9.8.2. The PEIR constituted a Section 42 consultation document under Section 45(3) of the PA 2008. The Section 42 cover letter also stated that all documents were available on the project website and provided a link to this resource.

9.8.3. With the Section 42 consultation period commencing on 26 May 2022 and ending on 04 August 2022, this provided a response period of 70

days (therefore exceeding the minimum 28-day statutory period set out in Section 45(2) of the PA 2008).

- 9.8.4. The Applicant identified thirteen Section 42 consultees who may not have received mail from Royal Mail on 23 May 2022 and therefore contacted these via alternative means to ensure these had been properly notified. These consultees along with the contact method and date are listed below in Table 32. All consultees were given the 28 day statutory period to respond.

**Table 32: Additional Section 42 consultees who may not have received mail on 23 May 2022 and were contacted via alternative means:**

Section 42 consultee	Contact method	Date
Electricity Northwest Limited	Phone	15 June 2022
	Email	30 June 2022
INOVYN	Email	05 July 2022
	Email	05 July 2022
	Phone	05 July 2022
	Phone	06 July 2022
	Post	06 July 2022
Energy Assets Pipelines	Phone	15 June 2022
	Email	30 June 2022
	Email	01 July 2022
Carlby Parish Council	Phone	15 June 2022
East Midlands Ambulance Service	Email	01 July 2022
Lincolnshire County Council	Phone	15 June 2022

Section 42 consultee	Contact method	Date
Homes England	Email	01 July 2022
Stamford Town Council	Phone	15 June 2022
Humbly Grove Energy Services Limited	Email	01 July 2022
Royal Mail Group	Phone	04 July 2022

9.8.5. Following the Section 42 consultation, it was recognised that additional consultees in Table 32 may not been consulted. Therefore, under Section 42, these consultees were formally notified of the consultation and PEIR on the dates shown and a consultation deadline of granted (allowing the statutory 28 days consultation period). A statutory consultation deadline was provided, rather than the 70-day period given to other Section 42 consultees.

9.8.6. In total 47 responses were received from Section 42 consultees by the deadline of 04 August 2022. Four late responses were received, which the Applicant still had regard to. All comments received are recorded in Appendix 5 with the Applicant's response. An overview of the Section 42 feedback and Applicant's response is provided in Chapter 12 of this Consultation Report.

## 9.9. **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FORMAL CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 42**

9.9.1. In summary, the Applicant fully complied with Sections 42, 44, 45 and 46 of the PA 2008:

- The Applicant consulted with such persons as may be prescribed (Sections 42(1)(a) – (d)) and relevant to the Proposed Development, including landowners under Section 44;



- A number of additional non-prescribed consultees were scoped in as Section 42 consultees;
- Notification of the Proposed Development under Section 46 was provided to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate on 20 May 2022; and
- Notification of the Proposed Development was provided to Section 42 consultees on 23 May 2022, providing a 73-day notification period and a total response period of 70 days, exceeding the statutory period of 28 days.

## 10.0 **STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 48 OF THE PA 2008 (26 MAY 2022 – 04 AUGUST 2022)**

### 10.1. **INTRODUCTION**

10.1.1. This chapter details how the Applicant has complied with Section 48 of the PA 2008 (duty to publicise).

### 10.2. **STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDANCE**

10.2.1. Section 48 of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to publicise the proposed Application in the prescribed manner. A deadline for receipt of comments to the publicity must also be provided.

10.2.2. Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations sets out what the publicity under Section 48 of the PA 2008 should entail, which requires the publication of a notice in given publications, with requirements on the contents of such notice. Specifically, Regulation 4 requires an applicant to publish the notice for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers and once in a national newspaper. The Applicant placed notices in the London Gazette and The Guardian in addition to local publications.

10.2.3. Table 33 specifies the publications and timing of the Section 48 notice publication, including the national, local and the London Gazette.

10.2.4. Paragraph 41 of the DLUHC Guidance notes that publicity under Section 48 is an integral part of the community consultation process and where possible the advertisements in local newspapers should coincide with the beginning of consultation with communities under Section 47. The Applicant complied with this guidance. Details of publication in local papers can be found in Table 33.

10.2.5. For the Proposed Development, Section 48 publicity took place in parallel with the Stage Two Section 47 community consultation and

Section 42 consultation with the publication of PEIR. The parallel consultation process provided the same response times for the Section 47, 42 and 48 consultations, i.e. 26 May 2022 to 04 August 2022.

10.2.6. Evidence of compliance with the relevant legislation and guidance is provided in Appendix 1.

### 10.3. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

10.3.1. The Section 48 notice (available in Appendix 2.4) publicising the Development and advertising the intention to apply for a DCO was placed in the publications listed in Table 33 (specified dates varied due to different publication dates).

10.3.2. All consultees identified under Section 42 of the PA 2008 were provided with a copy of the Section 48 notice as required by Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations.

10.3.3. Copies of the advertisements and notices, as placed, are provided at Appendix 8.

10.3.4. The Section 48 notice outlined required information under Regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations.

**Table 33: Publication schedule of Section 48 notice**

<b>Publication</b>	<b>1st Insertion</b>	<b>2nd Insertion (as required)</b>
Rutland and Stamford Mercury (local)	20 May 2022	27 May 2022
London Gazette (Online) (national)	19 May 2022	N/A
London Gazette (Print) (national)	20 May 2022	N/A

Publication	1st Insertion	2nd Insertion (as required)
The Guardian (national)	24 May 2022	N/A

10.3.5. In addition to the publications in Table 33, additional adverts were placed alongside Section 47 notices in The Rutland Times and Bourne Local.

10.3.6. The Applicant erected Section 48 notices around the Proposed Development area. The notice and locations for the notices are shown in Appendix 8. The Applicant checked the locations of the Section 48 notices throughout the consultation period, replacing any that had been removed.

#### 10.4. **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FORMAL CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 48**

10.4.1. In summary, the Applicant fully complied with Section 48 of the PA 2008:

- The Applicant publicised the Proposed Development in a single notice, and consecutive notices where required, in the publications listed in Table 33;
- The Applicant held the Section 48 consultation in parallel with the Section 42 consultation and Stage Two Section 47 consultation, notifying consultees of the PEIR and where the consultation documents could be reviewed; and
- The Applicant placed Section 48 notices around the Proposed Development Site area.

## 11.0 **STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 47 OF THE PA 2008 (MAY 2022 – AUGUST 2022): RESPONSES RECEIVED, ISSUES RAISED AND CHANGES MADE**

### 11.1. **INTRODUCTION**

11.1.1. This chapter of the Consultation Report sets out how the Applicant has complied with its duty under Section 49 of the PA 2008 to take account of consultation responses received under Section 47 of the PA 2008.

### 11.2. **STATUTORY SECTION 47 CONSULTATION (26 MAY 2022 – 04 AUGUST 2022) RESPONSES**

11.2.1. In response to Section 47 Statutory Consultation, the Applicant received 1097 responses. This includes 304 feedback forms, of which 34 responses were received via post or public exhibition events, 270 responses were provided via the consultation website, and 736 pieces of feedback via emails, and 8 pieces of feedback via letters, as detailed in Table 21.

11.2.2. The key issues arising from feedback received during this period and how the Applicant has had regard to this is outlined in Table 34 and Appendix 4.

11.2.3. The format of the feedback form included comprehensive questions regarding The Proposed Development. The full feedback form is reproduced in Appendix 9.2.

11.2.4. Feedback forms also included free-form spaces for consultees to provide qualitative data. All feedback responses to the Stage Two Statutory Consultation under Section 47, including how the Applicant has had regard to these responses under Section 49 of the PA 2008 are included in Appendix 4.

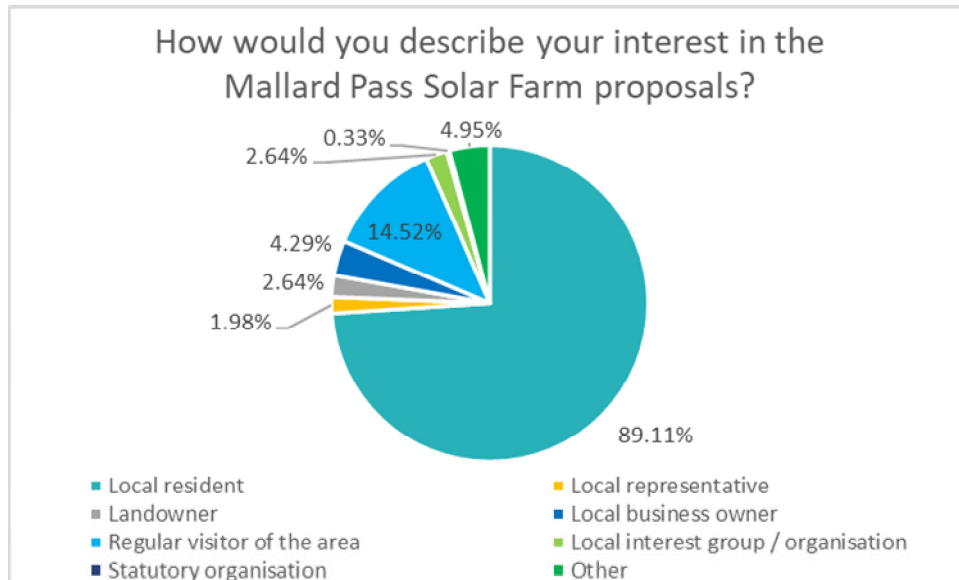
11.2.5. In summary:

- 89% of respondents were local residents;
- 50% of those who had attended the consultation events or visited our virtual exhibition via the consultation website filled in a feedback form;
- 53% of respondents found the virtual exhibition or consultation materials quite informative or very informative;
- 26% of responses either strongly supported or supported Mallard Pass Solar Farm;
- 49% of respondents agreed or partly agreed that the Applicant presented the right approach to mitigating visual and residential amenity impacts;
- 45% of respondents agreed or partly agreed that the Applicant presented the right approach to providing recreational opportunities;
- 49% of respondents agreed or partly agreed that the Applicant presented the right approach to providing ecological connectivity, enhancement, and mitigation; and
- Land use, agriculture, and recreation, ecology, traffic and transport wider scheme aspects, and visual impact were the most important issues to respondents.

### 11.3. **STATUTORY SECTION 47 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK ANALYSIS**

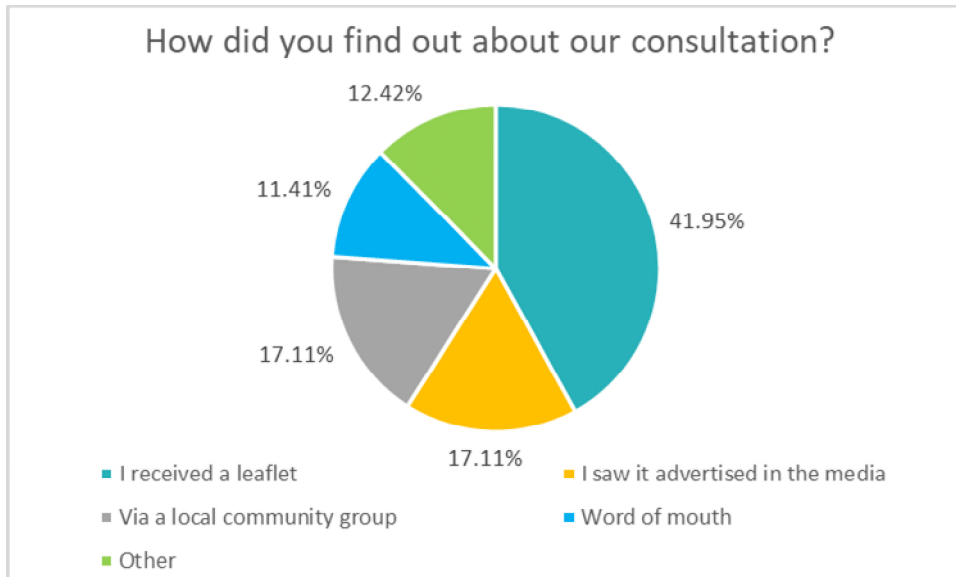
11.3.1. This following section provides quantitative analysis of feedback received from the Stage Two feedback forms. This quantitative analysis has come from closed, multiple-choice questions included in the feedback forms, and is set out in Figures 11-17 below.

**Figure 11: Responses to question regarding interest in Mallard Pass Solar Farm**

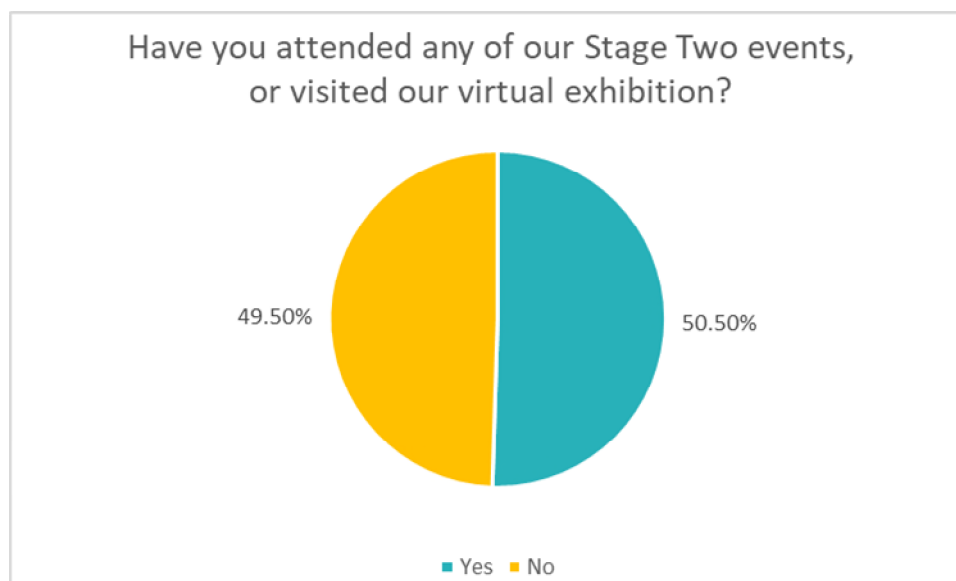


11.3.2. The sum of percentages in Figure 11 add up to 120.46% due to people falling into more than one category.

**Figure 12: Responses to question regarding how respondents found out about the consultation**

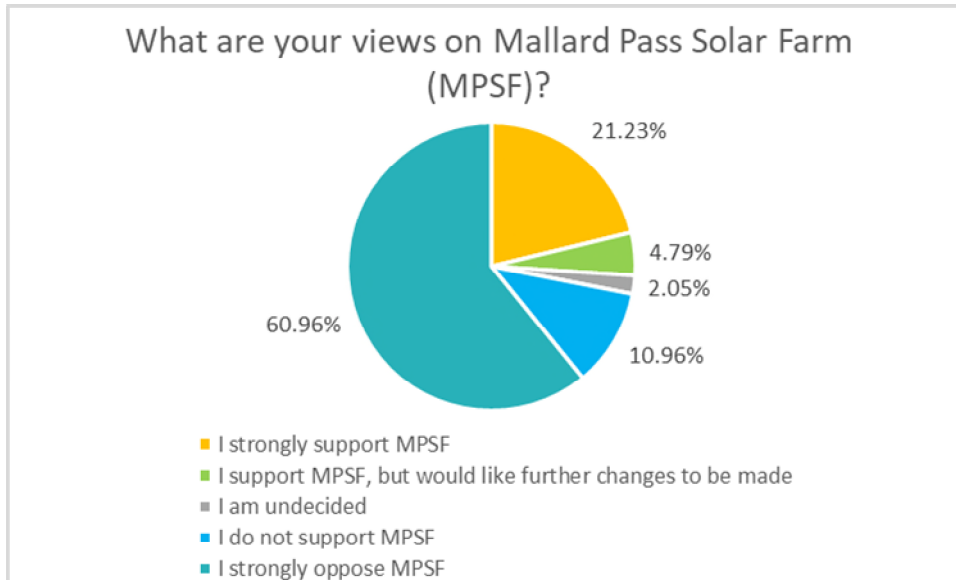


**Figure 13: Responses to question regarding whether respondents attended any of our Stage Two events, or visited the virtual exhibition**

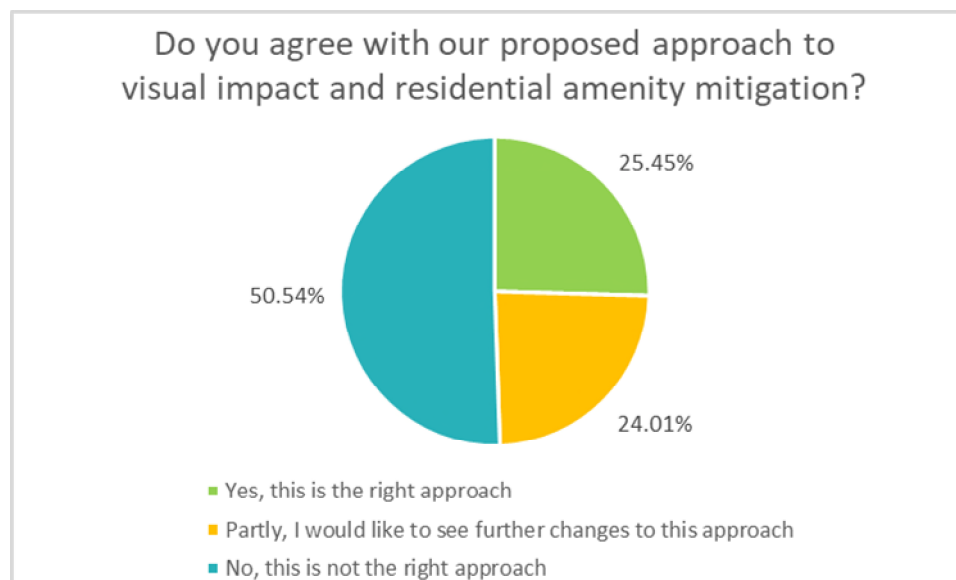




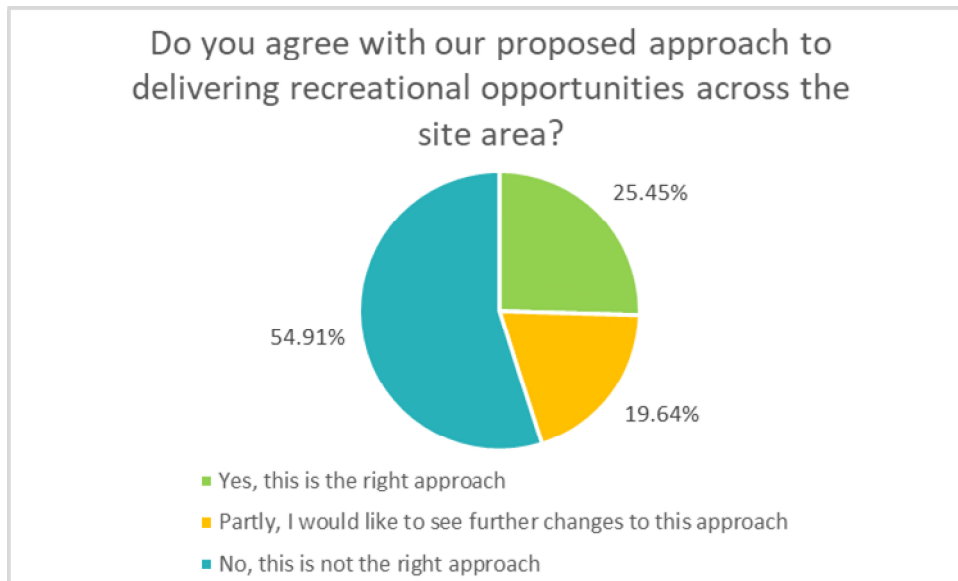
**Figure 14: Responses to question regarding opinions about Mallard Pass Solar Farm**



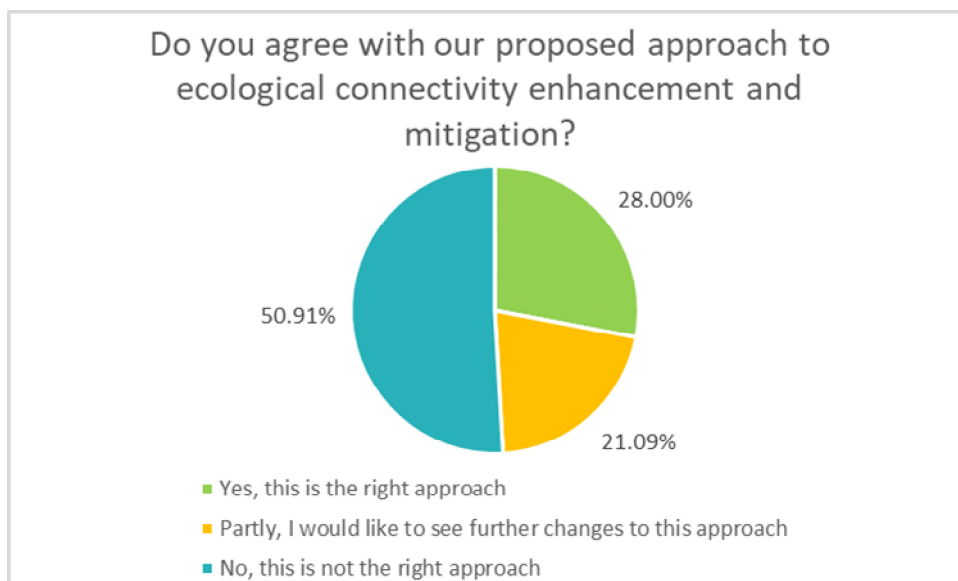
**Figure 15: Responses to question regarding approach to visual impact and residential amenity mitigation**



**Figure 16: Responses to question regarding approach to delivering recreational opportunities across the site area**



**Figure 17: Responses to question regarding approach to ecological connectivity enhancement and mitigation**



11.3.3. The following Table 34 provides a qualitative analysis and summary of the free form and written responses received to the Stage Two Statutory Consultation under Section 47, together with how the Applicant responded under Section 49 of the PA 2008..

11.3.4. Table 34 is a summary of key comments received from Section 47 stakeholders and the Applicant's response to each comment is addressed in full in Appendix 4.

**Table 34: Key comments received during Section 47 consultation and Applicant responses**

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Introduction</b>		
Concern regarding the supply chain of solar panels for the Proposed Development.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of the high volume of comments received about supply chain concerns.</p> <p>The Applicant recognises that communities and stakeholders want clear commitments that the technology used for the Proposed Development will be free from forced labour; this is why the Applicant has produced a clear Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan (OESSCEP) - that includes clear commitments on ethical procurement.</p> <p>As detailed in the OESSCEP, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.10]</b>, the Applicant wishes to ensure the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development is undertaken pursuant to an ethical procurement policy and that this is a legal obligation on anyone who has the powers under the DCO. That would be achieved by securing this Plan by a requirement of the DCO.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The Applicant proposed the following ethical procurement policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any potential supplier must participate in a modern slavery supplier due diligence exercise as part of the tender exercise;</li> <li>• Any potential supplier, whether or not they meet the statutory thresholds under section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, must publish annually a modern slavery and human trafficking statement;</li> <li>• The modern slavery and human trafficking statement must be informed by a risk assessment;</li> <li>• Any potential supplier must have a modern slavery policy;</li> <li>• Any potential supplier must provide relevant employees with modern slavery training that has been produced by a certified provider of such training;</li> <li>• Any contract to be entered into with a potential supplier must include the following warranties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The supplier has not been and is not engaged in any form of slavery, forced labour, labour exploitation or human trafficking anywhere in the world;</li> <li>○ The supplier pays and treats its workers in compliance with applicable employment laws and minimum wage requirements; and</li> <li>○ The supplier will take reasonable steps to prevent slavery and human trafficking in connection with its business anywhere in the world;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Any contract to be entered into with a potential supplier must include:</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An obligation on the part of the potential supplier to report any circumstances that give reasonable cause to suspect possible slavery, forced labour, labour exploitation or human trafficking in connection with its business anywhere in the world;</li> <li>○ A right of audit;</li> <li>○ A right to require an action plan to be initiated by the supplier in the event that the Applicant considers the controls implemented by the supplier to be inadequate; and</li> <li>○ A right of immediate termination in the event of any instances of slavery, forced labour, labour exploitation and human trafficking connected to the supplier.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.10]</b>.</p> <p>In addition to this, both Canadian Solar and Windel Energy have published clear statement son this topic, which strongly condemn the illegal practice of modern slavery or forced labour of any kind.</p> <p>These statements can be found using the following URLs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canadian Solar: <a href="https://www.canadiansolar.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/CEO-Statement-a-commitment-to-protect-against-modern-slavery-and-forced-labor.pdf">https://www.canadiansolar.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/CEO-Statement-a-commitment-to-protect-against-modern-slavery-and-forced-labor.pdf</a></li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Windel Energy: <a href="https://www.windelenergy.co.uk/windel-energy-make-statement-opposing-modern-slavery/">https://www.windelenergy.co.uk/windel-energy-make-statement-opposing-modern-slavery/</a></li> </ul> <p>Canadian Solar and Windel Energy have signed the Solar Energy UK Industry Supply Chain Statement, a UK-based industry-wide condemnation of all human rights abuses, including forced labour in the global supply chain.</p> <p>The UK Industry Supply Chain Statement can be found using the following URL: <a href="https://solarenergyuk.org/uk-industry-supply-chain-statement/?cn-reloaded=1">https://solarenergyuk.org/uk-industry-supply-chain-statement/?cn-reloaded=1</a></p>
Concerns regarding the impact of the Proposed Development in general.	No	<p>When operational, the Proposed Development will generate electricity from a renewable source and export this to the National Grid.</p> <p>When operational, the Proposed Development will generate electricity from a renewable source and export this to the National Grid. The Proposed Development is anticipated to have an installed capacity of 350 MWp, a capacity factor estimated at 10 % and would be available to operate for 8,760 hours per year. This means that the Proposed Development is anticipated to generate approximately 350,000 MWh of renewable electricity per year. The CO2 emissions of the Proposed Development would therefore be displaced within approximately 10.5 years, and all savings beyond that would be a net benefit of the Proposed Development to reducing climate change, relative to the baseline. Over</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>40 years, for example, the saving is estimated at approximately 1.9 million tonnes of CO2.</p> <p>The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other renewable energy developments, will contribute to the UK's aims to reduce carbon emissions and achieve its ambitious GHG emissions reduction targets. Therefore, this is considered to be a material, but non-fundamental, beneficial change to the UK's emissions of climate-changing GHG and is therefore a moderate benefit effect that is significant.</p> <p>In addition to this, the Statement of Need, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.1]</b>, outlines why the Proposed Development is needed to support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.</p>
Concerns regarding the ownership of the Proposed Development.	No	<p>At this current stage, the Applicant has no intention of selling the Proposed Development should the application be approved.</p> <p>However, in any event it is noted that breach of a DCO is a criminal offence.</p> <p>As such, any party in control of the development will be responsible for complying with the DCO in the face of that criminal liability.</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		Funding and company details in relation to the development are set out in the Funding Statement.
Concern regarding the experience of the Applicant.	No	<p>Windel Energy Ltd, founded in 2018, is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon, including solar, battery energy storage systems, onshore wind and green hydrogen technologies with projects ranging from 10MW to 320MW output across England and Wales. Windel Energy works closely with landowners, giving them the opportunity to diversify their income stream by leasing their land for solar development.</p> <p>Canadian Solar Inc is the development partner of Windel Energy. It was founded in 2001 in Canada and is one of the world's largest solar power companies. It is a leading manufacturer of PV Modules and provider of solar energy solutions and has a geographically diversified pipeline of utility-scale solar power projects in various stages of development. Over the past 19 years, Canadian Solar Inc has successfully delivered over 49 GW of premium-quality, PV Modules to customers in over 150 countries.</p> <p>The DCO will include requirements setting out how the construction and operation of the project must be undertaken. Breach of these matters would be a criminal offence.</p>
Concern regarding the reason behind the Proposed Development.	No	The Vision for the Proposed Development was development by the Applicant and the consultant team by combining the corporate mission and values of the Applicant with their aspirations for the project, whilst

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>reflecting the urgent need for the UK to transition to low carbon energy generation. Therefore, the Applicant’s vision for the Proposed Development is to deliver a project that:</p> <p>“Supports the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour”.</p> <p>The vision is underpinned by four objectives which are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decarbonise our electricity system</li> <li>• Increase the supply of low-cost energy</li> <li>• Address the biodiversity crisis</li> <li>• Respect and enhance features in the landscape and promote connectivity.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see the Statement of Need, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.1]</b>, for information on how the Proposed Development would make a significant contribution to the security, adequacy and dependability of the Great British electricity system.</p>
Concern regarding the Applicant’s insolvencies.	No	The Applicant has submitted a Funding Statement which sets out how the Proposed Development will be funded for delivery.
<b>EIA Topic Area: Need for the Proposed Development</b>		

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Comments in support of the Proposed Development.	No	The Applicant welcomes the support and agrees that the Proposed Development is urgently needed to meet the generational challenge of climate change.
Comments in objection to the Proposed Development.	No	<p>The Proposed Development supports the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, delivers reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, and will enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.</p> <p>For more information on the need for the Proposed Development, please refer to the Statement of Need <b>[EN010127/APP/7.1]</b> and our design proposals in the DAS <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b> and oLEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b>.</p>
Comments in relation to the British Energy Security Strategy.	No	<p>In the British Energy Security Strategy, it states, “with the sun providing enough daily energy to power the world 10,000 times over, solar power is a globally abundant resource.” This is also highlighted in Solar Energy UK’s briefing which states that solar works well everywhere in the UK, as solar panels do not need direct sunlight to operate, and therefore can produce power all year round.</p> <p>Their briefing continues to state the following: “Solar can already produce as much as 30% of UK electricity at different points in the year, and in 2020 provided more than 4% of the UK’s total supply. All UK solar markets are fully subsidy-free, and with strong growth forecast for the next decade, solar’s contribution to the UK’s clean electricity will</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		increase: if the UK achieves 40GW of solar capacity by 2030, solar could meet 15% of the UK's annual power needs. Even in winter, the technology is powerful and effective. For example, at one point in February 2022, solar was providing more than 20% of the UK's electricity."
<b>EIA Topic Area: Project Description</b>		
Concerns about scale of the Proposed Development.	Yes	<p>As set out in the Site Selection Report, the starting point for site selection was ensuring that there was sufficient land to service the Applicant's grid connection agreement with National Grid Electricity Transmission to export 240MW (AC) of clean power to the national grid via the Ryhall Substation.</p> <p>As such, the parameters applied for in this application (including the size of the Proposed Development) allow for a solar farm capable of generating up to 350MW (DC) to account for the normally applied factors in solar scheme development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Degradation of panels over time;</li> <li>2. Seasonal and daily variation of solar irradiance; and</li> <li>3. Loss of power in the conversion from AC to DC.</li> </ol> <p>This approach will ensure that Mallard Pass Solar Farm is able to optimise the available grid connection and generate as much clean power as possible each day and over its lifetime.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Using this as a starting point, the Applicant has sought to take account of the results of its assessment work (including understanding existing sensitive receptors and important ecological features), the Project Principles discussed in the Design and Access Statement, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b> and consultation feedback in presenting the scheme now submitted for consent.</p> <p>In particular it is noted that the Solar PV Site decreased from approximately 570 ha at Non-Statutory Consultation (Stage 1) to 463 ha at Statutory Consultation (Stage 2). The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to approximately 426ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining land within the Order Limits would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, as well as existing highways and other infrastructure, or proposed for mitigation and enhancement areas.</p> <p>The submission design incorporates the following amends as a result of the feedback received during this statutory consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further removal of solar development from the area to the east of Essendine, providing greater set back from the settlements.</li> <li>• Removal of solar development to the north of the Drift providing further offset to residential dwellings in the interests of visual amenity.</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of solar development from PRowWs at their entry / exit points where they meet roads or lanes.</li> <li>• Additional screening planting at a number of locations throughout the Site.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
Concerns about the height and size of solar panels.	No	<p>The DCO Application will seek to allow for flexibility that allows for different configurations of Solar PV Modules. The final elevations of the PV Modules will be influenced by various design factors such as local topography, and election of PV Module type and configuration. However, through Appendix 5.1 of the Environmental Statement, the Applicant has agreed to maximum parameters for the height and size of the panels, which are summarised below.</p> <p>The gap between the rows of Solar PV Tables will vary responding to the local topography but will have a minimum separation distance of 2 m, which will minimise effects of shadowing and to ensure optimal efficiency.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>There are two options being considered for the Mounting Structures, this includes Fixed South Facing (FSF) arrays which are orientated on an east-west axis, and Single Axis Tracker (SAT) arrays which are orientated on a north-south axis. The indicative elevations for Fixed South Facing and Single Axis Trackers are shown on Figure 5.2, of the ES.</p> <p>The FSF arrays will have a maximum height of 3.3m above ground level (AGL) at the rear, regardless of tilt angle, and a clearance of 0.8m at the front so not to restrict the movement of animals such as sheep. The SAT arrays will have a maximum height of 3.3m above ground level (AGL), regardless of tilt angle, and a clearance of 0.8m at the front.</p> <p>As outlined in Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, an East / West Solar PV Configuration (shown in Plate 1 of Chapter 4 of the ES) was discounted because, in comparison to the Fixed South Facing or Single Access Tracking, this configuration reduces the potential to deliver biodiversity gain and / or utilise the space</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>between the panels for grazing. The level of light reaching the ground beneath the panels would be significantly reduced due to the density and compactness of the east / west configuration. An East / West configuration over the same area would potentially generate an increased number of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) movements than Fixed South Facing or Single Access Tracking as the East / West configuration allows for a greater number of modules to be installed per unit area.</p>
<p>Concerns regarding the efficiency of solar panels.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant has also included two options for the Mounting Structures to allow some flexibility in the type of PV Technology to be used on the Site. This flexibility is in response to the many technological advancements and developments in the solar industry, helping us to ensure that we select the most efficient and best-suited technologies for the Proposed Development should DCO be approved.</p> <p>In addition, as outlined in the Design and Access Statement, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b>, the gap between the rows of PV Tables will have a minimum separation distance of 2m to minimise the effects of shadowing and to ensure optimal efficiency.</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>When operational, the Proposed Development will generate electricity from a renewable source and export this to the National Grid. The Proposed Development is anticipated to have an installed capacity of 350 MWp, a capacity factor estimated at 10% and would be available to operate for 8,760 hours per year. This means that the Proposed Development is anticipated to generate approximately 350,000 MWh of renewable electricity per year. Over 40 years, for example, the saving is estimated to be approximately 1.9 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.</p> <p>The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other renewable energy developments, will contribute to the UK's aims to reduce carbon emissions and achieve its ambitious GHG emissions reduction targets. Therefore, this is considered to be a material, but non-fundamental, beneficial change to the UK's emissions of climate-changing GHG and is therefore a moderate benefit effect that is significant.</p> <p>In regard to alternative renewable technologies, the parameters of the DCO Application will maintain a degree of flexibility to allow for the latest solar technology to be utilised at the time of construction. This is further</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		outlined in Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> . Therefore, to allow for changes in technology and efficiencies, both single axis and fixed have been considered within the ES.
Request for further reassurance on the eventual delivery of the scheme and effectiveness of technology.	No	<p>No decision has been taken on the delivery arrangements for the Proposed Development. In any event, it is important to note that breach of a DCO is a criminal offence. The Applicant would therefore be liable for such breaches; and thus, would take on contractors on that basis. If any contractual arrangements for passing on operations to any other parties were to be entered into, this would also be subject to this fundamental starting point unless the benefit of the DCO was transferred to a third party who would take on that liability. Any such transfer would be subject to the controls set out in the DCO <b>[EN010127/APP/3.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Applicant recognises the advancing nature of technology and has opted for a degree of flexibility to ensure the best and latest available technologies are utilised at the time of construction to maximise efficiency.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Concerns about who will manufacture the solar panels.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant has produced an Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan, [EN010127/APP/7.10], whereby the Applicant makes provision for the Proposed Development to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create opportunities for the improvement and employment of local skills; and</li> <li>• Engage in the ethical procurement of the supply chain.</li> </ul> <p>The Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan proposes how the Applicant will work with local stakeholders to achieve this. This includes focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The opportunities for the involvement of local companies in the construction and operation supply chain;</li> <li>• The ability of local residents to access employment opportunities associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Development; and</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ability of research organisations to use the site to enable research and innovation in the renewable energy sector.</li> </ul> <p>Please see Table 1.1 in the Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan for more details on how the Applicant proposes to work with the organisations set out in Table 1.1 to achieve these objectives.</p> <p>In addition, please see the Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.10]</b>, for information on the ethical procurement policy for the Proposed Development.</p>
<p>Concerns about the energy storage element of the Proposed Development and wished for more information on whether battery storage will be reintroduced in the proposal.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. Following the feedback received during non-statutory consultation and technical and commercial factors, the Applicant has decided to not include Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) as part of the Proposed Development. While the Applicant continues to recognise the importance of BESS in achieving the UK's decarbonisation and energy security needs, the Applicant has not brought this aspect forward as part of the DCO Application. Further information on the reasons why BESS has not been included as part of</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		the Proposed Development are included in the Planning Statement, [EN010127/APP/7.2].
Request for further justification as to why battery storage was omitted from the Proposed Development.	No	<p>Battery storage is not a part of the Proposed Development, and it is not being promoted through the DCO application for consent.</p> <p>Section 11.5 of the Statement of Need [EN010127/APP/7.1] describes that although collocation of solar and storage assets is beneficial, standalone solar (such as the Proposed Development) provide essential low-carbon electricity to the grid and not including storage capability as part of the Proposed Development does not detract from its core contribution to decarbonising the electricity network.</p> <p>The reasons for not including Battery storage as part of the Proposed Development are included in the Planning Statement, [EN010127/APP/7.2].</p>
Concerns about security arrangements for the Site, including fencing, cameras, and security lighting.	Yes	<p>The Proposed Development has adopted the following guidelines in relation to security, fencing, cameras, and lighting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 'deer fence', made out of wooden posts and metal wire mesh, will enclose the Solar PV Arrays. This will be up to 2m in height.</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCTV systems will be installed at a height of up to 3.5m around the perimeter of the PV Arrays. Infrared lighting will be used for the CCTV systems, which means no visible lighting will be used, except at the Substation.</li> <li>• The lighting of the Onsite Substation would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements.</li> <li>• There will be clearances above ground, or the inclusion of mammal gates to permit the movement of wildlife.</li> <li>• Perimeter fences will not be constructed through existing hedgerows or across ditches.</li> </ul> <p>These measures are secured through the Design Guidance <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b> and the outline LEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b> and OEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.7]</b> submitted with the application.</p> <p>For more information on the assesses maximum parameters for fencing and security CCTV, please see Appendix 5.1: Project Parameters, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b>.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>Concerns about the construction phase of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) provides information relating to the construction of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Likely significant effects have been identified through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and are reported in the Environmental Statement. A range of best practice mitigation and construction methodology measures will address the identified significant effects, and these will be implemented during construction of the Proposed Development. This oCEMP demonstrates how these measures will be implemented. It also sets out the monitoring activities designed to ensure that mitigation measures are carried out, and that they are effective.</p> <p>For more information, please see the oCEMP, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b>.</p> <p>As outlined in Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES (Section 5.1.61), <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, the electrical cabling will be required to connect the Solar Stations located to the east of the East Coast Main Line to the</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Onsite Substation which is located to the west of the East Coast Main Line. Three cable routes / methods are being considered, the location of which are shown on Figure 5.8:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Option 1 - cables would be run through the existing brick culverts underneath the East-Coast mainline and Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) underneath the West Glen River;</li> <li>2. Option 2 - HDD underneath the East Coast mainline and the West Glen River; or</li> <li>3. Option 3 - cables to be routed within the adopted highway and over the railway bridge within Essendine.</li> </ol> <p>At this stage, all three options are still being considered and therefore each of the environmental assessments have considered the environmental impacts of all three options.</p> <p>Table 5.9, in Chapter 5, of the ES, provides the basis of assessment for the onsite cabling.</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Concerns about decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development, including cost and recycling of solar panels.	No	<p>The Applicant is not seeking time limited consent for the Proposed Development, meaning that the operational life of the Proposed Development has not been specified within the DCO Application. However, it is recognised that the electrical infrastructure will have an operational lifespan. Therefore, all the solar infrastructure, including Solar PV Modules, mounting structures, cabling on or near the surface, inverters, transformers, switchgear, fencing, and ancillary infrastructure would be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice following the waste hierarchy, with materials being reused or recycled wherever possible. All waste will be disposed of in accordance with the legislation at the time of decommissioning.</p> <p>This will be secured through the agreement of a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan <b>[EN010127/APP/7.8]</b> with the local planning authority before such activities commence, as required by the DCO.</p>
Concerns about the carbon footprint of the Proposed Development	Yes	As part of the strategy to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions during the construction phase of the Proposed Development, the principal contractor will be required to adopt best practice measures to

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>control GHG emissions and associated impacts on climate change, such measures to be included in the CEMP will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Adopting the CCS (or its equivalent) to assist in the reduction of pollution, including GHG, from the Proposed Development by employing industry best practice measures. These will be listed in the CEMP (s);</li> <li>b. Encouraging the use of lower carbon modes of transport by identifying and communicating local bus services and pedestrian and cycle routes to and from the Order limits to all construction staff and providing facilities for the safe storage of cycles;</li> <li>c. Implementing a Travel Plan to reduce the use of private car journeys to the Order limits by construction staff and employees.</li> <li>d. Liaising with construction personnel for potential to implement staff minibuses and car sharing options;</li> <li>e. Requiring the principal construction contractor to report on fuel consumption and carbon footprint following the construction of the Proposed Development;</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. Prevent idling vehicles by switching vehicles and plant off when not in use and ensuring that all construction vehicles conform to current EU emissions standards;</li> <li>g. Conducting regular and planned maintenance of the construction plant and machinery to optimise efficiency;</li> <li>h. Increasing recyclability by segregating construction waste to be re-used and recycled where reasonably practicable;</li> <li>i. Disposing of construction waste locally where reasonably practicable to reduce emissions associated with transportation;</li> <li>j. Designing, constructing and implementing the Proposed Development in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and maximise the use of alternative materials with lower embodied carbon such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content where feasible; and</li> <li>k. Reusing site-won materials to minimise the use of natural resources and unnecessary materials (e.g. reusing excavated soil for fill requirements).</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>For more information, please see the oCEMP, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b>.</p> <p>As part of the strategy to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions during the construction phase of the Proposed Development, the principal contractor will be required to adopt best practice measures to control GHG emissions and associated impacts on climate change, such measures to be included in the CEMP will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Adopting the CCS (or its equivalent) to assist in the reduction of pollution, including GHG, from the Proposed Development by employing industry best practice measures. These will be listed in the CEMP (s);</li> <li>b. Encouraging the use of lower carbon modes of transport by identifying and communicating local bus services and pedestrian and cycle routes to and from the Order limits to all construction staff and providing facilities for the safe storage of cycles;</li> <li>c. Implementing a Travel Plan to reduce the use of private car journeys to the Order limits by construction staff and employees.</li> <li>d. Liaising with construction personnel for potential to implement staff minibuses and car sharing options;</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>e. Requiring the principal construction contractor to report on fuel consumption and carbon footprint following the construction of the Proposed Development;</p> <p>f. Prevent idling vehicles by switching vehicles and plant off when not in use and ensuring that all construction vehicles conform to current EU emissions standards;</p> <p>g. Conducting regular and planned maintenance of the construction plant and machinery to optimise efficiency;</p> <p>h. Increasing recyclability by segregating construction waste to be re-used and recycled where reasonably practicable;</p> <p>i. Disposing of construction waste locally where reasonably practicable to reduce emissions associated with transportation;</p> <p>j. Designing, constructing and implementing the Proposed Development in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and maximise the use of alternative materials with lower embodied carbon such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content where feasible; and</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>k. Reusing site-won materials to minimise the use of natural resources and unnecessary materials (e.g. reusing excavated soil for fill requirements).</p> <p>For more information, please see the oCEMP, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b>.</p> <p>In addition, the ES includes a Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA), which assesses the inbuilt greenhouse gas emissions of the Proposed Development against the greenhouse gases which will be offset by the Proposed Development when in operation using peer reviewed and industry standard data and approaches. The CCIA outlines that the greenhouse gas emissions offset by the Proposed Development are much greater than the embedded emissions associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the Proposed Development will be displaced within approximately 10.5 years, and all savings beyond that would be a net benefit of the Proposed Development to reducing climate change,</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>relative to the baseline. Over 40 years, the saving is estimated at approximately 1.9 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.</p> <p>The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 13: Climate Change, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Concern regarding the location of Solar PV Arrays.	Yes	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Please see Figure 4.3: Concept Masterplan of the ES to see where Solar PV Site will be located on a map.
Comments regarding why undulating land is ideal for solar panels.	No	Flat or gently south facing slopes are most suitable and beneficial for solar and therefore this influenced the location of the site in proximity to the substation. The general topography of the area immediately surrounding the substation is gently undulating and therefore this makes it particularly suitable for solar.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>Comments in relation to what areas have been identified as Mitigation and Enhancement Areas.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Mitigation and Enhancement Areas as identified on Figure 4.3 will provide areas for green infrastructure, including the creation of grassland with wildflowers and scattered wet woodland adjacent to the West Glen River, and grassland with calcareous species within the valley in the north-west of the Order limits, amounting to approximately 165ha.</p> <p>Within the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas, a total 19 fields (either fully or partial) totalling approximately 239ha will continue to be farmed under arable rotation with additional measures to support skylarks. Further details on the location and specification of the measures to support skylark are set out within the oLEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b>.</p>
<p>Comments in relation to trees and hedgerows.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the DAS, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b>, The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to approximately 426ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining land within the Order Limits would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, as well as existing highways and other infrastructure, or proposed for mitigation and enhancement areas.</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>In addition to this, the following mitigation measures set out how the Applicant proposes to protect existing green infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hedgerows would be managed in accordance with the specifications in the oLEMP.</li> <li>• Perimeter fences will not be constructed through existing hedgerows.</li> <li>• Offsets of at least 10m either side from all existing hedgerows will be provided.</li> <li>• Offsets of at least 10m either side from main rivers and 6m from ditches will be provided.</li> <li>• Offsets of at least 15m from the Proposed Development to existing woodlands will be provided.</li> <li>• Offsets of at least 15m to statutorily and locally designated wildlife sites.</li> <li>• The Green Infrastructure strategy within the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas will be used to deliver a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity. This is enhanced through the planting of approximately 7,500m of structural tree planting, and approximately 14,000m of structural hedgerow planting.</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Concerns in regard to the output of the Proposed Development.	No	<p>Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited has a grid connection agreement with National Grid Electricity Transmission to export 240MW (AC) of clean power to the national grid. The parameters applied for in this Development Consent Order application allow for a solar farm capable of generating up to 350MW (DC) to account for the normally applied factors as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degradation of panels over time;</li> <li>• Seasonal and daily variation of solar irradiance;</li> <li>• Loss of power in the conversion from AC to DC.</li> </ul> <p>This will ensure that Mallard Pass Solar Farm is able to fully optimise the available grid connection and generate as much clean power as possible each day and over its lifetime.</p>
Comments in relation to the addition of litter bins.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
General comments in regard to project description.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For details regarding project description, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> .
<b>EIA Topic Area: Policy and Legislative Context</b>		
Concerns about the use of agricultural land in relation to Government Policy that states solar farms should be sited on industrial areas, brownfield sites, contaminated land, previously developed land, or low-grade agricultural land.	No	<p>Policy compliance, including in respect of impacts to agricultural land, has been at the forefront of the Applicant's thinking in the development of the Scheme proposals, in the context that the draft revised Energy NPS recognises that some agricultural land may inevitably have to be utilised. Further information can be found in the application as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Site Selection Report and DAS <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b> set out how site selection and then scheme design development has accounted for agricultural land requirements; noting that this was undertaken in the context of the Applicant having a connection agreement at Ryhall Substation and that there are limited brownfield sites or sites of less agricultural land classification quality that could be utilised whilst still being able to connect to the substation;</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Soils chapter of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] explains the Scheme’s limited impacts to soil and the mitigation measures that will be employed to ensure they remain minimal; and</li> <li>• The Statement of Need [EN010127/APP/7.1] explains why greenfield solar development is a necessity alongside other brownfield proposals; and explains how the Applicant’s proposals take up a very small percentage of available agricultural land.</li> </ul> <p>On the basis of the analysis presented in these documents, the Applicant does not consider that its proposals are in breach of Government policy; and in fact, as discussed in the Statement of Need, supports the Government’s wider policy proposals.</p>
<p>Concerns that elected representatives will not have a say as to whether the Proposed Development should go ahead, due to Government Policy on NSIPs.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant has taken into account every piece of feedback received by elected members (and the organisations that they represent) in developing its proposals.</p> <p>Please see Appendix 5: Applicant Response in Regard to S42 Comments to see how the Applicant has considered and responded to feedback from elected representatives.</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 4: Early Engagement and Non-Statutory Consultation (2021), and 8: Statutory Consultation Under Section S47 of</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>the Planning Act 2008 (May 2022 – August 2022), of this Consultation Report consultation was undertaken with the following elected member organisations. The response to statutory consultation by these parties would have been informed by the concerns of their elected representatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Kesteven District Council</li> <li>• Rutland County Council</li> <li>• Lincolnshire County Council</li> <li>• MP for Rutland and Melton</li> <li>• MP for Grantham and Stamford</li> <li>• Essendine Parish Council</li> <li>• Great Casterton Parish Council</li> <li>• Ryhall Parish Council</li> <li>• Uffington Parish Council</li> <li>• Carlby Parish Council</li> <li>• Careby Aunby and Holywell Parish Council</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greatford Parish Council</li> <li>• Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Parish Council</li> <li>• Stamford Town Council</li> <li>• North Northamptonshire Council</li> <li>• North Kesteven District Council</li> <li>• Newark and Sherwood District Council</li> <li>• North East Lincolnshire Council</li> </ul> <p>These organisations will be able to fully participate in the DCO Examination process once the application is submitted, noting that the Secretary of State is required to have regard to the ‘Local Impact Report’ submitted by local authorities during Examination, in his/her decision making.</p>
Concerns about whether the Proposed Development will be taken over by another contractor.	No	No decision has been taken on the contracting arrangements for the Proposed Development. In any event, it is important to note that breach of a DCO is a criminal offence. The Applicant would therefore be liable for such breaches; and thus, would take on contractors on that basis. If

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		any contractual arrangements for passing on operations to any other parties were to be entered into, this would also be subject to this fundamental starting point unless the benefit of the DCO was transferred to a third party who would take on that liability. Any such transfer would be subject to the controls set out in the DCO <b>[EN010127/APP/3.1]</b> .
Concerns raised about the terms of the Stewardship Scheme at Manor Farm and Lodge Farm.	No	<p>Any existing habitat within the Proposed Development Site will be attributed a value using the methodology set out in the approved Biodiversity Metric (currently version 3.1). This would apply to any existing habitats on the Site, including field margins.</p> <p>The combination of measures identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy results in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no ditches or rivers are being enhanced as assessed by the metric) as assessed via the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1.</p>
Comments in regard to South Kesteven District Council's Local Plan.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in Section 1.5 of Chapter 1: Introduction, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> , the South Kesteven Local Plan 2011 – 2036 (adopted in 2020) has been taken into account.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Comments in relation to the National Farmers Union Policy.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Comments in relation to Section 106.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
<b>EIA Topic Area: Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b>		
Alternative scale of the Proposed Development and wished for further justification of scale and location.	No	<p>As set out in the Site Selection Report, the starting point for site selection was ensuring that there was sufficient land to service the Applicant's grid connection agreement with National Grid Electricity Transmission to export 240MW (AC) of clean power to the national grid via the Ryhall Substation.</p> <p>As such, the parameters applied for in this application (including the size of the Proposed Development) allow for a solar farm capable of generating up to 350MW (DC) to account for the normally applied factors in solar scheme development that accounts for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Degradation of panels over time;</li> <li>2. Seasonal and daily variation of solar irradiance; and</li> <li>3. Loss of power in the conversion from AC to DC.</li> </ol>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>This approach will ensure that Mallard Pass Solar Farm is able to optimise the available grid connection and generate as much clean power as possible each day and over its lifetime.</p> <p>In considering a site that meets these requirements, a range of technical, environmental, and economic factors are considered when assessing any potential site for large scale solar developments, including the Application.</p> <p>The key reasons for why the land within the Order Limits was chosen and why it is considered a suitable location for the Proposed Development are outlined in the Site Selection Report. These reasons include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The land within Lincolnshire has the potential to locate a large-scale solar development due to the large open areas of undeveloped land.</li> <li>• There is the available capacity for the Proposed Development to connect to the national grid at Ryhall National Grid Substation.</li> <li>• The land is not located within or close to internationally or nationally designated biodiversity sites.</li> <li>• The land is not located within or close to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The land is not located within a Green Belt Designation.</li> <li>• Whilst impacting on some agricultural land, it impacts less compared to alternative nearby locations, given the prevalence of best and most versatile land within those other areas.</li> <li>• The land is predominantly within Environmental Agency Flood Zone 1, therefore at low risk of flooding.</li> <li>• The land is relatively close to the part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) of the A1 which has good accessibility for the Proposed Development.</li> <li>• The Site has limited land use conflict with respect to local development plan allocations and displacement of existing businesses.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see the Site Selection Report and Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
Alternative location of site as it is productive arable land. Alternatives include the use of brownfield sites, rooftops of industrial and/or	No	The Site Selection Report sets out how site selection and then scheme design development has accounted for agricultural land requirements; noting that this was undertaken in the context of the Applicant having a connection agreement at Ryhall Substation and that there are limited

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
domestic buildings, lower grade agricultural land, contaminated land, railway embankments and disused airfields.		brownfield sites or sites of less agricultural land classification quality that could be utilised whilst still being able to connect to the substation. The Report includes an explanation of the brownfield sites considered.  The Statement of Need <b>[EN010127/APP/7.1]</b> explains why greenfield solar development is a necessity alongside any other brownfield proposals; and explains how the Applicant's proposals take up a very small percentage of available agricultural land.
Alternative electricity generating technologies and methods, including tidal power, wind power, hydrogen, and nuclear power.	No	Alternative types of renewable energy generation for utilising the National Grid Ryhall Substation connection capacity were not considered by the Applicant as a solar farm development company. In any event, it is not considered that the Site would be suitable for other forms of renewable energy generation at the same scale of the Proposed Development, as discussed in Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> . Therefore, the Applicant considers that a solar farm development is the best renewable generating solution.
Alternative layout of the Proposed Development, including request for many smaller sites rather than one larger site.	No	Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> , sets out the design development of the Proposed Development, including alternative layouts; and explains how the extent

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>of solar developer has reduced over time to account for environmental sensitivities.</p> <p>The Statement of Need, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.1]</b>, explains why one larger site rather than several smaller sites</p>
<p>Alternative solar panel options that could reduce the size of the Solar PV Site.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The parameters of the DCO Application maintain a degree of flexibility to allow for the latest solar technology to be utilised at the time of construction, whilst also allowing for the Applicant's use of its grid connection to be optimised. For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Statement of Need, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.1]</b>, explains the factors that affect the sizing of a solar farm, including accounting for 'overplanting'.</p>
<p>Comments in regard to use of electrical vehicles.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p>
<p>Concerns raised about whether the site will be expanded in the future and wished for reassurances that this will not be the case.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The spatial limits of the different aspects of the Proposed Development are set by the limits of deviation shown on the Works Plans <b>[EN010127/APP/2.2]</b>.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		The Applicant will not be able to build outside of these limits of deviation without a change to the DCO/planning permission being obtained (depending on the element of infrastructure).
Request for justification as to why alternative types of low-carbon forms of electricity generation have not been considered by the Applicant.	No	Alternative types of renewable energy generation for utilising the National Grid Ryhall Substation connection capacity were not considered by the Applicant as a solar farm development company. In any event, it is not considered that the Site would be suitable for other forms of renewable energy generation at the same scale of the Proposed Development, as discussed in Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> . Therefore, the Applicant considers that a solar farm development is the best renewable generating solution.
<b>EIA Topic Area: EIA Methodology</b>		
General comments about the EIA Methodology.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. An overview of the EIA Process is outlined in Chapter 2: EIA Process, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> .
Concerns raised about decommissioning phase of Proposed Development, including	No	The Applicant is not applying for time limited consent for the Proposed Development, however, for the purposes of the ES, it has been assumed

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>whether land will revert to agricultural use.</p>		<p>that the Proposed Development has a 40-year operational life span; and the assessment carry out an assessment of the decommissioning stage.</p> <p>In light of this assessment, an outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP), [EN010127/APP/7.8], has been prepared to support the DCO application; with a DCO requirement that a decommissioning environmental management plan in accordance with this outline is produced and approved by the relevant planning authority prior to decommissioning activities commencing.</p> <p>The decommissioning would include the removal of any permissive paths and potential reversion of grassland underneath the PV Arrays. Any landscape structural planting, such as tree planting, hedgerows, scrub etc created to deliver biodiversity mitigation and enhancement associated with the Proposed Development would be left in-situ when the Site is handed back to landowners.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Request for Ethical Impact Assessment for Proposed Development.	Yes	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As detailed in the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, [EN010127/APP/7.10], the Applicant wishes to ensure the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development is undertaken pursuant to an ethical procurement policy and that this is a legal obligation on anyone who has the powers under the DCO. That would be achieved by securing this Plan by a requirement of the DCO.</p> <p>The Applicant proposes the following ethical procurement policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any potential supplier must participate in a modern slavery supplier due diligence exercise as part of the tender exercise;</li> <li>• Any potential supplier, whether or not they meet the statutory thresholds under section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, must publish annually a modern slavery and human trafficking statement;</li> <li>• The modern slavery and human trafficking statement must be informed by a risk assessment;</li> <li>• Any potential supplier must have a modern slavery policy;</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any potential supplier must provide relevant employees with modern slavery training that has been produced by a certified provider of such training;</li> <li>• Any contract to be entered into with a potential supplier must include the following warranties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The supplier has not been and is not engaged in any form of slavery, forced labour, labour exploitation or human trafficking anywhere in the world;</li> <li>○ The supplier pays and treats its workers in compliance with applicable employment laws and minimum wage requirements; and</li> <li>○ The supplier will take reasonable steps to prevent slavery and human trafficking in connection with its business anywhere in the world;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Any contract to be entered into with a potential supplier must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An obligation on the part of the potential supplier to report any circumstances that give reasonable cause to suspect possible</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>slavery, forced labour, labour exploitation or human trafficking in connection with its business anywhere in the world;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A right of audit;</li> <li>○ A right to require an action plan to be initiated by the supplier in the event that the Applicant considers the controls implemented by the supplier to be inadequate; and</li> <li>○ A right of immediate termination in the event of any instances of slavery, forced labour, labour exploitation and human trafficking connected to the supplier.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.10]</b>.</p>
Request for further clarification on dual use of land use solar panels.	Yes	As described in the outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP), <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b> , the land in and around the solar panels is to be used as grazed grassland, that could be managed by sheep grazing. This amounts to 419ha of grazed grassland beneath the Solar PV Arrays.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>Concerns raised about the level of detailed research carried out in the area within the PEIR.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant considers that the PEIR was sufficiently robust for the purposes of statutory consultation. The PEIR has now been updated to produce the ES, the latter of which incorporates the latest baseline information ascertained by the Applicant.</p> <p>In addition, the Applicant complied with the EIA Regulations in completing the EIA Process.</p> <p>As described in Chapter 2, under current and future baseline conditions, information relating to the existing environmental baseline has been collected through field and desktop studies. These baseline sources include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Online/digital resources;</li> <li>b. Data searches, e.g., Local Biological Record Centres, Historic Environment Record, etc.;</li> <li>c. Baseline field surveys; and</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>d. Available environmental information submitted in support of other planning applications for development within the relevant study areas of the Order limits.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 2: EIA Process, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
<p>Request for data sets to be reviewed to provide an accurate representation of the potential cumulative effects, particularly in respect of the amount of land that could be taken from agricultural use.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Cumulative Summary, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, presents a summary of the cumulative effects (combined effects of the Proposed Development and other developments) that have been assessed within each technical chapter. Chapter 12: Land Use, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, specifically considers impacts to soils [and accounts for potential cumulative effects].</p> <p>In addition, as outlined in the Statement of Need, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.1]</b>, this should be seen in the national context that even if all solar proposals were brought forward, this would only constitute 0.5% of total UK land area, or between 0.5% and 0.9% of the total pastures and non-irrigated arable land in the UK.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>Concerns raised regarding quality of ecological surveys and the timeframe surveys were completed. Of particular concern was the lack of surveys for bats.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The suite of Ecology surveys undertaken for the ES are set out in Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, and its appendices (7.1-7.6), and this includes a specific section on bats. The Applicant considers that its approach to baseline data collection is robust. The information presented at PEIR stage was appropriate to that stage in scheme development.</p>
<p>The PEIR is not considered to be unbiased or to address all the concerns and issues arising from the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>As outlined in Chapter 2: EIA Process, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, it is considered that due to the Proposed Development's nature, size and location that it has the potential to have significant effects on the environment and therefore constitutes EIA Development as defined in the EIA Regulations.</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, the Applicant has therefore provided an ES in support of the DCO Application.</p> <p>The Proposed Development requires a DCO under the Planning Act 2008. The EIA for NSIPs is reported in two stages, as follows:</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>a. A PEIR is prepared, to inform public consultation about the Proposed Development (in accordance with Regulation 12(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations); and</p> <p>b. following consultation with the public, an ES is prepared to accompany the application for a DCO.</p>
<p>Concerns about the lack of real-life knowledge of the Site, and the approach to assessing and assigning significance to an environmental effect.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>As outlined in Chapter 2: EIA Process, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, the first stage in the design and EIA process is to gather baseline information. Environmental surveys of the Order limits and study areas were carried out during 2021 and 2022 in order to establish a clear baseline against which the effects of the Proposed Development can be assessed. Further details of the baseline environment are provided at Chapter 3: Description of the Order limits, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, and within the individual environmental chapters of this ES.</p> <p>The approach to assessing and assigning significance to an environmental effect is derived from a variety of sources including legislative requirements, topic-specific guidance, standards and codes of</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>practice, the EIA Regulations, advice from statutory consultees and other stakeholders and the expert judgement of the team undertaking the EIA.</p> <p>The following three stage approach has been used for determining significance for all environmental chapters within the ES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assigning an environmental value to (or sensitivity of) a resource or receptor:</li> <li>b. Assigning a level of magnitude of impact; and</li> <li>c. Assigning a level of significance.</li> </ul> <p>Owing to the different approaches and the terminology used to assign value, impact and the level of significance within best practice guidance for each topic, information on these matters is set out in detail within appendices to the individual environmental chapters.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 2: EIA Process, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Concerns about accessibility of the PEIR.	No	As part of the Statutory consultation for the Proposed Development, the Applicant provided a Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR. The purpose of the PEIR NTS was to describe the Proposed Development and provide a summary in non-technical language of the key findings of the PEIR.
Concerns in regard to the land samples not being in line with statutory guidelines.	No	<p>The Land Use and Soils assessment follows the general approach to undertaking Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as detailed in Chapter 2: Overview of the EIA process of the ES, albeit it has been modified to take account of relevant industry guidelines and best practice. The approach to the assessment of the sensitivity of receptors, magnitude of impacts and the significance of effects in relation to agricultural land, soils and agricultural businesses is described in Appendix 12.2, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b>.</p> <p>As outlined in Appendix 12.2, An ALC survey of the Order limits was initially undertaken in late 2021. This was carried out at a semi-detailed level and involved examining the soils on a regular 200m grid. It involved analysis of the soils and land quality at 217 locations, from which it has been possible to map the distribution of land quality and soil types. This survey has then been enhanced by additional auger samples following</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>discussion with Natural England. A further 117, taken in autumn 2022 across areas where the land quality was variable or had been found to include the BMV agricultural land to total 334 auger samples.</p> <p>In addition, a total of 4 soil pits were dug to better describe the soils across the Order limits. In addition to that, archaeological trial trenches were being excavated at the time of the survey and observation was made of some 10 of these to inform understanding of the soil structure. 11 samples of soil were sent for particle size distribution analysis to confirm the percentages of silt, sand and clay.</p>
<b>EIA Topic Area: Ecology and Biodiversity</b>		
<p>The Proposed Development should not negatively impact ecology and biodiversity in the area. This included request for mitigation and enhancement strategies to provide a biodiversity net gain.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity, of the ES <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, presents the approach and findings of the assessment of potential impacts on Ecology and Biodiversity. The ecological and biodiversity assessment follows the general approach to undertaking EIA as explained in Chapter 2 of the ES, albeit it has been modified to take account of the main guidance document used when assessing impacts on ecological features, which is the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA)</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) in 2018.</p> <p>The embedded mitigation measures have been considered as part of this assessment, when considering the potential effects of the Proposed Development. These are described in Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, the Green Infrastructure Plan, the Works Plans <b>[EN010127/APP/2.2]</b>, the design Guidance as set out in the Design and Access Statement <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b>. These include the retention and offsets to landscape and ecological features and designations.</p> <p>Further embedded mitigation measures include the details set out in the outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b>, outline Decommissioning and Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) <b>[EN010127/APP/7.8]</b> and outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b>. These documents have been prepared and include mitigation measures which are intended to avoid the risks of effects during the construction and</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>decommissioning phases, such as indirect and direct damage to retained features, direct damage to active bird nests and injury to protected species or damage to the habitat of those species. The assessment of potential effects takes these measures into account.</p> <p>In addition, a Green Infrastructure strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared which both mitigates the impacts of the Proposed Development and provides enhancements through the planting of approximately 7,500m of structural tree planting, and approximately 14,000m of structural hedgerow planting This is secured through the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b>.</p> <p>The combination of measures identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy results in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no ditches or rivers are being enhanced as assessed by the metric) as assessed via the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		Therefore, the Proposed Development does not negatively impact ecology and biodiversity in the area.
Comments emphasised the importance of species protection of mammals, invertebrates, and flora in the local area.	Yes	<p>Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, outlines the possible impacts of the Proposed Development on habitats and species during construction, operation and decommissioning, any proposed additional mitigation, and residual effects. This includes consideration of the following species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Badgers</li> <li>• Water vole and otters</li> <li>• Dormouse</li> <li>• Great crested newt</li> <li>• Breeding birds (skylark)</li> <li>• Bats</li> <li>• Reptiles</li> <li>• Amphibians</li> <li>• Invertebrates</li> <li>• Other mammals</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Please see Section 7.7: Embedded Mitigation and Section 7.9: Proposed Additional Mitigation of Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES. Section 7.7 sets out a series of embedded mitigation measures which will be implemented as they have been designed to avoid certain potential adverse effects, and Section 7.9 sets out what further mitigation will be implemented to reduce or avoid the impacts of the Proposed Development on the ecological features identified in this Chapter.</p> <p>This chapter concludes that there are no residual likely significant effects that arise to these receptors as a result of the Proposed Development.</p>
<p>Concerns about the impact of security fencing inhibiting wildlife movements, particularly for deer, badgers, and hares.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Perimeter fencing and CCTV systems around the solar array will comprise of wooden posts and wire mesh fencing. Perimeter fences will not be constructed through existing hedgerows or across ditches.</p> <p>There will also be clearances above ground, or the inclusion of mammal gates to permit the movement of wildlife.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], and the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Concerns regarding who will maintain tree belts, hedgerows, and wildflower planting across the site.	No	Details about how habitats within the Site will be managed is detailed in the oLEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b> and will be carried out by the landowner or a contractor.
Concerns about the potential impact of the Proposed Development on wintering farmland birds and request for more mitigation and protection measures for the skylark population.	Yes	<p>Mitigation measures for birds, including wintering farmland birds, are included in Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p> <p>The wintering bird surveys carried out have recorded a very limited number of species wintering on the Solar PV Site and Mitigation and Enhancement Areas. Of note have been small flocks of yellowhammer with a peak of 50 individuals, skylark with a peak of 40 individuals, redwing with a peak of 200, fieldfare with a peak of 450 (but lower numbers at other times).</p> <p>The majority of the breeding bird interest within the Order limits is currently supported by the habitats of higher value for birds, such as hedgerow, scrub, and woodland, as opposed to the dominant habitat</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>which is arable land. The higher value habitats are to be retained and enhanced within the Solar PV Site, such as by reducing the intensity of hedgerow management.</p> <p>The Scheme also provides for skylark plots to be created on land within the Order limits that is to be retained for arable use.</p> <p>With these measures in place, no significant effects are expected to arise to wintering farmland birds from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>For more information, please see the draft oCEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b>, oLEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b>, and oDEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.8]</b>.</p>
Request for dual land use beneath panels using a combination of livestock grazing and wildflower meadows. Emphasis on livestock grazing due to the carbon sequestration from grass regrowth	Yes	The land underneath and around the PV Arrays could be managed through a combination of sheep grazing and/or hay/silage production in order to maintain the field vegetation during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. For more information, please see the oLEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b> .

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
and the ability of livestock to fertilise the grass.		
Request for mitigation and enhancement measures to protect aquatic species in River Glen and local ponds.	Yes	<p>The Proposed Development will be cognisant of and contribute positively where possible to conservation works planned by Anglian Water to the West Glen River.</p> <p>Areas for potential solar development have been removed along the West Glen River corridor to remove the majority of PV Arrays from the flood plain. This has also provided the opportunity to reduce any potential impacts on protected species using the river corridor and provide ecological habitat enhancement instead.</p> <p>The combination of measures identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy results in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no ditches or rivers are being enhanced as assessed by the metric) as assessed with the use of the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 3.1.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>In addition, bird nest boxes, bat roosting boxes, scrapes and otter holts will be provided along the West Glen River Corridor in accordance with the oLEMP.</p>
<p>Request for protection of existing hedgerows, trees, woodlands, wildflower meadows, ditches, and ponds, including request for mature planting where existing hedgerows and trees are removed.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3 ], The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to approximately 426ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining land within the Order Limits would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, as well as existing highways and other infrastructure, or proposed for mitigation and enhancement areas.</p> <p>.</p> <p>In addition to this, the following mitigation measures set out how the Applicant proposes to protect existing green infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hedgerows would be managed in accordance with the specifications in the oLEMP.</li> <li>• New planting of hedgerows will be in accordance with the oLEMP</li> <li>• Perimeter fences will not be constructed through existing hedgerows.</li> <li>• Offsets of at least 10m either side from all existing hedgerows will be provided.</li> </ul>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offsets of at least 10m either side from main rivers and 6m from ditches will be provided.</li> <li>• Offsets of at least 15m from the Proposed Development to existing woodlands will be provided.</li> <li>• Offsets of at least 15m to statutorily and locally designated wildlife sites.</li> <li>• Approximately 118ha of wildflower grassland habitat would be created along with 21.5 km of new hedgerow and tree planting.</li> </ul>
Request for wild foraging areas and additional habitats to support wildlife, particularly skylark plots.	Yes	<p>Proposed hedgerows will be planted with a variety of fruiting species providing foraging opportunities. All Mitigation and Enhancement Areas identified on the Green Infrastructure Strategy which are to remain in agricultural production will be managed alongside the creation of skylark mitigation plots. Details on the location and specification of the measures to support skylarks are set out within the oLEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b>.</p> <p>Other habitat creation measures and enhancement will benefit a range of species and species groups, including invertebrates, birds and bats.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> .
Concerns about risk of danger to horses and injury to humans caused by solar panels.	No	The risk of injuring or trapping protected species is considered in Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> .
Emphasis on how the design of the Proposed Development will enhance what is already existing in the area.	Yes	<p>The Mitigation and Enhancement Areas, as identified on Figure 3.1 of the ES, will provide areas for green infrastructure, including the creation of grassland with wildflowers and scattered wet woodland adjacent to the West Glen River, grassland with calcareous species - the valley in the north-west of the Order limits, amounting to approximately 165ha.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure strategy within Mitigation and Enhancement Areas will be used to deliver a net gain in biodiversity through the planting of approximately 7,500m of structural tree planting, and approximately 14,000m of structural hedgerow planting.</p> <p>The combination of measures identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy results in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no ditches or rivers are being enhanced as assessed by the metric) as assessed with the use of the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 3.1.</p> <p>The management of the Green Infrastructure and Mitigation and Enhancement Areas will be undertaken in accordance with a LEMP produced in accordance with the oLEMP, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b>.</p>
<p>Request the Applicant to improve conditions for pollinators, such as bees, in the form of wildflower planting.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Approximately 43ha of wildflower grassland habitat would be created along with approximately 7,500m of structural tree planting, and approximately 14,000m of structural hedgerow planting, and areas under the PV Arrays and the landscape buffers will be planted with a combination of native grassland mix, wildflower mixes, scrub, and hedgerows.</p> <p>The embedded mitigation measures include the details set out in the outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b>, outline Decommissioning and Environmental</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.8] and outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.9].
Concerns about relocation of wildlife during construction phase, which would result in destruction of local ecosystem and potential effects on the environment.	Yes	<p>The embedded mitigation measures include the details set out in the oCEMP [EN010127/APP/7.6], oDEMP [EN010127/APP/7.8] oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>These documents have been prepared and include mitigation measures which are intended to avoid the risks of effects during the construction and decommissioning phases, such as indirect and direct damage to retained features, direct damage to active bird nests and injury to protected species or damage to the habitat of those species. The assessment of potential effects takes these measures into account and concludes that no likely significant effects will arise.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Concerns about birds and insects being negatively impacted by the	No	The proposed PV Arrays have not yet been selected; however these will be chosen at the time of commissioning the Proposed Development and

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
reflection of solar panels, resulting in injury or death of these species.		<p>as per best practice will seek to utilise panels with anti-reflective coating (ARC) This will therefore avoid the potential effect of attracting invertebrates. The perceived risk of polarised light is that it may attract aquatic invertebrates to the array, removing these from suitable sites. This is highly unlikely to occur for the Proposed Development given the lack of large water bodies in the area likely to support notable invertebrate assemblages. Additionally there is no evidence that collisions with solar arrays result in deaths or injury to birds in the UK.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
Concerns about the impact of noise pollution on wildlife.	Yes	<p>The impacts of noise during construction have been considered but these are likely to be of very short duration and management of the impact of noise is outlined in the oCEMP and oDEMP. This will include the restriction of working hours and good practice measures, set out in the oCEMP, to mitigate the impacts of noise and vibration. As this has been included in the embedded mitigation, there is no further assessment needed regarding this potential impact.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Comments in relation to ecological connectivity.	Yes	The Proposed Development would deliver a number of environmental benefits, including significant areas of new habitats that respect and enhance features within the landscape, including riparian, wildflower with calcareous species grassland and hedgerows – delivering a significant biodiversity net gain improvements in ecological connectivity.
Concerns regarding habitat loss.	Yes	<p>The Green Infrastructure (GI) strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared to consider opportunities for connecting habitats within that would deliver environmental and/or biodiversity net gain and consider other community enhancements and is secured through the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>Some of the key principles of the GI Strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of Mitigation and Enhancement areas for retention of arable agricultural production with the creation of skylark nesting plots creating new habitat on intensively managed land to increase habitat diversity.</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of Mitigation and Enhancement areas where underlain by chalk geology (principally in the west of the Order limits) for the creation of wildflower grassland with calcareous species reflective of the underlying geology, respect the distinctive and unique character of the countryside. The creation of this valuable habitat makes a positive contribution to Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) aspirations and connects designated ecological sites, improving the GI network.</li> <li>• The recognition of the West Glen River, informed by ecological and landscape studies detailed in Section 3 as a key structuring GI component of the Proposed Development and its use as a Mitigation and Enhancement area founded on its riparian environment. The GI strategy seeks to connect two ecological diverse sites by creating new habitat on intensively managed land, increase habitat diversity and buffering the West Glen River, enabling greater connectivity and sustainable access. Discussions with Anglian Water regarding their proposed ecological works to the West Glen River have been undertaken as part of the consultation process and emerging designs produced by Anglian Water align and complement the GI Strategy.</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The retention of existing vegetation within the Order limits wherever possible with the Proposed Development set back from these and the utilisation of existing field gateways, tracks and ditch crossings to avoid the removal of vegetation wherever possible reflecting the existing distinctive vegetative network of the area.</li> <li>• The planting of new tree belts, hedgerow trees and hedgerows reflective of the characteristics of the Rutland Plateaux D(ii) Clay Woodlands LCA and the Kesteven Uplands LCA, contributing positively to management guidelines set out for them as detailed in Section 3.</li> <li>• The reconnection of existing habitats and designated ecological sites through new woodland, grassland and hedgerows planting that is reflective of local soil conditions and existing species and as part of landscape scale GI enhancements and facilitating a network of permeable ‘wildlife corridors’ throughout the Order limits.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see the Design and Access Statement, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b>.</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>In addition to the above, the embedded mitigation measures include the details set out in the outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b>, outline Decommissioning and Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) <b>[EN010127/APP/7.8]</b> and outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b>. The landscape and habitat reinstatement and creation will be undertaken in accordance with the principles set out in the oLEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.8]</b>.</p> <p>These documents have been prepared and include mitigation measures which are intended to avoid the risks of effects during the construction and decommissioning phases, such as indirect and direct damage to retained features, direct damage to active bird nests and injury to protected species or damage to the habitat of those species. The assessment of potential effects takes these measures into account.</p>
Comments in regard to environmental damage.	Yes	The embedded mitigation measures include the details set out in the outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b> , outline Decommissioning and Environmental

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.8] and outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>These documents have been prepared and include mitigation measures which are intended to avoid the risks of effects during the construction and decommissioning phases, such as indirect and direct damage to retained features, direct damage to active bird nests and injury to protected species or damage to the habitat of those species. The assessment of potential effects takes these measures into account.</p>
Comments in relation to pond creation.	Yes	<p>As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], areas for potential solar development have been removed along the West Glen River corridor in order to remove the majority of Solar PV Arrays from the flood plain. This has also provided the opportunity to reduce any potential impacts on protected species using the river corridor and provide ecological habitat enhancement.</p> <p>In addition, there will be a 50m offset of solar stations from PRowS, and an offset of at least 10m either side from main rivers and ponds.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination</b>		
Concerns about toxic fumes and contamination caused by lithium batteries.	No	Following the feedback received during non-statutory consultation and technical and commercial factors, the Applicant has decided to not include Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) as part of the Proposed Development. While the Applicant continues to recognise the importance of BESS in achieving the UK's decarbonisation and energy security needs, the Applicant has not brought this aspect forward as part of the DCO Application. Further information on the reasons why BESS has not been included as part of the Proposed Development are included in the Planning Statement, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.2]</b> .
Concerns about decommissioning process and safe disposal of solar panels and waste products.	No	A Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan will be produced prior to the decommissioning phase which will deal with management of waste outline the measures to prevent impacts on ground conditions during the decommissioning of the Proposed Development, to be approved by the relevant planning authority prior to the commencement of decommissioning activities. This plan will be in accordance with the oDEMP submitted with the application <b>[EN010127/APP/7.8]</b> .

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Concern in regard to the safe operation of the Solar PV Arrays.	No	The operational phase of the Proposed Development would involve routine maintenance and servicing of equipment to ensure the safe operation of equipment. For more information, please see the Outline Operational environmental Management Plan <b>[EN010127/APP/7.7]</b> .
Concern about soil quality.	No	As set out in the Soils and Land use chapter <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> the nature of the Proposed Development will not significantly impact the quality of soils. The development of the CEMP, Soil Management Plan and Excavated Materials Management Plan, developed in line with the outline versions of those plans submitted with the application, will prevent impacts on the quality of soils during the construction and decommissioning phases.
Concerns about ground works, including cabling, piling, and use of concrete on the ground.	No	All ground works will be subject to best practice techniques and management plans to prevent impacts on ground conditions.  This is considered in Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> , with mitigation measures set out in the outline SMP, EMMP, CEMP and DEMP submitted with the application.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Concerns about dust and dirt caused by vehicle movements during the construction phase.	No	Measures for managing dust impacts are detail in the oCEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b> .
Request soil sampling to monitor soil quality against potential contaminants caused by toxic heavy metals.	No	The nature of the Proposed Development and the measures set out in the suite of management plans submitted with the application will prevent contaminant impacts on soils. Should there be a spillage event during the construction phase the appropriate mitigation measures detailed in the oCEMP will be implemented as applicable.
Risk of spillage or leakage of chemicals, fresh concrete, foul water, and use of fuel or oil, which could adversely affect soils, surface water, and groundwater quality.	No	Should there be a spillage event during the construction phase the appropriate mitigation measures detailed in the oCEMP and oWMP will be implemented as applicable.
Concerns in regard to the safety of solar panels in relation to local climate.	No	The Proposed Development will reduce GHG emissions associated with energy production, with the embedded mitigation (detailed in Section 13.3 of ES Chapter: 13 Climate Change) providing resilience to potential impacts of climate change on the Proposed Development.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The CCIA outlines that the greenhouse gas emissions offset by the Proposed Development are much greater than the embedded emissions associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no identified significant residual adverse impacts related to climate change arising from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 13: Climate Change, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
<p>Concerns about contamination caused by the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>As outlined in Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, all the solar infrastructure including PV modules, mounting structures, cabling on or near the surface, inverters, transformers, switchgear, fencing and ancillary infrastructure would be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice following the waste hierarchy, with materials being reused or recycled</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>wherever possible. All waste will be disposed of in accordance with the legislation at the time of decommissioning.</p> <p>In addition, given the isolated areas of potential contamination, the impacts associated with the migration of pollutants from contaminated land are considered to be of Negligible Magnitude for receptors of High Sensitivity, such as watercourses, drainage ditches, coastal waters and groundwater. Therefore, this is considered Not Significant.</p> <p>Please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, for more information.</p>
<b>EIA Topic Area: Water Resources and Flood Risk</b>		
<p>Concerns about potential increase in risk of flooding, particularly caused by increase in surface water runoff due to the solar panels and lack of infiltration into the ground due to soil compaction.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Solar panels have been shown to not increase flood risk elsewhere due to the lack of impermeable footprint. The impact on flooding elsewhere is assessed as negligible within the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b>, and surface water runoff will be managed through thus use of SuDS and RSuDS as detailed in the Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS), <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b>.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>This includes concerns in regard to increase food risk due to extreme weather conditions.</p>		<p>The panels will have multiple driplines across the face of the panels along with planting beneath driplines to allow surface water to fall in multiple areas beneath the panel and not just the end. As such the areas beneath the panels are not assessed to be impermeable, in line with the approach applied in other solar developments in the UK.</p> <p>In addition, surface water runoff from the limited hardstanding areas are managed through interception measures with attenuated discharge in accordance with local and national policy, shown in the oSWDS.</p> <p>In regard to soil, the oCEMP, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b> and oSMP, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.12]</b>, outline the management of soils, and where possible, vehicles will be limited to permeable access tracks to prevent compaction.</p> <p>In addition to the above, the following mitigation measures relating to the hydrological environment are embedded into the design and construction of the Proposed Development:</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50m watercourse buffers for major construction works (i.e. compound) with the exception of watercourse crossings along access tracks; and</li> <li>• 10m watercourse buffers for minor construction works (i.e. solar panel installation) with the exception of watercourse crossings along access tracks;</li> <li>• The Proposed Development will utilise existing access road and tracks already in place at this location, this will help to minimise ground disturbance and requirement for further watercourse crossings.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1.]</b>.</p> <p>In regard to concerns about increased flood risk due to extreme weather conditions, As reported in Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, modelling of various flooding scenarios has been carried out, in consultation with the Environmental Agency, considering increases in rainfall intensities associated with climate change. In light of this, the Proposed</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Development infrastructure has been located out-with areas identified to be at risk of flooding during a 1 in 100-year rainfall event, accounting for the increases in rainfall associated with climate change.</p> <p>This sequential design methodology ensures that the Proposed Development is not vulnerable to increases in rainfall intensities leading to extreme flood events.</p> <p>In addition, the mounting structures for the Solar PV Arrays have been designed to withstand the maximum force of wind speed. This accounts for the changes in extreme wind speeds expected over the lifespan of the Proposed Development which will ensure that is not vulnerable to increases in maximum wind speed associated with climate change.</p>
Request for the Applicant to use mitigation measures to prevent flood risk, particularly in Greatford. Mitigation measures for the Proposed Development could also be used to both reduce risk and	No	As outlined in Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> and Appendix 11.5 Flood Risk Assessment, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b> , and Appendix 11.6: oSWDS, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b> , the following mitigation measures relating to the

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
further enhance biodiversity through the creation of a wetland area.		<p>hydrological environment are embedded into the design and construction of the Proposed Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of SuDS to drain the Onsite Substation, limiting discharge rates to greenfield;</li> <li>• The use of RSuDS, such as grassland and wildflower mix to slow flows in the PV Array areas;</li> <li>• The use of regular drip lines on the PV Array tables to prevent concentrating rainwater.</li> </ul>
Of particular concern is the proposed permissive path and wet woodland area near the West Glen River which floods easily.	No	<p>As outlined in the DAS <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b>, areas for potential solar development have been removed along the West Glen River corridor in order to remove the majority of Solar PV Arrays from the flood plain. This has also provided the opportunity to reduce any potential impacts on protected species using the river corridor and provide ecological habitat enhancement.</p> <p>For more information, please see Appendix 11.5: Flood Risk Assessment, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b>, which concludes there will be no increase in flood risk from the Proposed Development.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Request for full modelling details of the impact of the Proposed Development in regard to flood risk, including proper examination in downstream areas.	No	Hydraulic modelling of the surrounding watercourses has been conducted by the EA and their appointed partners, with this data used to sequentially design the Proposed Development to prevent an increase in flood risk elsewhere. Further detail is set out in the Flood Risk Assessment and the oSWDS.
Concerns about flood risk to important historical listed buildings, including Saint Mary Magdalene Church in Essendine which is a Grade 2 listed building.	No	The Flood Risk Assessment <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b> concludes that there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere as a result of the Proposed Development. This will equally apply to heritage assets.
Concerns about impact on local businesses caused by increase in flood risk, particularly on vineyards.	No	The nature of the Proposed Development and sequential design will prevent any increases in flood risk elsewhere, including to local businesses. Surface water runoff from hardstanding areas associated with the Proposed Development will be managed by the measures detailed in the oSWDS.
Concerns about increased flood risk along the River Gwash, resulting in negative impact on	No	The nature of the Proposed Development and sequential design will prevent any increases in flood risk elsewhere. The Green Infrastructure strategy set out in the oLEMP includes habitats alongside the river.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
biodiversity and surrounding ground and water courses.		
The Applicant must be aware of buffer zones in operation around private water supplies. There are restrictions to any activity within set distances of domestic drinking water boreholes currently in use.	No	Public water supplies are considered within Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> .
Comments in relation to otter holts and increased flooding.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Flood risk in relation to impacts on archaeological sites.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Comments in relation to the West Glen River.	Yes	Appendix 11.5 FRA assesses fluvial flooding associated with the West Glen River using modelled in channel levels provided by the Environment Agency. The FRA outlines that the Proposed Development will not be impacted in up to and including the 1:100-year (plus climate change allowance) fluvial event.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		The FRA concludes that the risk of the Proposed Development flooding from all sources is negligible and non-significant.
Comments in relation to risk of increased drought.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Comments in relation to socio-economic impact of perceived flood risk.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Comments in relation to water that would be used to clean solar panels.	No	The appointed maintenance contractor will have management procedures to prevent spillage impacts of cleaning chemicals.
Comments regarding flooding in Gretton.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
<b>EIA Topic Area: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</b>		
Concerns about damage to potential archaeological finds caused by the Proposed Development.	No	Desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching investigations have been undertaken to assess the likely presence and potential importance of buried archaeological remains. These have revealed some discrete locations where buried remains are present.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Industry standard mitigation measures will ensure construction activities will avoid the most important remains and where appropriate archaeological excavations will take place to record remains prior to construction. Further details on this can be found in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices).</p> <p>Industry standard mitigation measures will ensure construction activities will avoid the most important remains and where appropriate archaeological excavations will take place to record remains prior to construction. Further details on this can be found in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices).</p> <p>In addition, as outlined in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, the baseline surveys indicate that buried archaeological remains of early prehistoric to post-medieval date survive within the Order limits. These are no more than of Medium Importance. Following the implementation of the embedded mitigation, effects can be avoided or minimised to a non-significant level.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>Concerns in regards to impact on cultural heritage and Listed Buildings.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. In Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], it presents the approach and findings of the assessment of potential impacts arising from the Proposed Development on Cultural Heritage, encompassing built heritage and the historic landscape (cultural heritage assets).</p> <p>These cultural heritage assets can be either designated (such as a Listed Building or Scheduled Monument) or non-designated (such as building of limited architectural interest or buried archaeological remains).</p> <p>In summary, the Proposed Development would alter the setting of surrounding heritage assets, including the Scheduled Essendine Castle and Grade II* Listed Church of St. Mary, Grade II Listed Banthorpe Lodge, and the non-designated Braceborough Grange. However, the key elements of the asset's values, derived from their surviving historic fabric and form, and from where they are experienced, would be preserved. Mitigation measures have been built into the design to reduce any potential effects and include the retention of existing vegetation screening and the inclusion of Mitigation and Enhancement Areas to preserve the</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>asset's immediate settings. Owing to these measures, there would be no significant effects upon these assets as a result of alteration to their settings.</p> <p>The Proposed Development includes the retention of the existing hedgerow field boundaries and areas of woodland. As such, there would no significant effects in relation to these assets, or on the historic landscape character of the Order limits, which in the most part reflects post-war field amalgamation of negligible importance.</p>
<p>Any heritage assessment should be the result of a walkover survey covering the Site to establish the potential for archaeology and to assess the harm on nearby heritage assets, including listed buildings, parks, and gardens.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>This work has been completed and reported in the ES, Appendix 8.2: Heritage Methodology <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b>.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
What mitigation measures are in place to protect archaeological remains and cultural heritage.	No	Industry standard mitigation measures will ensure construction activities will avoid the most important remains and where appropriate archaeological excavations will take place to record remains prior to construction. Further details on this can be found in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> , (and its appendices).
Concern that undiscovered artefacts will be destroyed by the Proposed Development unless more detailed archaeological survey work is done.	No	Detailed archaeological survey work (desk-based, geophysical, and trial trenching) has been undertaken across the Proposed Development and is reported in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> , (and its appendices).
Who is going to be responsible for the deposition, recording, and repository if there are archaeological findings during the trial trenching?	No	The trial trenching work is being undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology, a professional and industry accredited company with over 30 years of experience in the field. They were responsible for the site work and all of the archival work that will accompany it.
<b>EIA Topic Area: Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation</b>		
Concerns about loss of valuable agricultural farmland used to	Yes	The Applicant makes note of this comment. An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken of the Site. The survey

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>produce crops and vegetables, and for grazing livestock. Of particular concern is the loss of BMV land.</p> <p>Emphasis for land to remain in agricultural use, due to the importance of food security.</p>		<p>has found that Grade 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) are present within the Site. However, not all areas of the Site would contain solar development and 239ha of agricultural farmland would continue to be managed under an agricultural regime.</p> <p>As outlined in the DAS, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b>, fields that are completely Grade 2 fields have been removed, however, fields with Grade 2 within them will remain. 35ha of Grade 2 and 181ha of Grade 3a land is incorporated within the Solar PV Site and the related field margins (see Chapter 12).</p> <p>Chapter 12: Land Use, of the ES <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> confirms that the affected farmers considers that they will be continue their agricultural businesses with the Proposed Development in place.</p> <p>As set out in the Section 7.6 of the Statement of Need <b>[EN010127/APP/7.1]</b>, it should be noted that the Proposed Development</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		takes up an incredibly small amount of agricultural land. It is therefore considered that the Scheme does not impact on food security.
Concerns about loss of recreational amenities such as use of PRowS for walking, cycling and horse riding.	Yes	<p>The Proposed Development will be sensitivity sited and offset from residential properties through 50 offsets for solar stations from PRowS and 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties</p> <p>All existing PRowS will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to the wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset from existing PRowS and proposed permissive paths to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRowS.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>Concern about whether PRowS will be closed or diverted during construction phase.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>As detailed in the oCEMP, access to all existing PRowS will be retained during the construction phase, with no PRowS closures and a limited number of localised temporary PRowS diversions to allow the construction of access tracks where they cross PRowS. The PRowS will be managed throughout the construction phase to ensure that they can continue to be used safely.</p> <p>It is important that public safety is maintained when there are moving vehicles along the construction routes within the Order limits. The proposed construction routes through the Order limits will be physically separated from existing PRowS using the proposed Solar PV perimeter fencing in the first instance or mesh, heras, or other similar types of fencing for a temporary period during construction, to maximise the safety of users.</p> <p>The minimum legal PRowS widths will be maintained for all PRowS throughout the construction phase.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The proposed internal access tracks will cross the following PRoW within the Order Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Bridleway E169/1</li> <li>b. Footpath BrAW/1/1</li> </ul> <p>During construction of the internal access tracks these PRoW will be temporarily diverted. Each minor diversion will be clearly marked out, along with appropriate signage at either end of the diversion which will take the most direct route possible. The diversion routes will be agreed with the relevant local authority for each diversion prior to construction of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Once complete the proposed crossing points will be carefully managed to allow all users to safely pass through these areas as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Providing manned controls at each crossing point (such as marshals/banksmen and gates as appropriate), with a default priority that construction traffic will give-way to other users;</li> <li>b. Providing advanced signage to warn users of the potential presence of construction vehicles; and</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		c. Maximising visibility between construction vehicles and other users at the crossing points (through vegetation pruning for example).
Request for dual land use underneath solar panels, such as livestock grazing, hay/silage production, beekeeping, or wild foraging spaces.	Yes	As outlined in Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> , the land underneath and around the Solar PV Arrays could be managed through a combination of sheep grazing and/or hay/silage production in order to maintain the field vegetation during the operational phase of the Proposed Development.
How will sheep grazing be managed?	Yes	<p>The land underneath and around the Solar PV Arrays could be managed through a combination of sheep grazing and/or hay/silage production in order to maintain the field vegetation during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. As outlined in the oLEMP, if land underneath and around the Solar PV Arrays are managed through sheep grazing, the grazing rights will be retained by landowners.</p> <p>The management of the Green Infrastructure and Mitigation and Enhancement Areas will be undertaken in accordance with the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP), <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b>, which sets out how this should be managed to ensure that the landscape and biodiversity objectives are met.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
<p>Request for more recreational opportunities as the proposed recreational amenities they view as insignificant in relation to the overall size of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More permissive paths</li> <li>• Picnic benches</li> <li>• Parks, including skate park</li> <li>• Outdoor gym</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Educational projects</li> </ul>	Yes	<p>As part of this Development Consent Order, an Amenity and Recreation (A&amp;R) assessment has been undertaken, as shown in Appendix 6.5 of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.2]. The A&amp;R assessment relates to the disturbance of users of recreational resources comprising Public Rights of Way (PRoW) (public footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic (BOAT)), permissive footpaths, permitted access land, cycle routes, outside public recreational facilities, open access land, common land, nature reserves, public open space and water bodies used for recreation; from physical changes (e.g. diversions), and changes to views, intrusion from noise, dust and other emissions, traffic movements and numbers of people, arising from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The A&amp;R resource has been taken into consideration as part of the design process. Embedded design mitigation measures include:</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation areas</li> <li>• Community orchard</li> <li>• Bird watching hides</li> <li>• Cycle paths</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The retention of all confirmed PRowS within the Order limits maintaining their existing alignment.</li> <li>• The offset of the Proposed Development, including solar arrays and supporting infrastructure, from A&amp;R resources within and adjacent to the Order limits. All existing PRow and proposed permissive paths have an offset of at least 15m either side of the route to the wooden post and wire mesh perimeter fencing.</li> <li>• The alignment of internal tracks to avoid where possible existing PRow and siting them sensitively to existing vegetation.</li> <li>• The offset of inverters from existing and proposed permissive paths by at least 50m as part of the Design Principles set out within the Design and Access Statement (DAS).</li> <li>• New and infill hedgerow planting along existing and proposed permissive PRow within the Order limits as part of the Green Infrastructure strategy (Figure 6.11) providing visual screening.</li> <li>• Encouraging the use of lower carbon modes of transport by identifying and communicating local bus services and pedestrian and cycle</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>routes to and from the Order limits to all construction staff and providing facilities for the safe storage of cycles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The provision of three new permissive path networks within the Order limits, of approximately 8.1km in total, connecting to the existing wider network and providing new opportunities for recreation. These routes are:</li> <li>• Essendine Western Loop – A circa 1.97km permissive path route creating a loop running northwest of Essendine linking back to the existing bridleway E169 and Carlby High Street and taking in the West Glen River to the north of Essendine.</li> <li>• West Glen River – A circa 2.9km permissive path link from Stamford Road south-eastward along river corridor to join MacMillan Way. The route would include a nature area, interpretation boards and seating.</li> <li>• Essendine Eastern Loop – a circa 3.2km permissive path route linking Essendine to the northern and southern ends of Bridleway E182 (BrAW/1/1).</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Comments in relation to the proposed interpretation boards.	Yes	The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.
Concerns about whether it is possible for land occupied by large solar farms to be successfully revert to arable farming.	Yes	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. An outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) has been prepared to support the DCO application. The decommissioning phase would include the removal of any permissive paths and potential reversion of grassland underneath the Solar PV Arrays to ensure that the land can be handed back to landowners to enable arable farming to be taken forward in the future. Any planting of trees, hedgerows, and scrubs will remain in-situ when the Site is handed back to landowners. Landowners can then use their land for whatever they wish.</p> <p>The majority of Mitigation and Enhancement Areas identified on the Green Infrastructure Strategy will support agricultural uses, including arable production. A total of 234ha of the Site will be retained in arable farmland.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		In addition to the above, an Outline Soil Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO Application and details the handling of soils through the lifetime of the Proposed Development, which will enable agricultural use to be continued if the Scheme is decommissioned.
Concerns about the cumulative effects of solar farm developments in Lincolnshire and the negative impact on food security.	No	<p>The assessment of likely cumulative effects of the Proposed Development has been undertaken and considers impacts of the Proposed Development and identified solar farms in Lincolnshire.</p> <p>The Statement of Need [EN010127/APP/7.1] and Chapter 12 of the ES, sets the Proposed Scheme's impact in the context of wider agricultural land availability alongside solar development more generally, and concludes that the Scheme individually and cumulatively would not have a negative impact on agricultural land; and therefore food security.</p>
General comments about leaving the land as it is currently.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Comments in relation to solar panels being sited on brownfield sites instead of agricultural land specifically.	No	The Site Selection Report sets out how site selection and then scheme design development has accounted for agricultural land requirements, noting that this was undertaken in the context of the Applicant having a connection agreement at Ryhall Substation and that there are limited brownfield sites or sites of less agricultural land classification quality that

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>could be utilised whilst still being able to connect to the substation. There is relatively little previously developed land located within sufficient distance of the National Grid Ryhall Substation that an appropriate grid connection could be provided to. The previously developed land registers maintained by South Kesteven District Council and Rutland County Council show 22ha and 3.4 ha respectively, which even together would be significantly below the area required to deliver a utility-scale solar farm.</p> <p>There are some large previously developed sites within the wider area, although located some distance from the National Grid Ryhall Substation site, which are not listed on the register. These are considered in terms of their ability to deliver the same infrastructure, with the same benefits and in the same timescales (as required by NPS policy) as the Proposed Development in the Site Selection Appendix of the Planning Statement.</p> <p>This includes the consideration of Woolfox Depot, North Luffenham (St Georges), and Cottesmore.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The Statement of Need [EN010127/APP/7.1] explains why greenfield solar development is a necessity alongside any other brownfield proposals and explains how the Proposed Development takes up a very small percentage of available agricultural land.</p> <p>For more information, please see the Site Selection Appendix of the Planning Statement.</p>
<p>Comments in relation to solar panels being sited on an alternative site instead of agricultural land specifically.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As set out in the Site Selection Report, the starting point for site selection was ensuring that there was sufficient land to service the Applicant’s grid connection agreement with National Grid Electricity Transmission to export 240MW (AC) of clean power to the national grid via the Ryhall Substation.,</p> <p>As such, the parameters applied for in this application (including the size of the Proposed Development) allow for a solar farm capable of generating up to 350MW (DC) to account for the normally applied factors in solar scheme development that accounts for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Degradation of panels over time;</li> <li>2. Seasonal and daily variation of solar irradiance; and</li> </ol>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>3. Loss of power in the conversion from AC to DC.</p> <p>This approach will ensure that Mallard Pass Solar Farm is able to optimise the available grid connection and generate as much clean power as possible each day and over its lifetime.</p> <p>In considering a site that meets these requirements, a range of technical, environmental and economic factors are considered when assessing any potential site for large scale solar developments, including the Application.</p> <p>The key reasons for why the land within the Order Limits was chosen and why it is considered a suitable location for the Proposed Development are outlined in the Site Selection Report. These reasons include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The land within Lincolnshire has the potential to locate a large-scale solar development due to the large open areas of undeveloped land.</li> <li>• There is the available capacity for the Proposed Development to connect to the national grid at Ryhall National Grid Substation.</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The land is not located within or close to internationally or nationally designated biodiversity sites.</li> <li>• The land is not located within or close to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</li> <li>• The land is not located within a Green Belt Designation.</li> <li>• The site is of greater relative distance from protected ecological and heritage assets (including Rutland Water SPA) than areas further west and south.</li> <li>• Whilst impacting on some agricultural land, it impacts less compared to alternative nearby locations, given the prevalence of best and most versatile land within those other areas.</li> <li>• The land is predominantly within Environmental Agency Flood Zone 1, therefore at low risk of flooding.</li> <li>• The land is relatively close to the part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) of the A1 which has good accessibility for the Proposed Development.</li> </ul>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Site has limited land use conflict with respect to local development plan allocations and displacement of existing businesses.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see the Site Selection Report, and Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
Comments in regard to wildflower planting.	Yes	<p>Approximately 43ha of wildflower grassland habitat would be created along with approximately 7,500m of structural tree planting, and approximately 14,000m of structural hedgerow planting, and areas under the PV Arrays and the landscape buffers will be planted with a combination of native grassland mix, wildflower mixes, scrub, and hedgerows.</p> <p>Woodland blocks and belts will be planted in strategic locations to provide visual screening, ecological habitats in order to achieve biodiversity net gain. The landscape and habitat reinstatement and creation will be undertaken in accordance with the principles set out in</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.8] and it is considered that this will improve conditions for pollinators.
Comments in regard to land management.	Yes	<p>The land underneath and around the Solar PV Arrays could be managed through a combination of sheep grazing and/or hay/silage production in order to maintain the field vegetation during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. As outlined in the oLEMP, if land underneath and around the Solar PV Arrays are managed through sheep grazing, the grazing rights will be retained by landowners.</p> <p>The management of the Green Infrastructure and Mitigation and Enhancement Areas will be undertaken in accordance with the oLEMP which sets out how this should be managed to ensure that the landscape and biodiversity objectives are met.</p> <p>For more information, please see the outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP), [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p>
Comments in regard to soil management.	Yes	The nature of the Proposed Development will not significantly impact the quality of soils which will be of the same quality as the existing scenario.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The oCEMP and subsequent oDEMP will prevent impacts on the quality of soils during the construction and decommissioning phases.</p> <p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. An outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) has been prepared to support the DCO application. The decommissioning phase would include the removal of any permissive paths and potential reversion of grassland underneath the Solar PV Arrays to ensure that the land can be handed back to landowners to enable arable farming to be taken forward in the future. Any planting of trees, hedgerows, and scrubs will remain in-situ when the Site is handed back to landowners. Landowners can then use their land for whatever they wish.</p> <p>The majority of Mitigation and Enhancement Areas identified on the Green Infrastructure Strategy will support agricultural uses, including arable production. A total of 239ha of the Site will be retained in arable farmland.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>In addition to the above, an Outline Soil Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO Application and details the handling of soils through the lifetime of the Proposed Development, which will enable agricultural use to be continued if the Scheme is decommissioned.</p>
<p>Comments in relation to the retention and addition of hedgerows.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As outlined in the DAS, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b>, The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to approximately 426ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining land within the Order Limits would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, as well as existing highways and other infrastructure, or proposed for mitigation and enhancement areas.</p> <p>In addition to this, the following mitigation measures set out how the Applicant proposes to protect existing green infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hedgerows would be managed in accordance with the specifications in the oLEMP.</li> <li>• Perimeter fences will not be constructed through existing hedgerows.</li> <li>• Offsets of at least 10m either side from all existing hedgerows will be provided.</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Green Infrastructure strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared which both mitigates the impacts of the Proposed Development and provides enhancements through the planting of approximately 7,500m of structural tree planting, and approximately 14,000m of structural hedgerow planting This is secured through the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b>.</li> </ul> <p>The decommissioning phase would include the removal of any permissive paths and potential reversion of grassland underneath the Solar PV Arrays to ensure that the land can be handed back to landowners to enable arable farming to be taken forward in the future. Any planting of trees, hedgerows, and scrubs will remain in-situ when the Site is handed back to landowners. Landowners can then use their land for whatever they wish.</p>
<b>EIA Topic Area: Air Quality</b>		

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Concerns about air pollution and dust caused by increased HGV movements and traffic congestion.	No	Construction traffic flows, as reported in Appendix 9.4 of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b> , are well below screening criteria for potential impact to air quality in Environmental Protection UK and Institute of Air Quality Management guidance. As such, impacts to air quality are expected to be insignificant. The oCEMP, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b> , sets out measures for the management of dust, secured by DCO Requirement.
Concerns about access route that passes two schools, subsequently subjecting children to excessive fumes from HGVs.	No	Construction traffic flows, as reported in Appendix 9.4: Transport Assessment. of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b> , are well below screening criteria for potential impact to air quality in Environmental Protection UK and Institute of Air Quality Management guidance. As such, impacts to air quality are expected to be insignificant.  Furthermore, HGV deliveries will be restricted to avoid school start and end time. HGVs will therefore only deliver to the primary construction compound between the hours of 09:00 to 15:00, giving an effective six-hour window for HGV deliveries to take place.
Concerns about toxic fumes caused by batteries.	No	Not applicable, there are no batteries as part of the Proposed Development.
<b>EIA Topic Area: Noise and Vibration</b>		

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>Concern about the increase in noise during construction phase, particularly caused by piling of solar panel mounting structures, tonal noise from the substation, and increase in HGV movements.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>A detailed and robust noise assessment forms part of the ES (Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>). This considers the nature of the noise sources associated with the Proposed Development, including construction, operational noise from electrical plant including that of the proposed substation, and the construction traffic. The assessment methodology used was agreed to be in line with best practice in consultation with the local authorities.</p> <p>The conclusions of the assessment presented in Chapter 10 is that, following implementation of the embedded and additional mitigation measures (proposed in sections 10.3 and 10.5 of Chapter 10 respectively), no significant noise or vibration impacts are identified (Section 10.6 of Chapter 10).</p> <p>When considering the potential noise impacts of the Proposed Development as a result of construction activities including related traffic passing to and from the Site, the relevant embedded mitigation measures are described within section 10.3 of Chapter 10 of the ES. These include the general construction working hours (07:00 to 19:00 – Monday to</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Saturday), with further restriction on some noise-generating activities and HGV movements on Saturday afternoons (13:00 to 19:00). These measures are set out in the oCEMP and oDEMP.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures described in section 10.5 of Chapter 10 include control of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) if undertaken at night, as well as controlling piling noise and informing residents of noisy works: these measures will also be implemented through the CEMP and DEMP.</p> <p>Given the angle and location of the panels it is unlikely that any amplification of the railway noise would occur at sensitive receptors.</p>
Disruption caused by low ambient noise of transformers and inverters.	No	Noise from electrical plant was assessed against stringent noise limits on a precautionary basis and no significant impacts are expected subject to a suitable finalised design and selection of the plant to meet these noise limits. This can be controlled through a DCO requirement for the scheme.



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
How will noise impact be measured?	No	<p>The impact of construction/decommission noise has been assessed in line with relevant British Standards and relevant Guidance, in consultation with the local authorities. The assessment of the temporary impacts of construction noise is primarily aimed at understanding the need for dedicated management measures and, if so, the types of measures that are required.</p> <p>The impact of operational noise has also been assessed in line with relevant British Standards and considering stringent noise limits which account for the existing noise levels in the area.</p>
How will noise impact be mitigated?	No	<p>Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, provides a review of the Embedded Mitigation measures for the Proposed Development. Additional Mitigation measures are also presented to minimise the impacts of the Proposed Development during construction, operation and decommissioning phases.</p> <p>In addition, in Table 35 of the oCEMP, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b>, a list of mitigation and/or enhancement measures have been outlined to minimise</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>noise and vibration at noise sensitive receptors, including neighbouring residential properties and other sensitive receptors arising from construction activities. These include, as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ensuring that all appropriate processes, procedures and measures are in place to minimise noise before works begin and throughout the construction programme;</li> <li>b. All contractors to be made familiar with current legislation and the guidance in BS 5228 (Parts 1 and 2) (2014) which should form a prerequisite of their appointment;</li> <li>c. Ensuring that, where reasonably practicable, noise and vibration is controlled at source (e.g. the selection of inherently quiet plant and low vibration equipment), review of the construction programme and methodology to consider quieter methods, consideration of the location of equipment onsite and control of working hours;</li> <li>d. Use of modern plant, complying with applicable UK noise emission requirements;</li> <li>e. Hydraulic techniques for breaking to be used in preference to percussive techniques, where reasonably practicable;</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. Drop heights of materials will be minimised;</li> <li>g. Unnecessary revving of engines will be avoided, and equipment will be switched off when not in use;</li> <li>h. Plant and vehicles will be sequentially started up rather than all together;</li> <li>i. Offsite pre-fabrication used where reasonably practicable;</li> <li>j. Use of screening locally around significant noise producing plant and activities. Screening would be designed to minimise landscape and visual impacts;</li> <li>k. Regular and effective maintenance by trained personnel will be undertaken to keep plant and equipment working to manufacturer's specifications;</li> <li>l. All construction plant and equipment to be properly maintained, silenced where appropriate, operated to prevent excessive noise and switched off when not in use;</li> <li>m. Loading and unloading of vehicles, dismantling of equipment or moving equipment or materials around the Order limits to be</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>conducted in such a manner as to minimise noise generation, as far as reasonably practicable;</p> <p>n. All vehicles used onsite shall incorporate reversing warning devices as opposed to the typical tonal reversing alarms to minimise noise disturbance where reasonably practicable;</p> <p>o. Appropriate routing of construction traffic on public roads and along access tracks pursuant to the CTMP;</p> <p>p. Provision of information to local planning authorities and local residents to advise of potential noisy works that are due to take place;</p> <p>q. Section 61 Consents would be obtained for the Proposed Development which would include agreed construction noise limits for nearby noise sensitive receptors;</p> <p>r. Monitoring of noise complaints and reporting to the Applicant for immediate investigation and action. A display board will be installed onsite. These will include contact details for the Site Manager or alternative public interface with whom complaints can be lodged. A log book of complaints will be prepared and managed by the Site Manager; and</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>s. Consideration will also be given to traffic routing, timing and access points to the Order limits to minimise noise impacts at existing receptors following appointment of a principal construction contractor, and as construction working methods are developed. The contractor will issue a project route map and delivery schedule to control construction traffic. Management of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) within the Order limits and being let onto the highway network will be managed through the CTMP developed pursuant to the Outline CTMP. The relevant access route road surface will be checked prior to use.</p>
<p>Concerns regarding the noise impact of prevailing wind.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As described above, control of operational noise to stringent noise limits as implemented through the DCO will control the potential for significant effects of the noise from the equipment associated with the Proposed Development.</p>
<p><b>EIA Topic Area: Highways and Access</b></p>		
<p>Concerns about increased traffic congestion on roads which respondents view as already</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>. The Applicant notes that the primary traffic impacts associated with the Proposed Development will be linked to the construction phase. The measures to mitigate the traffic impacts of</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>dangerous and inadequate for HGVs.</p> <p>Emphasis on increased traffic congestion and the impact to local traffic and local delivery businesses.</p>		<p>construction are outlined within the supporting Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP), [EN010127/APP/7.11].</p> <p>In relation to traffic generation, the hours for the Proposed Development will be in 12-hour shifts each day, with employees travelling to and from the Order limits an hour either side of these times (i.e., between 06:00 and 07:00, and 19:00 and 20:00). Where onsite works are to be conducted outside the core working hours, they will comply with the restrictions pursuant to the consenting process.</p> <p>Therefore, it was agreed with Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council and National Highways that no localised capacity assessments needed to be undertaken as the impact of the Proposed Development fell below the threshold of 30 two-way vehicle movements during the morning (08:00-09:00) and evening (17:00-18:00) peak hour – as there is to be no impact during the identified peak hours.</p> <p>Whilst the uplift in daily traffic flows may result in more delay than at present, it is not considered that this will be significant due to the</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>restrictions in the timings for construction vehicles and the arrangements for staff who will arrive and depart outside of the peak hours set out in the oCTMP.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that there will be no traffic impact on the morning and evening peak hours when the local road network is generally the most congested.</p>
<p>Emphasis on safety for local residents as HGVs will be using small lanes that do not have pavements and passing places; they are concerns this will result in fatalities.</p> <p>This includes emphasis on safety risks to children where HGVs will pass local schools on small rural roads, particularly during the construction and decommissioning</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur.</p> <p>In addition, delivery windows for HGVs will be restricted to avoid School start and end times, reducing conflict with any sensitive receptors such as School children.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>phase of the Proposed Development.</p>		<p>Temporary passing places will be implemented on Uffington Lane for the life cycle of the construction programme to reduce any two-way conflicts between construction vehicles, with the routing arrangement (access via 'Route 1' and egress via 'Route 3') also avoiding the likelihood of any two-way conflicts along Ryhall Road and the A6121.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p> <p>In addition, for concerns about glint and glare for road users, please see Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
<p>Concerns about damage to species-rich road verges, especially those within Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Areas of Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI have been removed from the Order limits in order to avoid direct impacts as cabling routing or site access works are no longer being considered in this location. Areas of the SSSI that remain within the Order limits are for vegetation management only.</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>In addition, sections of the A6121 and Ryhall Road have been removed from the Order Limits, avoiding direct impacts on the Tolethorpe Verges SSSI as it has been agreed with the Local Highway Authority that localised road improvements are not required to facilitate the movement of construction vehicles, with the exception of the A6121/B1176 and the Ryhall Road/Old Great North Road Junction.</p> <p>Please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, for more information.</p>
Concerns about access for emergency services.	No	<p>It is unlikely that access for emergency services will be impacted by construction vehicles as the uplift in daily traffic associated with the Proposed Development is less than 2% across the majority of the links assessed. There is a greater increase on Uffington Lane however this is unlikely to be used by emergency vehicles. In the event that it is utilised, the temporary passing places along Uffington Lane will help to facilitate access.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>Wished for confirmation on the proposed transportation routes of construction traffic.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information on the Access Routes for the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p> <p>Through consultation with stakeholders regarding the three routes considered as part of the development of the access routing strategy to the primary construction compound, it is proposed that HGVs will arrive via Route 1 from the west, before accessing the primary construction compound located opposite of the existing Ryhall Substation, then finally departing via Route 3 towards the east (see Figure 9.1 of the ES for the visual representation of these Routes). These routes are discussed further in Section 9.3 of Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
<p>Comments in relation to soil compaction.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>In regard to soil, the oCEMP, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b> and oSMP, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.12]</b> outline the management of soils, and where possible, vehicles will be limited to permeable access tracks to prevent compaction.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Can the East Coast Railway Line be used as an alternative to HGVs?	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement: Site Selection Appendix.
Request for more detail about the Construction Traffic Management Plan.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see the Construction Traffic Management Plan, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.11]</b> .
How is noise and particulate pollution going to be minimised?	Yes	<p>A detailed and robust noise assessment forms part of the ES (Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>). This considers the nature of the noise sources associated with the Proposed Development, including construction, operational noise from electrical plant including that of the proposed substation, and the construction traffic. The assessment methodology used was agreed to be in line with best practice in consultation with the local authorities.</p> <p>When considering the potential noise impacts of the Proposed Development as a result of construction related traffic passing to and from the Site, the relevant embedded mitigation measures described within Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, include the general</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>construction working hours (07:00 to 19:00 – Monday to Saturday). This is also considered in the oCEMP, which outlines that these working hours would be further restricted to avoid some works on Saturday afternoons (13:00 to 19:00). This includes activities such as earthworks, trench construction and any piling, as well as HGV deliveries and movements would not be undertaken at these times.</p> <p>In regard to particulate pollution, dust emissions during the construction and decommissioning phases will be controlled by mitigation measures included in the oCEMP and oDEMP. On that basis, there is expected to be no likely significant effects to air quality at existing sensitive receptors and as such associated impacts have been scoped out. For more information on air quality, please see Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
Request for extension of permissible paths, especially the link between the MacMillan Way bridlepath and bridlepath across Essendine Road.	Yes	As well as retaining all existing PRowS across the Site, 8.1km of new permissive routes have been incorporated into the Proposed Development as illustrated on the Green Infrastructure Strategy. These permissive routes will enable increased public access across the landscape of the local area.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>These new permissive paths include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essendine Western Loop – A circa 1.97km permissive path route creating a loop running northwest of Essendine linking back to the existing bridleway E169 and Carlby High Street and taking in the West Glen River to the north of Essendine.</li> <li>• West Glen River – A circa 2.9km permissive path link from Stamford Road south-eastward along the river corridor to join MacMillan Way. The route would include low a key nature area, interpretation, and seating.</li> <li>• Essendine Eastern Loop – a circa 3.2km permissive path route linking Essendine to the northern and southern ends of Bridleway E182 (BrAW/1/1).</li> </ul>
Request for cycle routes to be explored across the Site, especially joined up with Stamford and other nearby villages.	Yes	For information regarding Walking and Cycling Network and Pedestrian and Cyclist Amenity, please see Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> .

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>As outlined above, there are three new permissive paths proposed across the Site which would improve connectivity for recreational non-motorised users.</p> <p>On that basis, it is considered that the construction phase of the Proposed Development will have a non-significant effect on Pedestrian and Cyclist Amenity overall.</p> <p>In addition, to encourage the use of lower carbon modes of transport, the Applicant will identify local bus services and pedestrian and cycle routes to and from the Site to all construction staff and provide facilities for the safe storage of cycles.</p>
Request for more information as to why the total size of the Proposed Development increased by 23ha to allow for highway works.	No	The Site comprises of four different areas, one of which is Potential Highway Works Site. This is areas beyond the Solar PV Site which are being considered for cable route connections and temporary/permanent improvements to existing highways to facilitate the construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		For more information on the Proposed Development and the operational components, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> .
Comments in regard to access.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information on the Access Routes for the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p> <p>Through consultation with stakeholders regarding the three routes considered as part of the development of the access routing strategy to the primary construction compound, it is proposed that HGVs will arrive via Route 1 from the west, before accessing the primary construction compound located opposite of the existing Ryhall Substation, then finally departing via Route 3 towards the east (see Figure 9.1 of the ES for the visual representation of these Routes). These routes are discussed further in Section 9.3 of Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p> <p>As detailed in the oCEMP, access to all existing PRoW will be retained during the construction phase, with no PRoW closures and a limited</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>number of localised temporary PRow diversions to allow the construction of access tracks where they cross PRow. The PRow will be managed throughout the construction phase to ensure that they can continue to be used safely.</p> <p>In addition to the retention of all existing PRow in their existing alignment, a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths is proposed to link to the wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset from existing PRow and proposed permissive paths to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRow.</p>
Comments in relation to safety for horses and horse riders.	No	<p>As outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, the construction phase of the Proposed Development is likely to have adverse, local, temporary and medium term impact on pedestrian delay (High Sensitivity) for non-motorised users of the LRN and PRow, as the increase in vehicles may slow pedestrians (and horse riders or cyclists) (in terms of crossing permeability) and increase delay; however, this is considered to result in a non-significant effect on pedestrian delay overall.</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>In addition, as outlined in Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], hedgerow and tree planting has been proposed either side of PRow to filter and obstruct views of the Proposed Development to avoid the impact on equestrian routes.</p>
<p>Comments in relation to narrow roads specifically.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. The Applicant notes that the primary traffic impacts associated with the Proposed Development will be linked to the construction phase. The measures to mitigate the traffic impacts of construction are outlined within the supporting Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).</p> <p>In relation to traffic generation, the hours for the Proposed Development will be in 12-hour shifts each day, with employees travelling to and from the Order limits an hour either side of these times (i.e., between 06:00 and 07:00, and 19:00 and 20:00). Where onsite works are to be conducted outside the core working hours, they will comply with the restrictions pursuant to the consenting process.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Therefore, it was agreed with Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council and National Highways that no localised capacity assessments needed to be undertaken as the impact of the Proposed Development fell below the threshold of 30 two-way vehicle movements during the morning (08:00-09:00) and evening (17:00-18:00) peak hour – as there is to be no impact during the identified peak hours.</p> <p>Whilst the uplift in daily traffic flows may result in more delay than at present, it is not considered that this will be significant due to the restrictions in the timings for construction vehicles and the arrangements for staff who will arrive and depart outside of the peak hours set out in the oCTMP.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that there will be no traffic impact on the morning and evening peak hours when the local road network is generally the most congested.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Can you provide details of the name and location of the comparable NSIP in Section 9.3.23 of the PEIR.	No	In section 9.3.23 of the PEIR, Chapter 9: Access and Highways, construction traffic trip rates were generated by comparing the number of PV modules and associated construction vehicles at a comparable recent NSIP, the consented Cleve Hill Solar Park (EN010085) application. Cleve Hill Solar Park is located on the north Kent coast, one mile northeast of Faversham, 3 miles west of Whitstable and located closest to the village of Graveney.
Request for details of the oCTMP.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the Construction Traffic Impact Assessment Management Plan, please see Appendix 9.4 of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b> .
Comments in relation to transportation routes and risk assessment.	No	Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>There will be restrictions placed on the delivery windows for HGVs, with no deliveries allowed to take place during School start and pick times. The restrictions on HGVs delivery hours will be secured by way of Requirement on the DCO application, through the CTMP.</p> <p>With respect to the impact on the Strategic Road Network, it has been agreed with National Highways that the impact of the Proposed Development falls below the threshold for assessment to be required, which is identified as 30 two-way vehicle trips during the AM or PM peak hour. As there will be no impact on the peak hours, it has been agreed with National Highways that no assessment of the Strategic Road Network is required.</p>
Cumulative impacts of traffic.	No	As outlined in Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Summary of Cumulative Summary, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> , there are no cumulative developments on the short-list with the potential for cumulative effects with the Proposed Development due to the limited overlap in construction programme and construction vehicle routing.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		Furthermore, the traffic associated with other cumulative developments have been accounted for within the Trip End Model Presentation Programme (TEMPro) growth factors that have formed the basis of the transport assessment. As such the assessment is inherently cumulative and no significant adverse effects have been identified.
<b>EIA Topic Area: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)</b>		
<p>Concerns about the visual impact of the Proposed Development on the landscape, particularly due to scale and location.</p> <p>Emphasis on what mitigation measures are proposed to mitigate visual impacts.</p>	Yes	<p>The landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development have been assessed in accordance with best practice within Chapter 6 of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has informed the site layout and design of the Proposed Development and has advised upon specific landscape and visual mitigation measures and enhancement measures to reduce the overall effects.</p> <p>The design evolution, iterations, and changes to the site layout in response to consultee comments has been set out within the Design and Access Statement (DAS), <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b>. Specific landscape and</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>visual mitigation and enhancement identified within the LVIA are further illustrated on the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would result in a number of landscape and visual effects although these would be managed to reduce the degree and significance of effects in the long term. Whilst this solar farm is of a large utility scale, the overall scale of the development would appear subdivided and compartmentalised by the landform, woodland, and hedgerows such that it would not be entirely visible from any given location.</p>
<p>Concerns that visual screening will take years to establish and not mitigate losses of amenities or visual impact. In addition, they think the visual mitigation measures are inadequate for the scale of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Proposed Development is generally located within a framework of existing woodlands and hedgerows that will provide a degree of visual screening from the outset. The design of the Proposed Development has sought to ‘tread lightly’ within this framework, working within existing vegetation and field boundaries. The proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan also includes proposed hedgerow reinforcements and treebelts identified through the LVIA and consultation to provide additional visual screening at key locations. The proposed planting will take time to fully establish although could be expected to provide visual</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		screening on open sections of Solar PV Site within 7 years post construction.
Concerns about the visual impact of the substation.	Yes	The Onsite Substation has been located near to the Ryhall substation within close proximity of the existing industrial buildings to the south of Essendine and the East Coast Mainline Railway. The development parameters for the Onsite Substation have been reviewed through the consultation process to reduce the heights of the key components as far as possible. Planting including hedgerow reinforcements has been proposed to the north of the Onsite Substation to provide partial visual screening from Essendine to the north.
Request for visual screening and mature planting along the additional 4.7 km of pathways.	No	The existing and proposed PRoW and permissive footpaths passing through the Order limits would be located within wide corridors with a minimum standoff of 15 metres to the PV arrays. The PV arrays would also be enclosed by proposed hedgerow planting to soften the visual effects on these routes in the long term. A total of 8.1km of new permissive paths is now proposed.
Concerns about height of solar panels.	Yes	The development parameters for the Fixed South Facing (FSF) and Single Axis Tracker (SAT) panels is 3.3 metres above ground level (agl). This is a typical height for a ground mounted solar PV panel allowing for

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>an approximate 0.8m height to the bottom edge to allow for sheep grazing beneath the PV panels.</p>
<p>Concerns about height of security measures such as fencing, security lighting, and CCTV cameras.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As set out in Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, a fence will enclose the PV Arrays located within Works No 1. The fence will to be a 'deer fence' (wooden posts and metal wire mesh) and will be up to 2m in height. Pole mounted internal facing closed circuit television (CCTV) systems will be installed at a height of up to 3.5m around the perimeter of the PV Arrays. Access gates will be of similar construction and height as the perimeter fencing. Clearances above ground, or the inclusion of mammal gates will be included to permit the passage of wildlife.</p> <p>CCTV cameras would use night-vision technology, which would be monitored remotely and avoid the need for night-time lighting. No areas of the PV Arrays are proposed to be continuously lit. For security requirements, Passive Infra-red Detector (PID) systems (or similar) will be installed around the perimeter of the PV Arrays to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV.</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The lighting of the Onsite Substation would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements, particularly around any emergency exits where there would be lighting, similar to street lighting that operates from dusk. Otherwise, lighting sensors for security purposes will be implemented around the Onsite Substation.</p> <p>The lighting design would seek to limit any impact on sensitive receptors by directing lighting downward and away from the Order limit boundaries and existing vegetation. During operation, no part of the Proposed Development would be continuously lit; manually operated and motion-detection lighting would be utilised for operational and security purposes within the Onsite Substation.</p> <p>In addition, the Proposed Development is generally located within a framework of existing woodlands and hedgerows that will provide a degree of visual screening from the outset. The design of the Proposed Development has sought to ‘tread lightly’ within this framework, working within existing vegetation and field boundaries. The proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan also includes proposed hedgerow</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>reinforcements and treebelts identified through the LVIA and consultation to provide additional visual screening at key locations. The proposed planting will take time to fully establish although could be expected to provide visual screening on open sections of Solar PV Site within 7 years post construction.</p> <p>Furthermore, the existing and proposed PRow and permissive footpaths passing through the Order limits would be located within wide corridors with a minimum standoff of 15 metres to the PV arrays. The PV arrays would also be enclosed by proposed hedgerow planting to soften the visual effects on these routes in the long term. A total of 8.1km of new permissive paths is now proposed.</p> <p>In regard to the height of solar panels, the development parameters for the Fixed South Facing (FSF) and Single Axis Tracker (SAT) panels is 3.3 metres above ground level (agl). This is a typical height for a ground mounted solar PV panel allowing for an approximate 0.8m height to the bottom edge to allow for sheep grazing beneath the PV panels.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Wished for further details about the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment.	No	For information on the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) please see Appendix 6.4: RVAA, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b> . This includes further assessment details in relation to the residential properties located within the surroundings of the Proposed Development.
Comments in relation to the LVIA.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information on the LVIA Methodology, please see Appendix 6.2 of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b> .
Comments in relation to visual impact to wildlife.	No	<p>The landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development have been assessed in accordance with best practice within Chapter 6 of the ES. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b>, has informed the site layout and design of the Proposed Development and has advised upon specific landscape and visual mitigation measures and enhancement measures to reduce the overall effects.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
<b>EIA Topic Area: Socio-Economics and Tourism</b>		

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>Concern raised about depletion of house values in the local area.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in Chapter 14: Socio-Economics, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], this assessment concluded that there will be no potential significant adverse socio-economic effects during the construction, operation, or decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. Therefore, no additional mitigation measures over and above those stated in other technical chapters of the ES are required to avoid or minimise the socio-economic effects identified in Chapter 14.</p> <p>Some examples of mitigation measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties;</li> <li>• 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties; and</li> <li>• The removal of the Solar PV Site from north of the Drift providing a suitable offset of residential dwellings in the interests of visual amenity.</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>Request for local benefits for the community, including contribution into a community fund.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. No community fund is being considered for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Amenity and Recreation Assessment (Appendix 6.5, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b>) concludes that, during the construction phase, visibility, noise and vibration, construction traffic and air quality effects would have a low magnitude, slight significant adverse effect on users of the MacMillan Way (slight significance) immediately adjacent to the Order limits, and moderate to major adverse effects on users of Bridleways E169 and E185 (both medium sensitivity), and a slight or minimal effect on the other PRow within or in the vicinity of the Order limits.</p> <p>The Landscape and Visual chapter (Chapter 6, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>) assesses the visual effects of the Proposed Development on receptors within and outside the Order Limits. It concludes that there would be major-moderate adverse (significant) effects within the Order Limits, including on users of Bridleways E169 and E182 and public footpath Uffi/5/1, all of which are of high-medium sensitivity. Beyond the Order limits the effects during the construction phase are deemed to be of</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>minimal to slight magnitude and adverse, which is not significant. This includes the McMillan long distance trail (high-medium sensitivity).</p> <p>All existing PRoWs will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to the wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset from PRoWs to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRoWs.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.</p>
<p>Concerns about the negative impacts to local businesses and request for more information on how the Proposed Development will benefit manufacturing businesses in the UK and locally.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. Economic benefit will arise from the provision of temporary jobs over the anticipated 24-month construction phase of the Proposed Development. The Applicant estimates that an average of 150 FTE gross temporary jobs will be employed onsite over the 24-month construction phase, with an estimated maximum of 400 workers on site during peak hours.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Based on experience of the operating solar farms, the Applicant estimates that four FTE gross jobs will be employed onsite to monitor the Proposed Development during the operation phase. In addition, up to 20 workers per day will be required onsite at certain times to undertake maintenance and cleaning of panels and landscape management. For calculation purposes it is estimated that the total number of jobs supported will be the equivalent of approximately 10 FTEs.</p> <p>Monitoring and maintenance jobs will be provided over the operational period of the Proposed Development. Operational employment effects are expressed as gross jobs and net additional jobs, taking into account deadweight, leakage, displacement, and multipliers.</p> <p>The Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, [EN010127/APP/7.10], proposes how the Applicant will work with local stakeholders to create opportunities for the improvement and employment of local skills by focusing on:</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The opportunities for the involvement of local companies in the construction and operation supply chain;</li> <li>• The ability of local residents to access employment opportunities associated with the construction and operation of the Development; and</li> <li>• The ability of research organisations to use the site to enable research and innovation in the renewable energy sector.</li> </ul> <p>The farm businesses within the Order limits all stated that, although agricultural practices within the Order limits will change, continued arable use is considered very unlikely to change across their wider land areas outside the Order limits. Within the Order limits a proportion of the mitigation and enhancement areas will continue to be farmed, whilst land management, which could include sheep grazing, will take place within the Order limits.</p> <p>Once the Proposed Development is operational, the owners of the four farm operations within the Order limits predict that the 13 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs currently directly supported will remain the same</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>and that the diversification of operations will help to sustain their commercial viability.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 14: Socio-Economics, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
<p>Concern about negative impact on tourism, and request for a thorough and independent review to be undertaken of the likely impacts the Proposed Development will have on tourism. Additionally, Stamford is listed as 'one of Britain's finest stone towns' and sees thousands of visitors each year.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. In Chapter 14: Socio-Economics of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, Section 14.3 outlines the potential effects of the construction, operational and decommissioning phases on employment, GVA and tourism in the study area.</p> <p>Three visitor behaviour / tourism receptors were assessed within a 2km radius of the Proposed Development, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity and Recreation Assessment (Appendix 6.5 of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b>)</li> <li>• Landscape and Visual impact (Chapter 6 of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>)</li> <li>• Noise (Chapter 10 of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>)</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Taking these receptors into account, it is considered that, on balance, the construction phase will have a negligible to minor adverse effect on the local tourism economy which is not significant.</p> <p>For more information on the operational and decommissioning phases, see Chapter 14: Socio-Economics, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
<p>Will the Proposed Development reduce the cost of electricity in the local area?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. However, because we cannot exclusively provide the energy generated by the Proposed Development to local residents this will not be the case. It is the responsibility of the system operator, National Grid ESO, to ensure that sufficient electricity can be transmitted to meet consumption, wherever and whenever that consumption is needed.</p> <p>As part of the statutory consultation, the Applicant consulted with National Grid and its various relevant entities (National Grid Gas Plc, National Grid Electricity System Operator Ltd, and National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc).</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>In the UK, energy transmission and distribution is undertaken by the private sector through your chosen energy supplier, National Grid Electricity Transmission, and local distribution network operator (DNO). The relevant electricity DNO for the Proposed Development is Western Power Distribution and we are formally consulting with both of these organisations on our plans for the Proposed Development. Therefore, although energy generation is privatised, since the transmission of electricity is a regulated service undertaken on behalf of the state by National Grid Electricity Transmission and Western Power Distribution, we are not able to supply the energy generated by the Proposed Development to local residents.</p> <p>There are benefits to exporting directly to our National Grid. By doing this, the electricity generated by the Proposed Development will deliver the biggest decarbonisation and cost benefit to the UK as a whole.</p> <p>Through its connection at the National Grid Ryhall Substation, Mallard Pass will increase our national supply of low-cost, home-grown</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		renewable energy, helping further expand our country's energy independence and positively contributing to our national decarbonisation goals.
Concerns about loss of visual beauty of the villages and landscape, the historical background, provision of bridleways and footpaths for exercise, walking, riding, or cycling, that will have a negative impact on quality of life.	Yes	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Amenity and Recreation Assessment (Appendix 6.5) concludes that, during the construction phase, visibility, noise and vibration, construction traffic and air quality effects would have a low magnitude, slight significant adverse effect on users of the MacMillan Way (slight significance) immediately adjacent to the Order limits, and moderate to major adverse effects on users of Bridleways E169 and E185 (both medium sensitivity), and a slight or minimal effect on the other PRoW within or in the vicinity of the Order limits. These effects would be temporary and on a localised basis dependent on phasing of construction.</p> <p>The Landscape and Visual chapter (Chapter 6, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>) assesses the visual effects of the Proposed Development on receptors within and outside the Order Limits. It concludes that there would be major-moderate adverse (significant) effects within the Order Limits, including on users of Bridleways E169 and E182 and public footpath</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		Uffi/5/1, all of which are of high-medium sensitivity. Beyond the Order limits the effects during the construction phase are deemed to be of minimal to slight magnitude and adverse, which is not significant. This includes the McMillan long distance trail (high-medium sensitivity).
Concern that Lincolnshire's primary position as the 'breadbasket of the UK' will be jeopardised.	Yes	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The farm businesses all stated that, although agricultural practices within the Order limits will change, continued arable use is considered very unlikely to change across their wider land areas outside the Order limits. Within the Order limits a proportion of the mitigation and enhancement areas will continue to be farmed, whilst land management, which could include sheep grazing, will take place within the Order limits.</p> <p>Once the Proposed Development is operational, the owners of the four farm operations within the Order limits predict that the 13 FTEs currently directly supported will remain the same and that the diversification of operations will help to sustain their commercial viability.</p>
Will the Proposed Development support local jobs?	Yes	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Economic benefit will arise from the provision of temporary jobs over the anticipated 24-month construction phase of the Proposed Development. The Applicant

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>estimates that an average of 150 FTE gross temporary jobs will be employed onsite over the 24-month construction phase, with an estimated maximum of 400 workers on site during peak hours.</p> <p>Based on experience of the operating solar farms, the Applicant estimates that four FTE gross jobs will be employed onsite to monitor the Proposed Development during the operation phase. In addition, up to 20 workers per day will be required onsite at certain times to undertake maintenance and cleaning of panels and landscape management. For calculation purposes it is estimated that the total number of jobs supported will be the equivalent of approximately 10 FTEs.</p> <p>Monitoring and maintenance jobs will be provided over the operational period of the Proposed Development. Operational employment effects are expressed as gross jobs and net additional jobs, taking into account deadweight, leakage, displacement, and multipliers.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		For more information, please see Chapter 14: Socio-Economics, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
<b>EIA Topic Area: Health</b>		
Concerns about the loss of recreational and visual amenity causing a negative effect on physical and mental health, including the negative effect this will have on the NHS.	Yes	<p>As outlined in the Design and Access Statement (DAS), [EN010127/APP/7.3], the Proposed Development is proposed to help meet the urgent need for home grown, secure, renewable energy that is required by Government policy in addressing climate change and energy security. The Proposed Development also offers the opportunity to deliver wide-ranging benefits beyond renewable energy production including recovery of natural environments, economic growth and social benefits, including education and health and wellbeing opportunities.</p> <p>In addition, the NIC Design Principles have been used to frame the Project Design Principles. One NIC Design Principle is People – which reflects what society wants and share benefits widely. The Proposed Development has sought opportunities to improve the quality of life for people who live and work nearby and taken steps to mitigate negative impacts. The Proposed Development sought the views of local communities throughout the project to ensure the design complements</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>the local character and culture and provides meaningful benefits to local communities.</p> <p>Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Proposed Development will be sensitively sites and offset from residential properties.</li> <li>• 50m offset of solar stations from PRoW.</li> <li>• 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties.</li> <li>• The Proposed Development will create new opportunities for education on climate change via way of interpretation boards.</li> <li>• The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.</li> <li>• The Proposed Development will seek to minimise the potential effects of Electromagnetic Interference.</li> <li>• And CCTV monitoring will be along the perimeter and inward facing.</li> </ul>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		For more information, please see the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3].
Concern raised about whether the solar panels will be manufactured in China using slave labour.	Yes	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As detailed in the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, [EN010127/APP/7.10], the Applicant wishes to ensure the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development is undertaken pursuant to an ethical procurement policy and that this is a legal obligation on anyone who has the powers under the DCO. That would be achieved by securing this Plan by a requirement of the DCO.</p> <p>The Applicant proposes the following ethical procurement policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any potential supplier must participate in a modern slavery supplier due diligence exercise as part of the tender exercise;</li> <li>• Any potential supplier, whether or not they meet the statutory thresholds under section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, must publish annually a modern slavery and human trafficking statement;</li> <li>• The modern slavery and human trafficking statement must be informed by a risk assessment;</li> <li>• Any potential supplier must have a modern slavery policy;</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any potential supplier must provide relevant employees with modern slavery training that has been produced by a certified provider of such training;</li> <li>• Any contract to be entered into with a potential supplier must include the following warranties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The supplier has not been and is not engaged in any form of slavery, forced labour, labour exploitation or human trafficking anywhere in the world;</li> <li>○ The supplier pays and treats its workers in compliance with applicable employment laws and minimum wage requirements; and</li> <li>○ The supplier will take reasonable steps to prevent slavery and human trafficking in connection with its business anywhere in the world;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Any contract to be entered into with a potential supplier must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An obligation on the part of the potential supplier to report any circumstances that give reasonable cause to suspect possible</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>slavery, forced labour, labour exploitation or human trafficking in connection with its business anywhere in the world;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A right of audit;</li> <li>○ A right to require an action plan to be initiated by the supplier in the event that the Applicant considers the controls implemented by the supplier to be inadequate; and</li> <li>○ A right of immediate termination in the event of any instances of slavery, forced labour, labour exploitation and human trafficking connected to the supplier.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan.</p>
<p>Concern regarding health and safety risk of battery energy storage.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. Following the feedback received during non-statutory consultation and technical and commercial factors, the Applicant has decided to not include Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) as part of the Proposed Development. While the Applicant continues to recognise the importance of BESS in achieving</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		the UK's decarbonisation and energy security needs, the Applicant has not brought this aspect forward as part of the DCO Application.
Concern raised about danger to school children due to the proposed access routes for the Development.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. It was agreed with RCC, LCC and NH that no localised capacity assessment needed to be undertaken, as the impact of the Proposed Development fell below the threshold of 30 two-way vehicle movements during the morning (08:00-09:00) and evening (17:00-18:00) peak hour.</p> <p>Due to the restrictions in the timings for construction vehicles and the arrangement for staff who will arrive and depart outside of the peak hours set out in the oCTMP; there will be no traffic impact on the morning and evening peak hours, when the local road network is generally the most congested.</p>
Safety concerns for cyclists and motorists using the roads during construction phase.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> , the Proposed Development will increase the amount of traffic on the public highways during the construction, operational, and decommissioning phases. However, Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> , shows that the construction phase of the Proposed

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		Development would have a non-significant effect with regards to accidents and safety on the highways network.
Concern regarding the health hazards associated with the emittance of EMFs and EMRs on local communities.	Yes	The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], the Grid Connection Cable and Onsite Substation, which form a part of the Proposed Development, exceed 132kV and therefore have the potential to cause electromagnetic fields with potential for adverse effects on human health. The Grid Connection Cable will be buried underground at a suitable depth and the Onsite Substation will be set back from Uffington Lane and designed in accordance with relevant guidance (DECC Power Lines: Demonstrating compliance with EMF public exposure guidelines, A Voluntary Code of Practice 2012). Therefore, electromagnetic fields are unlikely to have any adverse effects on residential receptors.
Concerns regarding the security of the Proposed Development.	Yes	The Applicant makes note of this comment. In Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], Section 5.11 outlines the fencing, security and ancillary infrastructure for the Proposed Development.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Concerns about the Proposed Development in regard to medical grounds.	Yes	As a result of feedback, further removal of solar development from the area to the east of Essendine providing greater set back from the settlement, further respecting public amenity of the residents of Essendine and mitigating visual impacts of users travelling north out of Essendine (PL3 and PE4).
<b>EIA Topic Area: DCO Related Comments</b>		
Request for justification on why the planning decisions have been given to the national Government compared to local authorities.	No	<p>Due to the capacity of the Proposed Development exceeding 50 megawatts (MW), the project is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). In Advice Note 8, as set out by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), NSIPs are considered by the Government to be so big and of high national importance, and therefore the Applicant must apply to PINS for permission under a Development Consent Order (DCO).</p> <p>According to the Planning Act 2008, NSIPs must carry out a statutory phase of consultation, meaning a consultation process that the Applicant is required to carry out by law. All feedback received, from local authorities, statutory stakeholders, and the local community, has been</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		addressed in this Consultation Report, and in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5 that accompany this report, which will be submitted to PINS as part of the DCO Application.
Concerns raised about whether local authorities and local residents will have their say on the Proposed Development due to the Secretary of State making the final decision on the planning application.	Yes	<p>All feedback the Applicant received as part of the Statutory Consultation, forms part of the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. In this DCO, the Applicant has produced this Consultation Report that details the feedback and consultation responses received, and provides responses to this feedback, explaining how the Applicant has considered it, and the way in which it has influenced the proposals for the Proposed Development. In this way, it is guaranteed that all feedback received to this consultation is recorded and responded to, including all feedback received from local authorities and local residents.</p> <p>In Appendix 4: Applicant Response in Regard to S47 Comments, and Appendix 5: Applicant Response in Regard to S42 Comments, it outlines how the Applicant has considered each piece of feedback received during Statutory Consultation and whether this has result in any changes to the Proposed Development.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Landowner Related Comments</b>		
<p>Concern regarding the identification process of landowners classified as Category 1, 2 or 3 under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. Including disclosure on whether compensation is going to be given to affected landowners in the local area.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant can confirm it has served Statutory Consultation notices to parties, that after diligent inquiry, the project considers may either be directly affected by the project or may be entitled to submit a “relevant claim”.</p> <p>Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 lays out the Applicant’s duty to consult a variety of parties about a proposed application;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 42 (1)(d) is defined as each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44.</li> </ul> <p>Section 44 defines these parties as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Category 1 / Category 2 – these are typically parties that are inside the project Red Line Boundary (RLB) and may be directly affected by the project</li> <li>• Category 3 – these are typically parties that fall outside of the project Red Line Boundary (RLB) who may be entitled to submit a “relevant</li> </ul>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>claim” if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented</p> <p>The term "relevant claim" is defined in section 44 (6) as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a claim under section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 [...] (compensation where satisfaction [is] not made for the taking, or injurious affection, of land subject to compulsory purchase) ("section 10 claim").</li> <li>• (b) a claim under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 [...] (compensation for depreciation of land value by physical factors caused by the use of public works) ("Part 1 claim"); or</li> <li>• (c) a claim under section 152(3) [of PA 2008] (compensation payable where land is injuriously affected by the carrying out of the works).</li> </ul> <p>The Mallard Pass project team have used a methodology predominantly based on environmental data and legal precedents in their assessments, to help define these parties.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Not every party / receptor included within the PEIR would automatically be classed as a Category 3 interested party, therefore, not all the parties included in the PEIR would need to be formally consulted. Parties in proximity to the project that are not classed as Category 1 / 2 / 3 interests will typically be included as part of ‘Section 47 – Duty to consult local community’.</p> <p>There is no requirement to define an interested party as being part of Category 1 / 2 / 3 – the important part is that they are included in the Statutory Consultation and are able to make representations. The Applicant adopted an approach to include targeted cover letters which sought to define Category 1 / 2 / 3 interests where possible, to try to provide additional information to each party, as to what the nature of their interest may be in relation to the project.</p> <p>For completeness, the Applicant can confirm that section 44 letters referred to in correspondence are the Statutory Consultation notices and covers letters.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Concerns about whether the ability to race pigeons will be affected by the Proposed Development.	No	The Applicant does not believe the Proposed Development will have an impact on racing pigeons.
General comments in relation to landowners or farmers leasing their land.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Statement of Need, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.1]</b> accompanying the DCO Application sets out a detailed and compelling case as to why the Proposed Development is urgently required and at the scale proposed.
Concerns in regard to who will manage the land.	No	The oLEMP, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b> , sets out the short and long-term measures and practices that will be implemented by the Applicant to establish, monitor and manage landscape and ecology mitigation and enhancement measures embedded in the design.
<b>EIA Topic Area: Consultation and Engagement</b>		
The consultation period was too short.	Yes	The Applicant provided a response period of 42 days for the non-statutory public consultation. The Applicant then proposed to extend the response period to 56 days for the statutory consultation in the draft SoCC. In response to feedback on the draft SoCC, the Applicant further extended the response period for the statutory consultation to 70 days, going beyond the minimum requirement of 28 days.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>In addition to this, the Applicant continued its engagement with the community beyond these consultation periods up until the point of DCO Application submission. This ongoing consultation is outlined in Chapter 13 of this Consultation Report.</p> <p>All of the comments, questions and issues raised during the consultation have been carefully logged and considered. This is detailed in Appendix 4: Applicant Response in Regard to S47 Comments, and Appendix 5: Applicant Response in Regard to S42 Comments.</p>
<p>Concern raised as to whether all the views of the public will be listened to.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>All feedback received has formed part of the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. In this DCO, the Applicant has produced this Consultation Report that details the feedback and consultation responses we have received, and provided responses to feedback, detailing how the Applicant has considered it and the way in which it has influenced the Proposed Development. It is guaranteed that all feedback received to our consultation is recorded and responded to in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The Applicant has carefully considered and has had regard to all of the feedback received during the consultation periods. This includes any questions and comments submitted to us via feedback forms, emails, or letters.</p>
<p>The Community Consultation Leaflet arrived late to local properties.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>A Community Consultation Leaflet (see Appendix 9.2.1) was issued to over 13,300 properties and local businesses across the core consultation area on 26 May 2022, three weeks ahead of the events.</p> <p>For more details on the S47 statutory consultation publicity, please see Section 8 of this Consultation Report.</p> <p>In addition, in response to feedback on the draft SoCC, we extended our statutory consultation period to 70 days, to allow consultees additional time to engage with all of our new consultation materials, keep informed about our updated proposals and provide their feedback. We recognise the value of community feedback and made this change to ensure that</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		our consultation is inclusive, meaningful, and open, going beyond statutory requirements.
Access to printed materials was limited.	No	<p>As set out in Chapter 8 of this Report, the Applicant arranged three Community Access Point (CAP) sites where hard copy statutory consultation materials would be available for the public to view and (except the PEIR and PEIR NTS) take home.</p> <p>In addition, as set out in Chapter 8 of this Report, the Applicant made publicly available all statutory consultation materials in a highly accessible PDF format on the project dedicated website for any interested parties to read, print, and download. This included: (found in Appendix 9.2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Consultation Leaflet;</li> <li>• Main Consultation Document;</li> <li>• Feedback Form (in addition to the online feedback form via the digital engagement platform);</li> <li>• Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR);</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary Environmental Information Report Non-Technical Summary (PEIR NTS);</li> <li>• Draft Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Employment Plan (OESSCEP);</li> <li>• Selection of Maps showing key PEIR Plans and Figures;</li> <li>• Indicative cross-sections showing illustrations of the Proposed Development from worm’s-eye view;</li> <li>• Photomontages showing visualisations of the Proposed Development from various viewpoints;</li> <li>• Consultation event display boards;</li> <li>• Poster advertising Stage Two Section 47 consultation events (shown in Appendix 9.3);</li> <li>• Statement of Community Consultation (copies to take away) (shown in Appendix 6.4);</li> <li>• Section 47 Notice (shown in Appendix 6.5);</li> <li>• Section 48 Notice (shown in Appendix 8.2);</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Members of the public were also able to request printed materials and USB sticks containing any of the statutory consultation materials listed above. Please see Section 8 of this Consultation Report for more details on stakeholder requests of materials and USB sticks.</p>
<p>Insufficient detail provided during Statutory Consultation.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. All information related to the Proposed Development was made publicly available during statutory consultation via the project dedicated website. Please see a full list of materials in the row above.</p> <p>In addition, communications lines remained open for the entire duration of the statutory consultation and beyond to ensure any interested parties could ask the Applicant questions or request further detail about the Proposed Development and/or consultation programme.</p>
<p>The PEIR is overly technical, inaccessible, and incomprehensible.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The PEIR built upon the findings from the previous scoping documents and the feedback received through the non-statutory consultation and engagement with stakeholders. The PEIR was accompanied by a PEIR-NTS, which presents the information in the PEIR in on-technical language so that it may be understood by a wider audience. This enabled consultees to</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>develop an informed view of the likely potential impacts that the Proposed Development may have on the local environment.</p> <p>In addition, at both the public exhibition events and webinars, the Applicant made sure technical consultants were there to answer questions, and the communications lines remained open for the duration of statutory consultation and beyond to answer questions if any information was overly technical within the consultation materials.</p>
<p>The Main Consultation Document should have been mailed to local residents rather than relying on them to go to CAP sites.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. A community Consultation Leaflet was sent to over 13,300 local businesses and households in the core consultation zone at the start of statutory consultation. This document was also available online, to collect from CAP sites, and to take away from our public exhibition events.</p> <p>The Community Consultation Leaflet publicised the statutory consultation opportunities and the information being consulted on during this consultation period. This included the details of the consultation period and the activities that were undertaken, such as dates, times and locations of information events and community webinars. The Leaflet also</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>included details of how to access the project website and communications lines.</p> <p>The Main Consultation Document included more detail on the Proposed Development and was provided to elected representatives and key stakeholders, made publicly available online via the project website, at CAP sites, and to take away from our information events.</p> <p>While the Applicant notes that the Leaflet is less technical than the Main Consultation Document, the Main Consultation Document, along with all other statutory consultation materials listed above, were made readily available to view, print and download via the project dedicated website.</p> <p>Materials were also made available upon request via hard copy or on a USB stick. Please see Section 8 of this Consultation Report for more stakeholder requests.</p>
A scaled model or visual representations showing the Solar	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. On the Proposed Development website, as outlined in Chapter 8 of this Consultation

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>PV Site would have been more helpful.</p>		<p>Report, visualisations, photomontages, and indicative cross sections were made available for the public to view as part of this statutory consultation.</p> <p>In addition, the landing page of the project dedicated website included an interactive map, which showed the Stage Two Proposed Development boundaries. This map tool, shown in Figure 4, allowed stakeholders to pan around the map and search for their desired location.</p> <p>At public exhibition events, the following Proposed Development information was available on display and/or for attendees to take home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of Maps showing key PEIR Plans and Figures (certain copies to take away);</li> <li>• Indicative cross-sections showing illustrations of the Proposed Development from worm’s-eye view;</li> <li>• Photomontages showing visualisations of the Proposed Development from various viewpoints.</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Following the first public exhibition event at Essendine Village Hall, the Applicant printed more maps for attendees to take home as attendees noted the importance of having printed maps and visualisations available to take away with them.</p>
<p>The questions in the Feedback Form are slanted and do not allow respondents to write in a format they wish.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Feedback Form included open-ended questions for stakeholders to write freely about the Proposed Development. Please see Appendix 9.2.3. for a copy of the Feedback Form created as part of the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The following questions are examples of the open-ended questions included in the Feedback Form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the Applicant asked respondents their view on the Proposed Development, the Applicant asked, “Please provide any comments to explain your answer.”</li> <li>• The final question in the Feedback Form asked respondents, “Do you have any further comments on our proposals for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Please provide any other feedback you may have in the</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>text box below.” This allowed for respondents to write whatever they wished about the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Applicant also designed the consultation to provide various ways in which stakeholders could provide their feedback to respond to the consultation. In addition to the Feedback Form, stakeholders could provide their feedback via email and freepost, whereby stakeholders could send letters with no need for a stamp.</p>
<p>Why was Stamford chosen as a location for a public exhibition event, and why was Braceborough, Carlby, or Uffington not chosen for an exhibition event?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. Venues for public exhibition events were chosen in areas in the core consultation zone with the largest populations, and where residents were most likely to be impacted by the Proposed Development. Event venues were also based on venue availability and accessibility during the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>The Applicant designed consultation events to be accessible by holding the events on different days of the week and with a range of hours so as to accommodate different availability during the community (e.g., in the evening; during the weekend; online). In response to feedback on the draft SoCC, the Applicant held an additional in-person exhibition event at</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Greatford Village Hall on Thursday 30 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm to cover the eastern side of the Proposed Development. Please see Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report for more information.</p> <p>The Applicant considers the six public exhibition events held over the course of the ten-week statutory period to meet the statutory requirements set by the Planning Act 2008 Section 47, these totalling 24-hours of direct engagement with the public and local communities.</p>
Answers to some questions were not provided during consultation.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant made publicly available all information about the Proposed Development and endeavoured to respond to all stakeholder enquiries as rigorously as possible. However, the Applicant was unable to respond to a number of stakeholder enquiries during the Section 47 statutory consultation due to the level of information that was currently available at that point in time, which was not yet sufficient to provide full answers to all questions received. All comments and questions received during public consultations on the Proposed Development are recorded and responded to in Appendix 4 and 5 of this Consultation Report.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		In addition, the Applicant continued to engage with the community and respond to enquiries beyond these consultation periods up until the point of DCO Application submission. This ongoing consultation is outlined in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report.
General comments in regard to engagement.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Comments in relation to positive engagement.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Objection to consultation	No	<p>All feedback received has formed part of the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. In this DCO, the Applicant has produced this Consultation Report that details the feedback and consultation responses we have received, and provided responses to feedback, detailing how the Applicant has considered it and the way in which it has influenced the Proposed Development. It is guaranteed that all feedback received to our consultation is recorded and responded to in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5.</p> <p>The Applicant has carefully considered and has had regard to all of the feedback received during the consultation periods. This includes any</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>questions and comments submitted to us via feedback forms, emails, or letters.</p> <p>The project team is confident it undertook a professional, comprehensive and compliant consultation at all times that provided the local community with accurate information in the consultation materials relating to the Proposed Development, and extensive opportunities to provide feedback on the proposals. The project team fielded and answered as many questions from the local community as possible during the public consultation events.</p> <p>The project team is confident it behaved professionally at all times throughout the public consultation process and has always been committed to open and transparent public consultation that sought the views of the community extensively to inform the final design of the project.</p>
Comments in relation to consultation events.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. On the Proposed Development website, as outlined in Chapter 8 of this Report,



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>visualisations, photomontages, and indicative cross sections were made available for the public to view as part of this statutory consultation.</p> <p>In addition, the landing page of the project dedicated website included an interactive map, which showed the Stage Two Proposed Development boundaries. This map tool, shown in Figure 8, allowed stakeholders to pan around the map and search for their desired location.</p> <p>At public exhibition events, the following Proposed Development information was available on display and/or for attendees to take home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of Maps showing key PEIR Plans and Figures (certain copies to take away)</li> <li>• Indicative cross-sections showing illustrations of the Proposed Development from worm’s-eye view</li> <li>• Photomontages showing visualisations of the Proposed Development from various viewpoints</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Following the first public exhibition event at Essendine Village Hall, the Applicant printed more maps for attendees to take home as attendees noted the importance of having printed maps and visualisations available to take away with them.</p> <p>In addition, venues for public exhibition events were chosen in areas in the core consultation zone with the largest populations, and where residents were most likely to be impacted by the Proposed Development. Event venues were also based on venue availability and accessibility during the statutory consultation period, and consultation on the draft SoCC.</p> <p>The Applicant designed consultation events to be accessible by holding the events on different days of the week and with a range of hours so as to accommodate different availability during the community (e.g., in the evening; during the weekend; online). In response to feedback on the draft SoCC, the Applicant held an additional in-person exhibition event at Greatford Village Hall on Thursday 30 June 2022 from 3 pm to 8 pm to</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>cover the eastern side of the Proposed Development. Please see Chapter 7 of this Report for more information.</p> <p>The Applicant considers the six public exhibition events held over the course of the ten-week statutory period to meet the statutory requirements set by the Planning Act 2008 Section 47, these totalling 24-hours of direct engagement with the public and local communities.</p>
Comments in relation to photographic examples of key components of the Proposed Development.	No	This level of detailed information was not available for the Statutory Consultation, however Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> , has photographic examples of these components of the Proposed Development.
Comments in relation to the webinar.	No	The Applicant uploaded the recording of the two information events, the presentation slides, and responses to unanswered questions that the Applicant did not answer during the information event itself.
Comments in relation to the public meeting.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in a letter to the MP for Rutland and Melton, the Applicant did not attend the public meeting as the Applicant was unable to share any new information

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		regarding the Proposed Development at that stage and did not wish to provoke frustration with the local community.
Comments in relation to site visits.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment and a site visit was subsequently arranged or offered.
<b>EIA Topic Area: Other Environmental Topics</b>		
<p>Glint and Glare</p> <p>Concerns about the glint and glare produced by solar panels and the possible danger to the British air defence bases situation in the area, as pilot training is regularly carried out over Carlby, Ryhall, and Essendine.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in this section, the embedded mitigation relevant for glint and glare effects will be implemented through the oLEMP. For example, hedgerow and tree planting on either side of PRoWs.</p> <p>In regard to assessment of potential effects on aviation specifically, no solar reflections are geometrically possible towards the ATC Tower or either of the 2-mile approach paths for runway 07/25 at RAF Wittering. Therefore, RAF Wittering (Medium Sensitivity) would be subject to an impact of Negligible Magnitude which would result in a Negligible Adverse Significance of Effect which is Not Significant.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Any effects experienced at Shacklewell Airfield, Castle Bytham Airfield and RAF Cottesmore are predicted to be acceptable in accordance with the associated guidance and industry best practice. Therefore, Shacklewell Airfield, Castle Bytham Airfield and RAF Cottesmore (Medium Sensitivity) would be subject to an impact of Low Magnitude which would result in a Minor Adverse Significance of Effect which is Not Significant.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> (Glint and Glare).</p>
<p>Wildfires</p> <p>Concerns raised about potential wildfires in the area caused by solar panels.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Health and Safety onsite would be managed by the contractor during construction and decommissioning to mitigate the risk of fire in line with legislative safety requirements such as the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and the CDM Regulations 2015. The oCEMP includes measures that prohibit the burning of waste material onsite. The Proposed Development therefore is not expected to have a significant effect on the environment due to the risk of a major accident occurring as a result of fire during construction and decommissioning.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The operational phase of the Proposed Development would involve routine maintenance and servicing of equipment to ensure the safe operation of equipment. Fire equipment and notices will also be provided onsite for the availability of personnel and would be regularly inspected and serviced in accordance with Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The oOEMP sets out details on the measures incorporated into the design to minimise any fire risks. No significant effects are anticipated following implementation of mitigation measures.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] (Wildfires).</p>
<b>EIA Topic Area: No Comment</b>		
General comments in regard to changes made since Non-Statutory Consultation.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], for more information on the design changes throughout the development process.

<b>Comments</b>	<b>Development Change?</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>
General comments in support for the Proposed Development	No	The Applicant welcomes the support and agrees that the Proposed Development is urgently needed to meet the generational challenge of climate change.
General comments in objection to the Proposed Development.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Comment relating to concerns raised by Members of Parliament during a debate held in Westminster.	No	The Applicant makes note of the concerns raised by Members of Parliament during the debate held in Westminster.
Comment in relation to security supplier for the Proposed Development.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

## 12.0 **STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE PA 2008 (MAY 2022 – AUGUST 2022): RESPONSES RECEIVED, ISSUES RAISED AND CHANGES MADE**

### 12.1. **INTRODUCTION**

12.1.1. This chapter provides a summary of key comments received by consultees in response to the Section 42 consultation with Section 42 consultees and Section 44 consultees, with respect to key EIA topic areas.

12.1.2. During the Section 42 consultation, a total of 49 respondents commented on the proposed application. The complete list of all comments received, together with the Applicant responses are detailed in Appendix 5.

### 12.2. **SECTION 42 CONSULTEE COMMENTS**

12.2.1. A description of the consultation responses that the Applicant received to the Section 42 consultation for each EIA topic area is presented in the individual ES chapters for these topic areas. This includes a summary of comments received to the Section 42 consultation and how the Applicant has had regard to these comments.

12.2.2. This chapter provides a summary of comments received during the Section 42 consultation with respect to key EIA topic areas. It also includes a summary of whether there was a project change / no change as a result of that comment.



12.2.3. **Table 35: Key comments received during Section 42 consultation and Applicant responses**

Table 35 is a summary of key comments received from Section 42 stakeholders and the Applicant’s response to each comment is addressed in full in Appendix 5.

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Introduction include:**

- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Essendine Parish Council
- Stamford Town Council
- Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton
- Stamford Town Council Planning Committee

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Introduction</b>		
Concern that the Proposed Development is swapping a carbon climate crisis for an environmental disaster	No	The Applicant does not agree with this comment. In contrast, the Proposed Development will bring environmental benefits and enhancement.
Concern in regard to the experience of the Applicant.	No	<p>Founded in 2018, Windel Energy is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies.</p> <p>With more than 3 gigawatts (GW) of clean, renewable power and battery energy storage in various stages of development, Windel is at the forefront of low carbon technologies including solar, energy</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>storage, and onshore wind, and are helping to pave the way to achieve the UK's net zero target by 2050.</p> <p>Windel Energy is committed to responsible land use and believe that the development and delivery of a large-scale solar farm can be achieved in harmony with its surroundings.</p> <p>Canadian Solar was founded in 2001 in Canada and is one of the world's largest solar power companies.</p> <p>It is a leading manufacturer of solar photovoltaic modules and provider of solar energy solutions, and has a geographically diversified pipeline of utility-scale solar power projects in various stages of development.</p> <p>Over the past 21 years, Canadian Solar has successfully delivered over 49 GW of premium-quality solar photovoltaic modules to customers in over 150 countries.</p>
Concern regarding the Applicant's insolvencies.	No	The financial position in respect of the Proposed Development is set out in the Funding Statement <b>[EN010127/APP/4.2]</b> .

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Concern that the Proposed Development does not conform to South Kesteven's Local Plan.	No	As set out in Tables 6 and 7 of Appendix 3 of the Planning Statement <b>[EN010127/APP/7.2]</b> the Proposed Development is considered to be in accordance with the relevant South Kesteven District Council Local Plan and Renewable Energy Appendix policies.
Concern in regard to the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development.	No	The Applicant's position on Cumulative Effects is outlined in the ES: Chapter 16: Interactive Effects and Cumulative Summary <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> with the latest figures following public consultation.

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Need for the Proposed Development include:**

- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council
- Carlby Parish Council
- Stamford Town Council
- Gareth Davies MP for Grantham and Stamford

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Need for the Proposed Development</b>		
Concerns that whilst the Proposed Development would make a positive contribution to reducing carbon emissions, there would be adverse effects that need to be balanced against the benefits.	No	The Site Selection Report and DAS [EN010127/APP7.3] explain the size of the scheme and its location. With the measures set out in the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9], the Applicant considers that an appropriately mitigated scheme has been brought forward.
Comments in regard to the carbon footprint of the Proposed Development.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The National Grid Future Energy Scenario (FES) 'best case' decarbonisation scenario grid CO <sub>2</sub> intensities and the output of Proposed Development accounting for panel degradation have been utilised to calculate the potential reduction of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions avoided as a result of the Proposed Development which accounts for decarbonisation and degradation with results in Plate 13.1. This shows a total reduction in CO <sub>2</sub> of 423,580 teCO <sub>2</sub> across the lifetime of the Proposed Development and an average of 10,589 teCO <sub>2</sub> /y.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the Proposed Development would therefore be displaced within approximately 10.5 years, and all savings beyond that would be a net benefit of the Proposed Development to reducing climate change, relative to the baseline. Over 40 years, for example, the saving is estimated at approximately 1.9 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.</p>
<p>There should be more domestic solar panels on proposed future housing developments such as Quarry Farm and Stamford North.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Site Selection Report explains why this site is required and Chapter 4 of the ES and the Statement of Need explains why utility scale solar farms are required.</p> <p>As explained in the DAS and set out in the OLEMP, the Proposed Development has been designed to account for its local context.</p>

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Project Description include:**

- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Health and Safety Executive
- Natural England
- Essendine Parish Council
- Great Casterton Parish Council
- Uffington Parish Council
- Carlby Parish Council
- Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council
- Stamford Town Council
- Newark and Sherwood District Council
- Gareth Davies MP
- Alicia Kearns MP

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Project Description</b>		
Comments in relation to the scale of the Proposed Development.	Yes	<p>As set out in the Site Selection Report, the starting point for site selection was ensuring that there was sufficient land to service the Applicant's grid connection agreement with National Grid Electricity Transmission to export 240MW (AC) of clean power to the national grid via the Ryhall Substation.</p> <p>As such, the parameters applied for in this application (including the size of the Proposed Development) allow for a solar farm capable of generating up to 350MW (DC) to account for the normally applied factors in solar scheme development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Degradation of panels over time;</li> <li>2. Seasonal and daily variation of solar irradiance; and</li> </ol>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>3. Loss of power in the conversion from AC to DC.</p> <p>This approach will ensure that Mallard Pass Solar Farm is able to optimise the available grid connection and generate as much clean power as possible each day and over its lifetime.</p> <p>Using this as a starting point, the Applicant has sought to take account of the results of its assessment work (including understanding existing sensitive receptors and important ecological features), the Project Principles discussed in the Design and Access Statement, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b> and consultation feedback in presenting the scheme now submitted for consent.</p> <p>In particular it is noted that the Solar PV Site decreased from approximately 570 ha at Non-Statutory Consultation (Stage 1) to 463 ha at Statutory Consultation (Stage 2). The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to approximately 426ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site.</p> <p>The submission design incorporates the following amends as a result of the feedback received during this statutory consultation:</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further removal of solar development from the area to the east of Essendine, providing greater set back from the settlements.</li> <li>• Removal of solar development to the north of the Drift providing further offset to residential dwellings in the interests of visual amenity.</li> <li>• Removal of solar development from Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) at their entry / exit points where they meet roads or lanes.</li> <li>• Additional screening planting at a number of locations throughout the Site.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
The scale of new substation, solar PV modules, security fencing and lighting.	Yes	<p>For more information regarding the equipment onsite including the Onsite Substation, Solar PV Arrays, security fencing and lighting, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p> <p>For more information regarding the selection of the Site, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, <b>[EN01027/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Location and appearance of larger elements of the Proposed Development.	Yes	<p>For more information regarding components of the Proposed Development, including PV Modules, Mounting Structures, Onsite Substation, Inverters, Transformers, Ancillary Buildings, and more, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>Appearance and location of the Proposed Development are set out in Section 4.3 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, [EN01027/APP/6.1].</p>
The details of solar PV technology (efficiency, coating, height, movement/tracking, country of origin, recycling).	No	<p>The DCO Application will seek to allow for flexibility that allows for different configurations of Solar PV Modules. The final elevations of the PV Modules will be influenced by various design factors such as local topography, and election of PV Module type and configuration.</p> <p>Regarding the efficiency of solar PV technology, 7.1 Statement of Need, Figure 10.2, shows how the efficiency of solar PV cell technology has improved over the previous decade. The Figure demonstrates that the cells used in most ground-mount solar developments have increased in measured efficiency from c.13% (1977) to a most recent average of the top three measurements of 26.8%. Although panel efficiency is generally slightly lower than</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>cell efficiency – because of the cables and joints required to export the generated power – larger panels are more efficient than smaller panels.</p> <p>To provide some context on the efficiency of solar PV technology in comparison to that of other technologies, we note that recent data from BEIS' Digest of UK Energy Statistics shows that combined cycle gas turbines have an efficiency of c.46% (but emit 394gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh(e) [National Grid ESO's Carbon Intensity Forecast Methodology, 2021]). Coal generation in the UK achieved an average efficiency of 28% over the period 2016 – 2020 and emits 1429gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh(e). Wind power is 30-45% efficient, increasing to 50% during peak wind times for the larger turbines (which are more generally located out to sea rather than onshore). The efficiency of Hinkley Point C nuclear power station (currently under construction) has been assessed at 36% [UK EPR Fundamental Safety Overview, Volume 2: Design and Safety Report, Chapter B: Introduction and General Description of the Plant, Sub-chapter B.3].</p> <p>The efficiency of solar PV technology is therefore not significantly lower than the efficiencies of other mainstream generation technologies.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]
The details of energy storage facility.	No	Following the feedback received during non-statutory consultation and technical and commercial factors, the Applicant has decided to not include Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) as part of the Proposed Development. While the Applicant continues to recognise the importance of BESS in achieving the UK's decarbonisation and energy security needs, the Applicant has not brought this aspect forward as part of the DCO Application. Further information relating to the decision not to include BESS as part of the Proposed Development can be found in The Planning Statement [EN010127/APP/7.2]
Above-ground cabling and poles.	No	For more information regarding cabling, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. This outlines the three cable routes / methods that are being considered and are also shown on Figure 5.8 of the ES.
Decommissioning.	No	For more information about the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development, please see the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan oDEMP, [EN010127/APP/7.8]
Rochdale Envelope approach.	No	In order to maintain flexibility in the design and layout at this stage in the process, the assessment of the Proposed Development in the ES will adopt the Rochdale Envelope approach, as described

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>in the PINS Advice Note 9, Reference. This involves specifying parameter ranges, including details of the maximum, and where relevant the minimum, size (footprint, width, and height relative to above ordnance datum (AOD)), technology, and locations of the different elements of the Proposed Development, where flexibility needs to be retained.</p> <p>In addition, the Rochdale Envelope approach means that the worst-case scenario is assessed for the purposes of the EIA/ES, which means that regardless of any changes in the detailed design, the effects will be no worse than those assessed in the ES.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES. <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
Use of Design Principles to control the detail of the Proposed Development.	Yes	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information on how the Design Principles for the Proposed Development have been taken into account, please see the Design and Access Statement, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b></p> <p>The Design Principles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate – mitigate greenhouse gas emissions;</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People – reflect what society wants and share benefits widely;</li> <li>• Places – provide a sense of identity and improve our environment; and</li> <li>• Value – achieve multiple benefits and solve problems well.</li> </ul>
CO <sub>2</sub> payback (including importance of energy storage infrastructure).	No	<p>The ES includes a Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA), which assesses the inbuilt greenhouse gas emissions of the Proposed Development against the greenhouse gases which will be offset by the Proposed Development when in operation using peer reviewed and industry standard data and approaches.</p> <p>The CCIA explains that in order to decarbonise the electricity system, low-carbon assets (i.e. those which emit very little, or zero, carbon per MWh of electricity generated) must come forwards. National Grid’s Future Energy Scenarios projections for the carbon intensity of the UK electricity system (which reduces over time) assume that significant capacities of low-carbon generation (such as the Proposed Development) will come forwards in order to achieve those projections. Without the Proposed Development (and other low-carbon generation developments) coming forwards, the GB electricity system will not decarbonise further, placing achievement of the UK’s legal commitments to achieve Net Zero by 2050, and Government’s ambition to achieve a zero-carbon grid by 2035, at risk. Further</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>information on the importance of decarbonisation of the UK electricity system as an enabler to further societal decarbonisation are included in Chapter 4 of the Statement of Need <b>[EN010127/APP/7.1]</b>.</p> <p>In regard to lifetime emissions, the CCIA also outlines that the greenhouse gas emissions offset by the Proposed Development are much greater than the embedded emissions associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the Proposed Development will be displaced within approximately 10.5 years, and all savings beyond that would be a net benefit of the Proposed Development to reducing climate change, relative to the baseline. Over 40 years, the saving is estimated at approximately 1.9 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.</p>

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Policy and Legislative Context include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Natural England
- Stamford Town Council
- Environment Agency
- Cadent Gas
- National Grid Gas
- National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
- Alicia Kearns MP

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Policy and Legislative Context</b>		
National Policy Statements (NPS) in relation to the Proposed Development, including NPS EN-1, NPS EN-3, NPS EN-5, as well as Draft NPS EN-3 considerations.	No	<p>The comments received in respect of Legislation and Planning Policy have been addressed through the inclusion of policies highlighted, and through provision of additional detail relating to the issues raised in the ES. For more information, please see the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3].</p> <p>For more information see the Planning Statement, Tables 1-3 of Appendix 3 of the Planning Statement [EN010127/APP/7.2].</p>
Additional policies to be considered, including Local Plan Policy SD1 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven), Policy SP1 (Spatial Strategy), Policy SP5	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information on how Local Planning Policies have been considered in the Application, please see the Planning Statement, including Table 6 of Appendix 3 of the Planning Statement [EN010127/APP/7.2].</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
(Development in the Open Countryside), and Policy RE1 (Renewable Energy Generation).		Chapter 1: Introduction of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. This outlines the relevant local planning policies of the adopted local development plans for each of the ‘host’ planning authorities that will be considered as part of the assessment. The host planning authorities includes Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council, and South Kesteven District Council.



**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Great Casterton Parish Council
- Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council
- Uffington Parish Council
- Carlby Parish Council
- Careby with Aunby and Holywell
- Stamford Town Council
- Environment Agency
- Network Rail
- Cadent Gas
- Gareth Davies MP
- Stamford Town Council Planning Committee

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives</b>		
Alternative scale and layout of Proposed Development.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant did not consider delivering a smaller scheme with less generation capacity on a smaller area. This is because a smaller scheme would not deliver the same capacity or energy security and climate change benefit as the Proposed Development, and as such would not represent a reasonable alternative. For more information, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The Solar PV Area has decreased from approximately 570 ha at non-statutory stage of the Proposed Development to 463 ha. The area of land now occupied by the proposed PV Arrays, ancillary buildings, highways works, and grid connection corridor would equate to approximately 463 ha, which makes up 52% of the Site. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site.</p> <p>For more information, please see the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3].</p>
<p>Alternative electricity generating technologies and methods.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. Alternative types of renewable energy generation for utilising the National Grid Ryhall Substation connection capacity were not considered by the Applicant as a solar farm development company. It is not considered that the Site would be suitable for other forms of renewable energy generation at the same scale of the Proposed Development. Therefore, the Applicant considers that a solar farm development is the best renewable generating solution.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>Alternative use of brownfield sites and rooftops of industrial or domestic buildings.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Section 7.6 of the Statement of Need [EN010127/APP/7.1] concludes that although brownfield sites and rooftop installations should be progressed where possible, they will not do away with the need to progress large-scale proposals such as the Proposed Development in order to bring forward the capacities of solar generation which are forecast as needed to meet the UK's urgent need for low-carbon generation. Brownfield and rooftop installations are therefore not a suitable alternative to the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Further, as outlined in the Planning Statement Appendix, [EN010127/APP/7.2], there is relatively little previously developed land located within a sufficient distance of the National Grid Ryhall Substation that an appropriate grid connection could be provided to.</p> <p>The previously developed land registers maintained by South Kesteven District Council and Rutland County Council show 22ha and 3.4ha respectively, which even together would be significantly below the area required to deliver a utility-scale solar farm.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		For more information on the assessment of Site alternatives, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Request to site Proposed Development on poorer agricultural land.	No	<p>The Order limits was selected on the basis that it was predominantly Grade 3, offering the potential for Grade 3b land subject to further survey, with small pockets of Grade 2. This was also supplemented by initial conversations with the landowners regarding the quality and viability of the Order limits for agriculture. Following further analysis, some additional Grade 2 land was identified and as noted below, where this was in single fields, this was removed from the areas proposed for PV Arrays.</p> <p>The regional level ALC maps show that the agricultural land within relatively close proximity to the grid connection is either Grade 2 or 3, with higher quality land (Grade 1) further east of Peterborough. There are very small pockets of Grade 4 land, coinciding with the SSSIs to the north of Pickworth, but none of sufficient size to deliver a solar farm and there would be the potential for significant adverse effects on the SSSIs. Further information on ALC is provided in Chapter 12 of this ES [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Request for further justification on the location and scale of the Proposed Development.	No	Chapter 7 of the Statement of Need [EN010127/APP/7.1] describes how significant capacities of low-carbon solar generation are required to come forwards to the UK government's

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>commitment in law to meet Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Proposed Development seeks best to meet the urgent need for action. The key reasons for why the land within the Order Limits was chosen and why it is considered a suitable location for the Proposed Development are outlined in the Planning Statement, [EN010127/APP/7.2]. These reasons include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The land within Lincolnshire has the potential to locate a large-scale solar development due to the large open areas of undeveloped land.</li> <li>• There is the available capacity for the Proposed Development to connect to the national grid at Ryhall National Grid Substation.</li> <li>• The land is not located within or close to internationally or nationally designated biodiversity sites.</li> <li>• The land is not located within or close to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</li> <li>• The land is not located within a Green Belt Designation.</li> <li>• The land is predominantly within Environmental Agency Flood Zone 1, therefore at low risk of flooding.</li> <li>• The land is relatively close to the part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) of the A1 which has good accessibility for the Proposed Development.</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Site has limited land use conflicts with respect to local development plan allocations and displacement of existing businesses.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to EIA Methodology include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Historic England

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: EIA Methodology</b>		
Details of EIA methodology in Chapter 2 of the PEIR: Overview of the EIA Process.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 2: Overview of the EIA Process of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Detailed mapping and inclusion of further plans / figures to aid understanding of the assessment.	No	Please see the Appendices to the ES for a full list of plans and figures.
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) method and approach. Including photography of night-time effects.	No	<p>For more information on the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), please see Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The LVIA describes the Proposed Development within the Order limits and the surrounding landscape context, the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors, the magnitude of change and the</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		likely significance of effects arising from the Proposed Development.
Details of methodology in Chapter 13 of the PEIR: Agricultural Land Use.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The chapter presents the methodology followed and provides a review of the baseline conditions in the vicinity of the Proposed Development and surrounding area.</p> <p>The chapter then presents the results of the assessment and the impact of the Proposed Development on the baseline environment in order to determine the anticipated magnitude of impact and significance of effect. Mitigation measures are presented and discussed to minimise the impacts of the Proposed Development during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases to an acceptable level.</p>
Queries in regard to secondary mitigation.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The ES provides the baseline environmental information available for the study area relevant for the environmental assessment, the description of the likely environmental effects arising from the Proposed Development, and the mitigation measures envisaged to mitigate



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>or reduce adverse environmental effects for the Proposed Development as well as any necessary monitoring measures. Mitigation measures that have been identified through the development of the Proposed Development have been embedded into the design and layout, referred to as embedded mitigation. In addition to these embedded mitigation measures, the assessment of potential effects presented within this ES have identified the need for additional mitigation measures to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects. These mitigation measures have been developed as part of an iterative process and therefore will be developed throughout the EIA process in response to the findings of the initial assessments and stakeholder feedback (see ES Chapter 2 <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>).</p>

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Ecology and Biodiversity include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Natural England
- Essendine Parish Council
- Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council
- Uffington Parish Council
- Carlby Parish Council
- Careby with Aunby and Holywell
- Greatford Parish Council
- Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council
- Stamford Town Council
- Environment Agency
- Gareth Davies MP
- Alicia Kearns MP
- Stamford Town Council Planning Committee

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Ecology and Biodiversity</b>		
Loss of habitat resulting in adverse impact on biodiversity and ecology.	Yes	<p>As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas will comprise of areas for landscape screening, habitat creation and provision of permissive paths.</p> <p>Examples of new habitats include, riparian habitats, wildflower with calcareous species grassland, and hedgerow planting.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure (GI) strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared to consider opportunities for connecting habitats within that would deliver environmental and /or</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>biodiversity net gain and consider other community enhancements and is secured through the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>The combination of measures identified in the GI Strategy will result in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no river or ditches are being formally enhanced as assessed by the metric) As assessed via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 3.1.</p>
<p>Loss of vegetation due to highways works and access tracks, particularly in areas that may impact Local Wildlife Sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest during construction and decommissioning phases.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Vegetation loss will be minimised, especially with reference to priority habitats. Areas of Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI have been removed from the Order limits in order to avoid direct impacts as cabling routing or site access works are no longer being considered in this location. Areas of the SSSI that remain within the Order limits are for vegetation management only.</p> <p>In addition, sections of the A6121 and Ryhall Road have been removed from the Order Limits, avoiding direct impacts on the Tolethorpe Verges SSSI as it has been agreed with the Local Highway Authority that localised road improvements are not</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>required to facilitate the movement of construction vehicles, with the exception of the A6121/B1176 and the Ryhall Road/Old Great North Road Junction.</p> <p>Small losses to LWS have been identified and will be mitigated for. For more information regarding vegetation works during construction and decommissioning phases, please see the oCEMP and oDEMP.</p>
Wildlife using the Site, including birds, deer and insects that may be impacted by security fencing.	No	<p>Perimeter fencing and CCTV systems around the solar array will comprise of wooden posts and wire mesh fencing. Perimeter fences will not be constructed through existing hedgerows or across ditches. There will also be clearances above ground, or the inclusion of mammal gates to permit the movement of wildlife.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Grassland habitat beneath solar PV modules.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The land underneath and around the PV Arrays could be managed through a combination of sheep grazing and/or hay/silage production in order to maintain the field vegetation during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. For more information, please see Chapter</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and the oLEMP.
Mitigation and enhancement measures, including a request for oLEMP to provide a clear strategy to manage Mitigation and Enhancement Areas.	Yes	<p>Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1], presents the approach and findings of the assessment of potential impacts on Ecology and Biodiversity. The ecological and biodiversity assessment follows the general approach to undertaking EIA as explained in Chapter 2 of the ES, albeit it has been modified to take account of the main guidance document used when assessing impacts on ecological features, which is the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) in 2018.</p> <p>The embedded mitigation measures have been considered as part of this assessment, when considering the potential effects of the Proposed Development. These are described in Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1], the Green Infrastructure Plan, the Works Plans [EN010127/APP/2.2], the design Guidance as set out in the Design and Access Statement [EN010127/APP/7.3]. These include the retention and offsets to landscape and ecological features and designations.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Further embedded mitigation measures include the details set out in the outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.6], outline Decommissioning and Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.8] and outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.9]. These documents have been prepared and include mitigation measures which are intended to avoid the risks of effects during the construction and decommissioning phases, such as indirect and direct damage to retained features, direct damage to active bird nests and injury to protected species or damage to the habitat of those species. The assessment of potential effects takes these measures into account.</p> <p>In addition, a Green Infrastructure strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared which both mitigates the impacts of the Proposed Development and provides enhancements through the planting of approximately 7,500m of structural tree planting, and approximately 14,000m of structural hedgerow planting This is secured through the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>The combination of measures identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy results in the Proposed Development delivering a</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no ditches or rivers are being enhanced as assessed by the metric) as assessed via the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1.</p> <p>Therefore, the Proposed Development does not negatively impact ecology and biodiversity in the area.</p>
Biodiversity Net Gain calculation.	No	<p>The combination of measures identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy results in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no ditches or rivers are being enhanced as assessed by the metric) against the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 3.1. This constitutes a beneficial effect of significance at a District level.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Loss of foraging and nesting habitats.	Yes	<p>As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], proposed hedgerows will be planted with a variety of fruiting species to provide foraging opportunities for wildlife.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>In addition, Mitigation and Enhancement Areas are to remain in arable production with the creation of skylark plots to enhance nesting opportunities.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Retention of existing habitat features, including hedgerows, woodlands, and ponds.	Yes	<p>As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to approximately 426ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining land within the Order Limits would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, as well as existing highways and other infrastructure, or proposed for mitigation and enhancement areas.</p> <p>.</p> <p>In addition to this, the following mitigation measures set out how the Applicant proposes to protect existing green infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hedgerows will be managed in accordance with the specifications in the oLEMP.</li> <li>• Perimeter fences will not be constructed through existing hedgerows.</li> <li>• Offsets of at least 10m either side from all existing hedgerows will be provided.</li> </ul>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offsets of at least 10m either side from main rivers and 6m from ditches will be provided.</li> <li>• Offsets of at least 15m from the Proposed Development to existing woodlands will be provided.</li> <li>• Offsets of at least 15m to statutorily and locally designated wildlife sites.</li> <li>• Approximately 118ha of wildflower grassland habitat would be created along with 21.5km of new hedgerow and tree planting.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see the oLEMP, [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p>
Ancient woodlands and veteran trees.	No	<p>As outlined in Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010127/APP/6.1], the Order limits does not support any ancient woodland; however, there are parcels of this located to the north-east adjacent to the Order limits (replanted ancient woodland at Braceborough Little Wood) and north-west, at a distance of approximately 275m (ancient woodland and replanted ancient woodland at Newell Wood).</p> <p>However, buffers and standard environmental protection measures have been put in place to protect these sites, including offsets of at</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>least 15 times the width of the stem diameter of Veteran Trees will be put in place to protect them.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
<p>Queries on assessment methodology used and ecological surveys.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>For more information on the ecological surveys conducted as part of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]</p>
<p>Request for an ecological survey to be carried out specifically for aquatic species in West Glen River.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Proposed Development will be cognisant of and contribute positively where possible to conservation works planned by Anglian Water to the West Glen River. Areas for potential solar development have been removed along the West Glen River corridor to remove the majority of PV Arrays from the flood plain. This has also provided the opportunity to reduce any potential impacts on protected species using the river corridor and provide ecological habitat enhancement.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
<p>Request for Habitat Regulation Screening Assessment to be carried out.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Proposed Development will not have any likely significant effects on European sites. The shadow Habitat Regulations</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Assessment provided to support this ES (Appendix 7.5) sets out the rationale regarding this conclusion with reference to internationally important designated sites. This is based on the distance to the designated sites and the very low likelihood that the Order limits supports habitats which are functionally linked to the designated sites.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Health and Safety Executive
- Carlby Parish Council
- Stamford Town Council
- Environment Agency
- Cadent Gas
- National Grid Gas
- National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
- Stamford Town Council Planning Committee

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination</b>		
Waste and contamination during construction and decommissioning phase.	No	As outlined in Chapter 5: Project Description, [EN010127/APP/6.1], all the solar infrastructure including PV modules, mounting structures, cabling on or near the surface, inverters, transformers, switchgear, fencing and ancillary infrastructure would be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice following the waste hierarchy, with materials being reused or recycled wherever possible. All waste will be disposed of in accordance with the legislation at the time of decommissioning.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Outline measures are set out in the oCEMP [EN010127/APP/7.6] and oDEMP [EN010127/APP/7.8] and will be replicated in the CEMP or DEMP which will be agreed with local authorities prior to construction or decommissioning work beginning.</p> <p>In addition, given the isolated areas of potential contamination, the impacts associated with the migration of pollutants from contaminated land are considered to be of Negligible Magnitude for receptors of High Sensitivity, such as watercourses, drainage ditches, coastal waters and groundwater. Therefore, this is considered Not Significant. Please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, [EN010127/APP/6.1], for more information.</p> <p>In addition, in regard to risk of spillage or leakage of chemicals, should there be a spillage event during the construction phase the appropriate mitigation measures detailed in the oCEMP [EN010127/APP/7.6] and oWMP [EN010127/APP/7.13] will be implemented as applicable.</p>
Request for information about use of herbicides to control vegetation around panels.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment, however, cannot confirm this as the use of herbicides to control vegetation around the panels is the choice of the landowner.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Maintenance of solar PV modules, including use of cleaning chemicals.	No	The Applicant will be using cleaning chemicals, and an appointed maintenance contractor will have management procedures to prevent spillage impacts of cleaning chemicals.
Maintenance of existing National Grid Gas pipelines and National Grid Electricity Transmission assets during construction and decommissioning.	No	<p>The Applicant notes that NGG has existing easements for these pipelines which provides rights for ongoing access and prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings/structures, change to existing ground levels or storage of materials within the easement strip. Cable crossings at 90 degrees should be at minimum 600mm above or below.</p> <p>The Applicant also notes that NGET has existing easements for these assets which provides rights for ongoing access and prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings/structures, change to existing ground levels or storage of materials within the easement strip.</p>
Land rights for Cadent Gas to enable works to proceed as normal and existing easements are in place preventing erection of buildings/structures, changes to ground levels or storage of materials in the easement strip.	No	<p>The Applicant notes that adequate land rights must be granted to Cadent (e.g., following the exercise of compulsory powers to acquire such rights included within the DCO) to enable works to proceed to Cadent's satisfaction.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that operations within existing easement strips are not permitted without approval and Deed of Consent being put in place.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
The Proposed Development should seek to minimise pollution to land.	No	The oCEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b> refers to an obligation to prepare a Pollution Prevention Plan to prior to construction of the Proposed Development and subsequent oDEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.8]</b> outlines how the Proposed Development will prevent impacts on the quality of soils during the construction and decommissioning phases. Further, pollution prevention measures are also outlined by the Applicant in the oWMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.13]</b> .
Request for a consistent approach to description of geological formations.	No	This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, and its associated appendices.
Adverse impact on soil, water and materials.	No	<p>The Applicant has assessed impacts of the Proposed Development on soil, water and materials.</p> <p>For more information on soil impacts and mitigation, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, and its associated appendices. Further, please see the oSMP and oEMMP, which also offer additional information on this topic. The Applicant notes that given the isolated areas of potential contamination, the impacts associated with the migration of pollutants from contaminated land are considered to be of Negligible Magnitude for receptors of High Sensitivity, such as</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>watercourses, drainage ditches and groundwater. Therefore, this is considered Not Significant. Please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, of the ES <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>. for more information.</p> <p>Good construction practice, such as the use of silt traps, cut-off ditches and SuDS, outlined in the oWMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.13]</b> and oCEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b> of the ES are embedded design measures and mean that effects on the Hydrological environment are assessed in Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, of the ES <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> as Not Significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.</p> <p>As outlined in Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, following the operational phase of the development, all the solar infrastructure including PV modules, mounting structures, cabling on or near the surface, inverters, transformers, switchgear, fencing and ancillary infrastructure would be removed.</p> <p>Section 15.7 of Chapter 15 of the ES <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> considers waste streams during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The chapter describes how the Solar infrastructure will be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice following the Waste Hierarchy, with materials being reused or recycled wherever possible. All waste will be disposed of in accordance with the legislation at the time of decommissioning. Waste Hierarchy principles are embedded into environmental management plans such as the outline Excavated Material Management Plan (oEMMP) included within the outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) <b>[EN010127/APP/7.12]</b>. These include requirements for preparation of a Construction Resource Management Plan (CRMP) as required in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b>, and the preparation of a Decommissioning Resource Management Plan (DRMP) as required in the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) <b>[EN010127/APP/7.8]</b>.</p> <p>These documents will include measures to control and manage waste onsite in line with the Waste Hierarchy.</p>

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Water Resources and Flood Risk include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Natural England
- Uffington Parish Council
- Greatford Parish Council
- Environment Agency

- Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board
- Witham First District Internal Drainage Board
- Canal & River Trust
- Anglian Water
- Gareth Davies MP
- Alicia Kearns MP
- Stamford Town Council Planning Committee

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Water Resources and Flood Risk</b>		
Flood risk, including specific concern of severity of flooding in the village of Greatford.	No	<p>Solar panels have been shown to not increase flood risk elsewhere due to the lack of impermeable footprint. The impact on flooding elsewhere is assessed as negligible within the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b>, and surface water runoff will be managed through thus use of SuDS and RSuDS as detailed in the Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS), <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b>.</p> <p>However, the following measures relating to the hydrological environment are embedded into the design and construction of the Proposed Development:</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50m watercourse buffers for major construction works (i.e. compound) with the exception of watercourse crossings along access tracks; and</li> <li>• 10m watercourse buffers for minor construction works (i.e. solar panel installation) with the exception of watercourse crossings along access tracks;</li> <li>• The Proposed Development will utilise existing access road and tracks already in place at this location, this will help to minimise ground disturbance and requirement for further watercourse crossings.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
Impact on soil absorption during rainfall.	No	The Outline Surface Water Management Strategy <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b> details that hardstanding will not increase substantially across the Order Limits, especially under the PV Arrays meaning the ability of the soil to absorb and infiltrate rainfall will remain similar to the baseline scenario in relation to its availability to absorb surface water runoff.
Land drainage, including management of surface water runoff and quality during	No	Surface water runoff from hardstanding areas associated with the Proposed Development will be managed by the SuDS measures

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
construction, operation, and decommissioning phase.		<p>detailed in the Outline Surface Water Management Strategy [EN010127/APP/6.2].</p> <p>The panels will have multiple drip lines with planting beneath to allow surface water to fall in multiple areas beneath the panel and not just the end. As such the areas beneath the panels are not impermeable, in line with the approach applied in other solar developments in the UK. RSuDS measures such as the use of grassland and wildflower mix under the PV Array drip lines will act to slow surface water flows.</p>
Location of Proposed Development and associated infrastructure request to be in areas of lowest flood risk.	No	<p>The Applicant has taken a sequential approach to the design of the site, locating electrically sensitive infrastructure (such as the substation and the solar stations) outside the flood extents. Only minor sections of PV arrays are located in the modelled 1:1,000 year extent and the thin racking system used to support the arrays will not materially impact on flood conveyance or storage capacity during extreme flood events, as outlined in Chapter 11 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Request for flood defences.	No	<p>As outlined in Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, [EN010127/APP/6.1], defences along the River Gwash are located approximately 600m west of the Order and comprise privately owned engineered high ground. The flood defence is shown to have crest levels in the range of approximately 19.1 to</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>29.5m above ordnance datum (AOD) and a Standard of Protection (SoP) of 25 years.</p> <p>In addition, defences along the West Glen River run along the banks of the watercourse through the centre of the Order limits and comprise privately owned natural high ground. The flood defence is shown to have crest levels in the range of approximately 13.6m to 21.8m AOD and a SoP of 50 years.</p> <p>The improvement of flood defences associated with the West Glen is managed by the EA. The FRA outlines the Proposed Development will not increase flood risk elsewhere.</p>
Request for river restoration measures to improve river flow and habitat conditions.	No	<p>As outlined in the GI Strategy, areas for potential solar development have been removed along the West Glen River corridor in order to remove the Solar PV Arrays from the flood plain. This has also provided the opportunity to reduce any potential impacts on protected species using the river corridor and provide ecological habitat enhancement.</p> <p>For more information, please see the GI Strategy.</p>
Request for pollution prevention measures of water resources.	No	Pollution prevention measures are outlined in the oCMP and oWMP.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>Concerns in regard to increase food risk due to extreme weather conditions.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As reported in Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>, of the ES, modelling of various flooding scenarios has been carried out, in consultation with the Environmental Agency, considering increases in rainfall intensities associated with climate change. In light of this, the Proposed Development infrastructure has been located outside areas identified to be at risk of flooding during a 1 in 100-year fluvial event, accounting for the increases in flows associated with climate change.</p> <p>This sequential design methodology ensures that the Proposed Development is not vulnerable to increases in rainfall intensities leading to extreme flood events.</p>
<p>Request that the Applicant acknowledges the project must prevent deterioration of the current WFD status of the West Glen.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>As outlined in the GI Strategy, areas for potential solar development have been removed along the West Glen River corridor in order to remove the majority of Solar PV Arrays from the flood plain. This has also provided the opportunity to reduce any potential impacts on protected species using the river corridor and provide ecological habitat enhancement.</p> <p>For more information on the GI Strategy, please see the Design and Access Statement <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b>.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Request for any works within 8 metres of the river, the Applicant is to request a flood risk activity permit from the Environment Agency.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Comments in regard to consents to be obtained from relevant IDBs for works where appropriate.	No	Consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority and relevant Internal Drainage Boards will be obtained for any works where applicable.
Request by Anglian Water to explore opportunities for collaboration for restoration works to the West Glen River.	No	The Applicant met with engineers and designs in September 2022 to understand the interaction between the two projects.

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Historic England
- Careby with Aunby and Holywell
- Greatford Parish Council
- Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council
- Stamford Town Council
- Stamford Town Council Planning Committee

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</b>		
<p>Impact on heritage assets, including sites of archaeological interest and listed buildings.</p> <p>Emphasis on impact of construction and decommissioning phase on buried archaeological across the Site.</p>	No	<p>Desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching investigations have been undertaken to assess the likely presence and potential importance of buried archaeological remains. These have revealed some discrete locations where buried remains are present. Industry standard mitigation measures will ensure construction activities will avoid the most important remains and where appropriate archaeological excavations will take place to record remains prior to construction.</p> <p>An assessment of the potential impacts that could occur from changes to the setting of listed buildings and other heritage assets has also been undertaken.</p> <p>Further details on this can be found in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices)</p> <p>The assessment and all trial trenching work is being undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology, a professional and industry accredited company with over 30 years of experience in the field. They were responsible for the site work and all of the archival work that will accompany it.</p>
Assessment and enhancement of character and appearance of Conservation Areas.	No	No adverse impacts are anticipated on the proximate Conservation Areas. This matter is assessed in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		the ES (and its appendices), with specific reference to Great Casterton.
Quality of methodology for archaeological and cultural heritage assessments.	No	This matter is assessed in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices)., all work follows industry standard guidance and practices.
Impact of construction and decommissioning phase on buried archaeological remains across the Site.	No	This matter is assessed in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices).
Mitigation measures for buried archaeological remains.	No	<p>A suite of industry standard mitigation measures is proposed in regard to the protection and management of buried archaeological remains. These include the safeguarding of important remains during construction and where appropriate archaeological investigations (excavations) in advance of construction. The results of any archaeological excavations will be published and recovered artefacts and records will be deposited in the local archives. The measures will be secured by a standard requirement of the Consent Order.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices).</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Request for trial trenching to be carried out for full potential impact zone including along cable routes.	No	Trial trenching has been undertaken across the area of the Proposed Development. The scope of the trial trenching has been discussed with the heritage (archaeology) stakeholders with the local Councils. The proposed methods were agreed, however, the quantity of required work (the number of trial trenches to be excavated) was not agreed upon. The Applicant considers that its approach to this matter is robust and sufficient for the purposes of the ES.
Request for full LiDAR assessment, full aerial photo coverage, and archaeological reports to cover the Site.	No	This work has been completed as part of the assessment reported in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> , (and associated appendices).

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Natural England
- Essendine Parish Council
- Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council
- Uffington Parish Council
- Carlby Parish Council
- Careby with Aunby and Holywell
- Greatford Parish Council
- Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council
- Stamford Town Council
- Stamford Town Council Planning Committee
- Environment Agency
- Gareth Davies MP
- Alicia Kearns MP

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation</b>		
<p>Loss of agricultural land and effect on food production. Including impact of importing food products, resulting in increase in carbon footprint.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], not all areas of the Site would contain solar development and 239 ha of agricultural farmland would continue to be managed under an agricultural regime.</p> <p>Fields that are completely Grade 2 have been removed from the solar development area, however, fields with Grade 2 within them mixed with other grades will remain.</p> <p>The implications for agricultural production are assessed in Chapter 12. The significance of production changes, and the relative implications for production from BMV and non-BMV land, are limited and are assessed in Chapter 12. The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.</p>
<p>Impact on local farm businesses.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The farm businesses all stated that, although agricultural practices within the Order limits will change, continued arable use is considered very unlikely</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>to change across their wider land areas outside the Order limits. Within the Order limits a proportion of the mitigation and enhancement areas will continue to be farmed, whilst land management, which could include sheep grazing, will take place within the Order limits.</p> <p>Once the Proposed Development is operational, the owners of the four farm operations within the Order limits predict that the 13 Full-time equivalents (FTEs) currently directly supported will remain the same and that the diversification of operations will help to sustain their commercial viability.</p>
Impact on arboriculture.	No	<p>As outlined in Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics, [EN010127/APP/6.1], measures to protect trees from accidental damage during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development have been set out within the oCEMP and the oDEMP.</p> <p>The management of trees (as well as other landscape elements) will be undertaken in accordance with the oLEMP. The oLEMP will be implemented by qualified arboriculturists where required to avoid adverse effects on trees during the operational phase.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		Therefore, no additional mitigation is required to avoid significant adverse effects on trees.
Impact on soil quality and resource, particularly once the site is decommissioned.	No	The nature of the Proposed Development will not significantly impact the quality of soils which will be of the same quality as the existing scenario. The oCEMP and subsequent oDEMP will prevent impacts on the quality of soils during the construction and decommissioning phases.
Methodology of Agricultural Land Use Assessment in Chapter 13 of the PEIR.  Including soil types identified during survey and the number of soil pits dug during survey.	No	This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, and its associated appendices.
Loss of residential amenity, including use of PRowS for cycling, horse riding and walking.	Yes	<p>A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment is presented in Appendix 6.4 of the LVIA and Amenity and Recreation assessment in Appendix 6.5.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties through 50 offsets for solar stations from PRowS and 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties. A bespoke design response and offset has been adopted for residential properties based on analysis of the RVAA.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>All existing PRoWs will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to the wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset either side from existing PRoWs and proposed permissive paths to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRoWs.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.</p>
Cumulative impacts alongside other developments.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The assessment of likely cumulative effects has been undertaken and sets out measures envisaged to reduce or avoid any identified significant adverse cumulative effects and, where appropriate, any proposed monitoring arrangements. For more information, please see Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> .
Request for land to return to former land quality (ALC grade) and former use at the end of operational life.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. An outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) has been prepared to support the DCO application. The decommissioning phase would include the removal of any

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>permissive paths and potential reversion of grassland underneath the Solar PV Arrays. Any planting of trees, hedgerows, and scrubs will remain in-situ when the Site is handed back to landowners. Landowners can then use their land for whatever they wish.</p> <p>The majority of Mitigation and Enhancement Areas identified on the Green Infrastructure Strategy will support agricultural uses, including arable production. A total of 239 ha of the Site will be retained in arable farmland.</p> <p>In addition to the above, an Outline Soil Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO Application, and details the handling of soils through the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p>
Climate resilient planting.	No	<p>All new planting specifications will be resilient to a changing climate to ensure the longevity of planting throughout the lifespan of the Proposed Development. This is outlined in outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.9] and the Design and Access Statement, [EN010127/APP/7.3].</p>
Request for a detailed survey to be carried out of all the BMV land areas and additional	No	<p>An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. This includes detailed survey of</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
sampling in adjacent non-BMV land to confirm its extent.		<p>BMV areas. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, and its associated appendices.</p>
Request detailed ALC data for substation site and cabling route.	No	This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Request for photographs to illustrate soil structures and nature of underlying limestone.	No	This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, and its associated appendices [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Habitat creation.	Yes	The habitat creation and enhancement works being proposed for within the Order limits will provide a high net gain in biodiversity value for the area within it a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no ditches or rivers are being enhanced as assessed by the metric) as assessed via the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1., carried out on the basis of



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>the Green Infrastructure Plan [EN010127/APP/7.9]. This constitutes a beneficial effect of significance at a District level.</p> <p>The GI strategy for the Proposed Development is also secured through the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (EN010127/APP/7.9). For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Air Quality include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Natural England
- Stamford Town Council
- Environment Agency

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Air Quality</b>		
Air quality during construction as a result of dust from vehicle movement.	Yes	Construction traffic flows, as reported in Appendix 9.4 of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b> , are well below screening criteria for potential impact to air quality in Environmental Protection UK and Institute of Air Quality Management guidance. As such, impacts to air quality are expected to be insignificant. The oCEMP, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.6]</b> , sets out measures for the management of dust, secured by DCO Requirement.

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Noise and Vibration include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Carlby Parish Council
- Stamford Town Council

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Noise and Vibration</b>		
<p>Noise impact during construction, operation, and decommissioning phase. In particular noise impact caused by vehicle movements.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>A detailed and robust noise assessment forms part of the ES (Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration [EN010127/APP/6.1]. This considers the nature of the noise sources associated with the Proposed Development, including construction and construction traffic, operational noise from electrical plant including that of the proposed substation, and decommissioning works.</p> <p>When considering the potential noise impacts of the Proposed Development as a result of construction activities including related traffic passing to and from the Site, the relevant embedded mitigation measures are described within section 10.3 of Chapter 10 of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. These include the general construction working hours (07:00 to 19:00 – Monday to Saturday),</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>with further restriction on some noise-generating activities and HGV movements on Saturday afternoons (13:00 to 19:00).</p> <p>These measures are set out in the oCEMP and oDEMP.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures described in section 10.5 of Chapter 10 include control of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) if undertaken at night, as well as controlling piling noise and informing residents of noisy works: these measures will also be implemented through the CEMP and DEMP.</p> <p>A DCO requirement is proposed to control operational noise levels from plant to suitable levels at neighbouring residential properties.</p> <p>Noise from electrical plant has been assessed in Section 10.4 of Chapter 10 of the ES, with mitigation proposed in Section 10.5 to secure stringent noise limits from the plant (including the substation) at all neighbouring properties. Following mitigation, no significant impacts are expected. Noise limits for the Proposed Development are set out in a DCO Requirement.</p>
Request for Proposed Development and associated infrastructure to not be located near	Yes	The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], the Proposed Development will be

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
residents, occupiers of businesses or important buildings including hospitals and schools.		<p>sensitively sited and offset from residential properties, this will include a 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties and 50 m from Public Rights of Way.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Highways and Access include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Natural England
- Essendine Parish Council
- Great Casterton Parish Council
- Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council
- Uffington Parish Council
- Carlby Parish Council
- Careby with Aunby and Holywell
- Greatford Parish Council
- Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council
- National Highways
- Network Rail
- Alicia Kearns MP
- Stamford Town Council Planning Committee

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Highways and Access</b>		
Access routes during construction phase.	No	Details on the access routes that will be used during construction are summarised within Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> .
Adverse traffic impacts.	No	<p>The traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> and noise impacts from construction traffic are assessed in Chapter 10: Noise <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b></p> <p>The Applicant notes that the primary traffic impacts associated with the Proposed Development will be linked to the construction phase.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The measures to mitigate the traffic impacts of construction are outlined within the supporting Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).</p> <p>In relation to traffic generation, the working hour for the Proposed Development will be in 12-hour shifts each day, with employees travelling to and from the Order limits an hour either side of these times (i.e., between 06:00 and 07:00, and 19:00 and 20:00). Where onsite works are to be conducted outside the core working hours, they will comply with the restrictions pursuant to the consenting process.</p> <p>Therefore, it was agreed with Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council and National Highways that no localised capacity assessments needed to be undertaken, as the impact of the Proposed Development fell below the threshold of 30 two-way vehicle movements during the morning (08:00-09:00) and evening (17:00-18:00) peak hour – as there is to be no impact during the identified peak hours</p> <p>Whilst the uplift in daily traffic flows may result in more delay than at present, it is not considered that this will be significant due to the restrictions in the timings for construction vehicles and the</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>arrangements for staff who will arrive and depart outside of the peak hours set out in the oCTMP.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that there will be no traffic impact on the morning and evening peak hours when the local road network is generally the most congested.</p>
<p>Maintain safe and efficient operation of Strategic Road Network. Particular concern for full safety and risk assessment along traffic access route near schools.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur.</p> <p>There will be restrictions placed on the delivery windows for HGVs, with no deliveries allowed to take place during School start and pick times. The restrictions on HGVs delivery hours will be secured by way of Requirement on the DCO application, through the CTMP.</p> <p>With respect to the impact on the Strategic Road Network, it has been agreed with National Highways that the impact of the Proposed Development falls below the threshold for assessment to</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		be required, which is identified as 30 two-way vehicle trips during the AM or PM peak hour. As there will be no impact on the peak hours, it has been agreed with National Highways that no assessment of the Strategic Road Network is required.
Cumulative impacts on the highway network.	No	This has been outlined in Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Summary of Cumulative Effects of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1]
Vegetation and habitat loss as a result of potential widening of highway works for construction access. Request that the extent of vegetation loss for highways works and access is clearly stated in ES and LVIA includes this assessment.	Yes	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. Areas of Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI have been removed from the Order limits in order to avoid direct impacts as cabling routing or site access works are no longer being considered in this location. Areas of the SSSI that remain within the Order limits are for vegetation management only.</p> <p>In addition, sections of the A6121 and Ryhall Road have been removed from the Order Limits, avoiding direct impacts on the Tolethorpe Verges SSSI as it has been agreed with the Local Highway Authority that localised road improvements are not required to facilitate the movement of construction vehicles, with the exception of the A6121/B1176 and the Ryhall Road/Old Great North Road Junction.</p> <p>The relevant assessment of the impact and mitigation measures proposed is detailed within Section 6.5 of the ES (LVIA assessment).</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Request for detailed information including, access arrangements, delivery timings and routing controls, parking, storage and plant areas, travel plan for construction staff, and number of expected vehicles (for both construction works and deliveries).	No	<p>Information on the access arrangements, delivery timings and routing controls are included within Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. Further details are also incorporated within the standalone CTMP ([EN010127/APP/7.11], which details the measures relevant to construction.</p> <p>Monitoring and vehicle tracking technology will be utilised to ensure that HGVs only used the agreed routes. Where the routes are not followed, appropriate enforcement action will be undertaken by the Applicant. The agreed routing will be secured by way of Requirement on the DCO, meaning that the Applicant will be legally obliged to comply with the requirements.</p>
Request to protect and enhance railway infrastructure.	No	The Applicant will commit to working with Network Rail to ensure there are no impacts to the railway infrastructure. The relevant assessment on the visual effects on the passengers of the East Coast Mainline Railway has been further assessed within Section 6.5 of the LVIA.
Concerns in regard to whether the Proposed Development will potentially drive wildlife onto the roads due to its fencing and create a hazard for wildlife and drivers.	No	<p>Chapter 7 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] assesses the biodiversity and nature conservation impacts of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The fencing strategy for the Proposed Development has been designed to maintain and enhance connectivity between existing</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>habitats both within and beyond the Order limits, as indicated on the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the oLEMP <b>[EN010127/APP/7.9]</b>. The oLEMP identifies how the fencing will be designed to allow smaller mammals to access to the Solar PV Site for foraging purposes.</p> <p>Larger mammals such as deer will not be able to access the Solar PV Site, but connections to existing and enhanced habitats within the Order limits will provide suitable foraging and hiding resources, and allow access to wider habitat resource beyond the Order limits.</p> <p>The following offsets have been included as part of the Proposed Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offsets of at least 15m from the Proposed Development to existing woodlands will be provided.</li> <li>• Offsets of at least 15m to statutorily and locally designated wildlife sites.</li> <li>• Offsets of at least 30m from main badger setts.</li> </ul> <p>The traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> and noise impacts from construction traffic are assessed in Chapter 10: Noise <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The Applicant notes that the primary traffic impacts associated with the Proposed Development will be linked to the construction phase. The measures to mitigate the traffic impacts of construction are outlined within the supporting Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).</p> <p>A review of the accidents occurring over the most recent three-year period has been undertaken to identify existing accident clusters across the construction routes to the Order limits. A cluster is considered to be identified where more than five accidents have occurred over a three-year period within close proximity of the Order limits.</p> <p>The review highlights that none of the junctions or links located along the local road network within proximity of the Proposed Development had more than five accidents within the three-year period.</p> <p>Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>propensity for accidents to occur. On that basis, and using professional judgement, it is considered that the construction phase of the Proposed Development would have a non-significant effect on Accidents and Safety.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 9: Access and Highways of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
<p>Concerns about noise generated by construction traffic.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>When considering the potential noise impacts of the Proposed Development (please see Section 10.4 of Chapter 10: Noise of the ES <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> for more information) as a result of construction related traffic passing to and from the site, the relevant embedded mitigation measures described within Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> include the general construction working hours (07:00 to 19:00 – Monday to Saturday). This is also considered in the oCEMP, which outlines that these working hours would be further restricted to avoid some works on Saturday afternoons (13:00 to 19:00). This includes activities such as earthworks, trench construction and any piling, as well as HGV deliveries and movements would not be undertaken at these times.</p>
<p>Request for a Transport Assessment and Construction Traffic Management Plan to be submitted to National Highways.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>For more information, please see the ES, Appendix 9.4 Transport Assessment <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b> and Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> for more information on</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>this topic. To view the CTMP, please refer to the ES <b>[EN010127/APP/7.11]</b>.</p> <p>A Transport Assessment has also been produced at Appendix 9.4 of Chapter 9.</p> <p>Prior to submission of the application, it was agreed with National Highways that the impact of the Proposed Development did not require assessment on the National Highways Network (SRN) as the impact fell below the impact threshold of 30 two-way vehicle trips during the AM and PM peak hour.</p>
<p>Risk of major accidents and/or disasters, particularly during construction and operation phase.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant notes that the construction phase of the Proposed Development is likely to have adverse, local, temporary, and medium-term impacts on Accidents and Safety.</p> <p>A review of the accidents occurring over the most recent three-year period has been undertaken to identify existing accident clusters across the construction routes to the Order limits. A cluster is considered to be identified where more than five accidents have occurred over a three-year period within close proximity of the Order limits.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The review highlights that none of the junctions or links located along the local road network within proximity of the Proposed Development had more than five accidents within the three-year period.</p> <p>Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur.</p> <p>On that basis, and using professional judgement, it is considered that the construction phase of the Proposed Development would have a non-significant effect on Accidents and Safety.</p>

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Landscape and Visual Impact include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Natural England
- Essendine Parish Council
- Carlby Parish Council
- Careby with Aunby and Holywell
- Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council
- Stamford Town Council

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Landscape and Visual Impact</b>		
Impact on landscape character and visual amenity, including cumulative effects.	No	<p>The landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development have been assessed in accordance with best practice within Section 6.5 of the LVIA which includes an assessment of impacts to landscape character, visual amenity and cumulative impacts.</p> <p>The LVIA has informed the site layout and design of the Proposed Development and has advised upon specific landscape and visual mitigation measures and enhancement measures to reduce the overall effects.</p> <p>The design evolution, iterations, and changes to the site layout in response to consultee comments has been set out within Section 5.0 of the Design and Access Statement (DAS)</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>[EN010127/APP/7.3] Specific landscape and visual mitigation and enhancement identified within the LVIA are further illustrated on the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan and Section 6.0 of the DAS.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would result in a number of landscape and visual effects although these would be managed to reduce the degree and significance of effects in the long term. Whilst this solar farm is of a large utility scale, the overall scale of the development would appear subdivided and compartmentalised by the landform, woodland and hedgerows such that it would not be entirely visible from any given location.</p>
<p>Visual impact of elements such as energy storage, substation, lightning protection masts, conversion units / inverters, and security fencing and lighting.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Onsite Substation has been located near to the existing Ryhall substation within close proximity of the existing industrial buildings to the south of Essendine and the East Coast Mainline Railway. The development parameters for the Onsite Substation have been reviewed through the consultation process to reduce the heights of the key components as far as possible. Planting including hedgerow reinforcements has been proposed to the north of the Onsite Substation to provide partial visual screening from Essendine to the north.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description and Section 6.4 covering the embedded mitigation within the LVIA.
Request for mitigation strategies and offsets to be clearly illustrated and included in any assessment.	No	There is an extensive range of mitigation and enhancement measures proposed to reduce the landscape and visual effects in the long term. These are described within Section 6.4 of the LVIA, Section 6.0 of the DAS, and further illustrated on the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (Figure 6.11). The maintenance of landscape mitigation and enhancement measures would be secured through the oLEMP.
Request for night-time photography to be incorporated into the ES chapter.	12.2.4. No	12.2.5. A night-time assessment has been provided within Section 6.5 of the LVIA. The Proposed Development would generally remain unlit with the exception of manually operated and motion-detection lighting utilised for operational and security purposes. No areas of the Solar PV Site would be continuously lit during the construction, operation (year 1 and 15) and decommissioning stages. No visible lighting would be required at the perimeter fencing and Infra-Red (IR) lighting would be provided by the security system to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV. The Applicant therefore does not consider it necessary to provide night-time photography to inform the decision-making process.

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Request for all sensitive viewpoints within the study area are accounted for in visual impact assessment.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For a list of viewpoints, please see Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. The location of viewpoints has taken into consideration additional views identified by stakeholders.</p> <p>Typical examples of visual receptor susceptibility, value and overall sensitivity is provided in the Table 6.2.8 of the LVIA methodology (ES Appendix 6.2).</p>
Request for an additional complete panorama for each viewpoint for reference purposes.	No	Panoramas have been provided for each of the representative viewpoints (Figures 6.8.1 - 6.8.20) and the illustrative viewpoints (Figures 6.9.A – 6.9.H) of the LVIA.
Request for Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) to cover an area of at least 2km from the Proposed Development.	Yes	<p>A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) is provided at Appendix 6.4 of the LVIA. It is informed by the LVIA assessment which uses a 2km study area. A detailed study area of 100m from the Order limits is considered to be appropriate for the RVAA. The RVAA submitted in the Stage 2 PEIR did not identify any overbearing effects on the residential properties located within 100m of the Order limits and Onsite Substation and this is also the case at submission. As such, it is not considered necessary to extend the study area beyond 100m as no overbearing effects were identified within this study area.</p>
LVIA methodology identifies effects of Major-Moderate as being significant – usually the	No	Within the EIA Regs, judgements regarding the likelihood of significant or not significant effects must be clearly set out by a

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<p>threshold for significant effects are considered to be Moderate and above.</p>		<p>suitably qualified consultant. However, no particular threshold is given for the determination of significant or not significant effects, and it is for the assessor to determine this threshold.</p> <p>The significance ratings within the LVIA methodology indicates a 'sliding scale' of the relative importance of effects with Major being the most important and Minimal being the least important. Effects that are judged to be 'Major' or 'Major-Moderate' are deemed to be significant. Effects which are of 'Moderate' significance or less are judged to be not significant. Further justification or explanation for the significance of effects is provided within the LVIA in accordance with the methodology in Appendix 6.2.</p> <p>The LVIA methodology submitted for the Stage 2 PEIR has been considered appropriate for other DCO / NSIP applications and has been tested and considered acceptable at numerous other examinations and planning appeals.</p>
<p>Request that the Landscape Institute's TGN 02/21 be included as a reference document within the approach to the LVIA as well as the methodology.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The LVIA has considered the guidance within TGN 02/21 when assessing the landscape value of the Order limits which is located outside of a statutory and non-statutory landscape designation. The value of the landscape is further considered within Section 6.3</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		of the LVIA where it is recognised to be of 'Local / District' value (above that of 'Community' value) for the purposes of LVIA.
Request for detailed comments on viewpoints from Mallard Pass Action Group be considered and incorporated within LVIA.	No	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. Twenty representative viewpoints (Figure 6.8.1 – 6.8.20 of the ES) have been selected to inform the assessment of visual effects. These are outlined in Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual, under the Visual Receptors section. In addition, eight illustrative viewpoints were identified to demonstrate a particular effect or specific issues, which might, for example, be the restricted visibility at certain locations.</p> <p>The locations of the representative and illustrative viewpoints were the subject of consultation via letter with LCC on 10th January 2022, RCC on 7th January 2022 and SKDC on 7th January 2022. Copies of these letters and correspondence to the relevant planning and landscape officers are contained within Appendix 6.6 of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.2]. A consultation response was received from AAH consultants on behalf of LCC on 5th May 2022 (TMO1) requesting the inclusion of a number of additional viewpoints that were submitted by the Mallard Pass Action Group to the Council. These viewpoints were subsequently included in this chapter as representative or illustrative viewpoints.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		The submission LVIA therefore includes 28 no. representative and illustrative viewpoints following consultation. These representatives and illustrative viewpoints are considered to provide a proportionate selection of views at different distances and directions from the Order limits. It should be remembered that the assessments within this LVIA are not limited to these viewpoint locations.
Request for high resolution for the LVIA figures.	No	The LVIA figures will be submitted at a suitable resolution to ensure legibility although manageable in terms of file size.
Request to include rail passengers as visual receptors.	No	The visual effects on the passengers of the East Coast Mainline Railway has been further assessed within Section 6.5 of the LVIA.

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Socio-Economics and Tourism include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council
- Carlby Parish Council
- Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council
- Stamford Town Council
- Stamford Town Council Planning Committee

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Socio-Economics and Tourism</b>		
Impacts on agricultural business.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The farm businesses operating within the Order limits all stated that, although agricultural practices within the Order limits will change, continued arable use is considered very unlikely to change across their wider land areas outside the Order limits. Within the Order limits a proportion of the mitigation and enhancement areas will continue to be farmed, whilst land management, which could include sheep grazing, will take place within the Order limits.</p> <p>Once the Proposed Development is operational, the owners of the four farm operations within the Order limits predict that the 13 FTEs currently directly supported will remain the same and that the</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		diversification of operations will help to sustain their commercial viability.
Impacts on tourism.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. In Chapter 14: Socio-Economics of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], Section 14.3 outlines the potential effects of the construction, operational and decommissioning phases on employment, GVA and tourism in the study area.</p> <p>Visitor behaviour / tourism receptors were assessed within a 2km radius of the Proposed Development, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity and Recreation Assessment (Appendix 6.5 of the ES)</li> <li>• Landscape and Visual impact (Chapter 6 of the ES)</li> <li>• Noise (Chapter 10 of the ES)</li> </ul> <p>Taking these receptors into account, it is considered that, on balance, the construction phase will have a negligible to minor adverse effect on the local tourism economy which is not significant.</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		For more information on the operational and decommissioning phases, see Chapter 14: Socio-Economics, [EN010127/APP/6.1]
Community benefits.	Yes	The embedded mitigation measures include the implementation of an Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan [EN010127/APP/7.10] which will be agreed with local stakeholders prior to the commencement of construction. This will set out measures the Applicant will implement in order to promote and enable access to the employment and supply chain opportunities associated with the construction phase locally in order to help capture as many of the benefits for study area residents as possible.
Local suppliers.	No	<p>The Applicant has produced an Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan, [EN010127/APP/7.10], whereby the Applicant wishes to make provision for the Proposed Development to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create opportunities for the improvement and employment of local skills; and</li> <li>• Engage in the ethical procurement of the supply chain.</li> </ul> <p>The Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan proposes how the Applicant will work with local stakeholders to achieve this. This includes focusing on:</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The opportunities for the involvement of local companies in the construction and operation supply chain;</li> <li>• The ability of local residents to access employment opportunities associated with the construction and operation of the Development; and</li> <li>• The ability of research organisations to use the site to enable research and innovation in the renewable energy sector.</li> </ul> <p>Please see Table 1.1 in the Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan for more details on how the Applicant propose to work with the organisations set out in Table 1.1 to achieve these objectives.</p>
Reduction in local economy for both households and individuals, including negative effect on the housing market.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in Chapter 14: Socio-Economics of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], this assessment concluded that there will be no potential significant adverse socio-economic effects during the construction, operation, or decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Therefore, no additional mitigation measures over and above those stated in other technical chapters of the ES are required to avoid or minimise the socio-economic effects identified in Chapter 14.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>Some examples of mitigation measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties</li> <li>• 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties</li> <li>• The removal of the Solar PV Site from north of the Drift providing a suitable offset of residential dwellings in the interests of visual amenity.</li> </ul>
<p>Request for clarification on whether the assessment on productivity and economic implications will include the effect on food supplies.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.</p>

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Health include:**

- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Health and Safety Executive
- Essendine Parish Council
- Great Casterton Parish Council
- Uffington Parish Council
- Carlby Parish Council
- Careby with Aunby and Holywell
- Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council
- Stamford Town Council
- NATS Safeguarding
- UK Health Security Agency
- Canal & River Trust
- Cadent Gas
- National Grid Gas
- National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
- Alicia Kearns MP

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Health</b>		
Safety concerns of battery storage.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Following the feedback received during non-statutory consultation and technical and commercial factors, the Applicant has decided to not include Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) as part of the Proposed Development. While the Applicant continues to recognise the importance of BESS in achieving the UK's decarbonisation and energy security needs, the Applicant has not brought this aspect forward as part of the DCO Application. Further information on the reasons why BESS has not been included as part of the Proposed

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		Development are included in the Planning Statement, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.2]</b> .
Safety concerns in relation to construction work in vicinity of major hazards pipeline running through the Site.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Detrimental effect of loss of recreational amenity and exercise opportunities on mental and physical health.	Yes	<p>As outlined in the Design and Access Statement (DAS), <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b>, the Proposed Development is proposed to help meet the urgent need for home grown, secure, renewable energy that is required by Government policy in addressing climate change and energy security. The Proposed Development also offers the opportunity to deliver wide-ranging benefits beyond renewable energy production including recovery of natural environments, economic growth and social benefits, including education and health and wellbeing opportunities.</p> <p>In addition, the NIC Design Principles have been used to frame the Project Design Principles. One NIC Design Principle is People – which reflects what society wants and share benefits widely. The Proposed Development has sought opportunities to improve the quality of life for people who live and work nearby and taken steps to mitigate negative impacts. The Proposed Development sought the views of local communities throughout the project to ensure the</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>design complements the local character and culture and provides meaningful benefits to local communities.</p> <p>Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Proposed Development will be sensitively sites and offset from residential properties.</li> <li>• 50m offset of solar stations from PRow.</li> <li>• 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties.</li> <li>• The Proposed Development will create new opportunities for education on climate change via way of interpretation boards.</li> <li>• The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.</li> <li>• The Proposed Development will seek to minimise the potential effects of Electromagnetic Interference.</li> <li>• And CCTV monitoring will be along the perimeter and inward facing.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see the DAS, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.3]</b>.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
Safe and efficient recycling of solar PV modules during decommissioning phase.	No	<p>The Applicant is not seeking time limited consent for the Proposed Development, meaning that the operational life of the Proposed Development has not been specified within the DCO Application. However, it is recognised that the electrical infrastructure will have an operational lifespan. Therefore, all the solar infrastructure, including Solar PV Modules, mounting structures, cabling on or near the surface, inverters, transformers, switchgear, fencing, and ancillary infrastructure would be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice following the waste hierarchy, with materials being reused or recycled wherever possible. All waste will be disposed of in accordance with the legislation at the time of decommissioning.</p> <p>This will be secured through the agreement of a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan <b>[EN010127/APP/7.8]</b> with the local planning authority before such activities commence, as required by the DCO.</p>
Concerns regarding human rights abuses and the use of forced labour during the manufacturing of solar panels.	No	As detailed in the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, <b>[EN010127/APP/7.10]</b> , the Applicant wishes to ensure the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development is undertaken pursuant to an ethical procurement policy and that this is a legal obligation on anyone who has the

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>powers under the DCO. That would be achieved by securing this Plan by a requirement of the DCO.</p> <p>The Applicant proposed the following ethical procurement policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any potential supplier must participate in a modern slavery supplier due diligence exercise as part of the tender exercise;</li> <li>• Any potential supplier, whether or not they meet the statutory thresholds under section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, must publish annually a modern slavery and human trafficking statement;</li> <li>• The modern slavery and human trafficking statement must be informed by a risk assessment;</li> <li>• Any potential supplier must have a modern slavery policy;</li> <li>• Any potential supplier must provide relevant employees with modern slavery training that has been produced by a certified provider of such training;</li> <li>• Any contract to be entered into with a potential supplier must include the following warranties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The supplier has not been and is not engaged in any form of slavery, forced labour, labour exploitation or human trafficking anywhere in the world;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The supplier pays and treats its workers in compliance with applicable employment laws and minimum wage requirements; and</li> <li>○ The supplier will take reasonable steps to prevent slavery and human trafficking in connection with its business anywhere in the world.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please see the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, [EN010127/APP/7.10].</p>

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to DCO Related Comments include:**

- Cadent Gas
- National Grid Gas

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: DCO Related Comments</b>		
Operations within Cadent’s existing easement strips are not permitted without approval and will necessitate a Deed of Consent.	No	The Applicant notes that operations within existing easement strips are not permitted without approval and Deed of Consent being put in place.
Where the Promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of NGG’s apparatus, NGG will require appropriate protection and further discussion on the impact to its apparatus and rights including adequate Protective Provisions. A Deed of Consent will also be required for any works proposed within the easement strip.	No	<p>The Applicant notes that NGG require undeterred access.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that NGG has a Deed of Grant of Easement for each pipeline, which prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings, or structures, change to existing ground levels, and storage of materials for example.</p>

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Consultation and Engagement include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council
- Carlby Parish Council
- Alicia Kearns MP
- Stamford Town Council Planning Committee

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Consultation and Engagement</b>		
Request for Local Planning Authorities to be formally consulted on any additional information and engaging proactively with the Applicant to address concerns and shape the Proposed Development up to the point the Development Consent Order application is made.	No	The Applicant has formally consulted with Local Planning Authorities throughout both Non-Statutory and Statutory consultation. Early, additional, and ongoing engagement has taken place with Local Planning Authorities. Please see Section 4 and Section 13 of this Consultation Report.
Comment in regard to consultation for the Proposed Development being poor in the information that was provided.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. As set out in Chapter 8 of this Report, the Applicant made publicly available all statutory consultation materials in a highly accessible PDF format on the project dedicated website for any interested parties to read, print, and download. This included (seen in Appendix 9):

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Consultation Leaflet</li> <li>• Main Consultation Document</li> <li>• Feedback Form (in addition to the online feedback form via the digital engagement platform)</li> <li>• Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR);</li> <li>• Preliminary Environmental Information Report Non-Technical Summary (PEIR NTS);</li> <li>• Draft Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Employment Plan (OESSCEP)</li> <li>• Selection of Maps showing key PEIR Plans and Figures</li> <li>• Indicative cross-sections showing illustrations of the Proposed Development from worm’s-eye view</li> <li>• Photomontages showing visualisations of the Proposed Development from various viewpoints</li> <li>• Consultation event display boards</li> <li>• Poster advertising Stage Two Section 47 consultation events</li> <li>• Statement of Community Consultation (copies to take away) (shown in Appendix 6);</li> <li>• Section 47 Notice (shown in Appendix 6);</li> <li>• Section 48 Notice (shown in Appendix 8.2);</li> </ul>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of Community Groups and Seldom Heard Groups (shown in Appendix 9).</li> </ul> <p>Members of the public were also able to request printed materials and USB sticks containing any of the statutory consultation materials listed above. Please see Section 8 of this Report for more details on stakeholder requests of materials and USB sticks.</p>

**Consultees who responded with statements that the Applicant makes note of include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Health and Safety Executive
- Natural England
- Essendine Parish Council
- Great Casterton Parish Council
- Carlby Parish Council
- Careby with Aunby and Holywell
- Greatford Parish Council
- Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council
- Stamford Town Council
- Environment Agency
- National Highways
- UK Health Security Agency
- The Coal Authority
- Canal & River Trust
- Anglian Water
- Energy Assets Pipelines
- National Grid Gas
- Humber Gateway OFTO Limited
- Vodafone Limited (National Plant Enquiries)
- North Northamptonshire Council
- North Kesteven District
- Newark and Sherwood District
- North East Lincolnshire Council
- Gareth Davies MP for Grantham and Stamford
- Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton

Please see Appendix 5: Applicant Response in Regard to Section 42 Comments of this Consultation Report for statements that the Applicant makes note of.

**Consultees who responded with comments relating to Other Environmental Topics include:**

- South Kesteven District Council
- South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee
- Rutland County Council
- Network Rail
- Stamford Town Council Planning Committee

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
<b>EIA Topic Area: Other Environmental Topics</b>		
<p>Glint and Glare</p> <p>Impact on aircraft movements and associated activities as a result of glint and glare, and impact of glint and glare on highways network.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>A glint and glare assessment (Appendix 15.3 of the ES) <b>[EN010127/APP/6.2]</b> of the operational and construction phase has been prepared to assess the possible effects upon road users, residential amenity, aviation activity, and railway operations and infrastructure.</p> <p>The assessment concludes that with a combination of existing and proposed existing screening, the Proposed Development is not predicted to have significant glint and glare impacts on surrounding aviation activity, road users, or railway operations and infrastructure.</p>

Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		<p>The potential additional screening location area is shown in the Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010127/APP/6.2] and secured in the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>In regard to assessment of potential effects on aviation specifically, no solar reflections are geometrically possible towards the ATC Tower or either of the 2-mile approach paths for runway 07/25 at RAF Wittering. Therefore, RAF Wittering (Medium Sensitivity) would be subject to an impact of Negligible Magnitude which would result in a Negligible Adverse Significance of Effect which is Not Significant.</p> <p>Any effects experienced at Shacklewell Airfield, Castle Bytham Airfield and RAF Cottesmore are predicted to be acceptable in accordance with the associated guidance and industry best practice. Therefore, Shacklewell Airfield, Castle Bytham Airfield and RAF Cottesmore (Medium Sensitivity) would be subject to an impact of Low Magnitude which would result in a Minor Adverse Significance of Effect which is Not Significant.</p>



Comments	Development Change?	Applicant Response
		For more information please see Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics, of the ES, <b>[EN010127/APP/6.1]</b> .

12.3. **SECTION 44 CONSULTEE COMMENTS**

- 12.3.1. In response to the Section 42 consultation carried out with Section 44 consultees under Section 42(1)(d) of the 2008 Act, 2 responses were received from Landowners to the PEIR.
- 12.3.2. The Applicant notes that Section 44 consultees may also have received the community consultation leaflet at the start of the Stage Two statutory consultation, and provided feedback through available feedback channels under Section 47 of the PA 2008, listed in Appendix 4.
- 12.3.3. Full comments received from Section 44 consultees and how the Applicant has responded is set out in Appendix 5.3.
- 12.3.4. The Applicant continued discussions with Section 44 consultees regarding their land interests and in order to seek agreement with Landowners to secure the land use powers it needs by agreement with the parties that own and occupy the land which the Proposed Development would affect. To that end, the Applicant has initiated and engaged in negotiations with the affected parties, which remain ongoing, as detailed in Chapter 13 of this Consultation Report.

12.4. **SECTION 48 COMMENTS**

- 12.4.1. No specific responses were received to the Section 48 notice.

## 13.0 ONGOING CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES AND STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

### 13.1. INTRODUCTION

13.1.1. The Applicant continued discussions with a number of consultees to respond to the comments raised in response to the Section 42 consultation on the PEIR and as part of the ongoing discussions with consultees to reach positions of agreement or understanding.

13.1.2. In summary, following the close of the Section 42 consultation on 04 August 2022 and the Application submission:

**Table 36: Ongoing meetings with stakeholders undertaken between 05 August and Application submission**

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
05/08/22	South Kesteven District Council	Stage 2 consultation feedback process / planning committee briefing discussion
10/08/22	Lincolnshire County Council	General update Stage 2 consultation update
22/08/22	National Grid Electricity Transmission	Project interactions and protective provisions
23/08/22	National Grid Gas	Project interactions and protective provisions
23/08/22	Cadent Gas	Project interactions and protective provisions
25/08/22	Anglian Water	Line assets and protective provisions
31/08/22	LCC/RCC/SKDC	Combined authorities catch up Stage 2 consultation early feedback
07/09/22	LCC/RCC/SKDC	Combined authorities catch up Approach to SoCGs and DCO timeline update
14/09/22	LCC/RCC/SKDC	Stage 2 consultation feedback discussion

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
		Site visit arrangements
21/09/22	LCC/RCC/SKDC	Site visit re-arrangement due to bank holiday PPA for examination discussion
28/09/22	LCC/RCC/SKDC	Trail trenching DMMO LCC climate change meeting set up Discussion regarding requirement for and scope of a Minerals Assessment
03/10/22	Lincolnshire County Council & Derby University	Climate change and Greenhouse Gas emissions calculations discussion
04/10/22	Anglian Water	West Glenn River improvements – workshop
05/10/22	LCC/RCC/SKDC	Site meeting to discuss LVIA and PRoW
12/10/22	LCC/RCC/SKDC	Site visit de-brief PPA for examination discussions Trail trenching
12/10/22	Lincolnshire County Council	Written Scheme of Investigation and trial Trenching discussion
19/10/2022	Alicia Kearns MP	<p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP’s Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alicia Kearns, MP</li> <li>• Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP</li> <li>• A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP</li> </ul> <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other</p>

Date	Stakeholder	Key issues discussed
		consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.

### 13.2. **ONGOING COMMUNITY RESPONSES**

13.2.1. The Applicant continued to engage with MPs, local authority elected members, parish councils and key stakeholders following the conclusion of Stage Two Statutory Consultation. This included an update on the ongoing trial-trenching work onsite in an email to LCC, RCC, SKDC, PCC, host and neighbouring parish councils and MPAG on 16 September 2022. This included responding to three further stakeholder requests for information and clarifications relating to Stage Two Statutory Consultation events and activity.

### 13.3. **ONGOING LANDOWNER NEGOTIATIONS**

13.3.1. The Applicant has continued engagement with landowners and those with land interests regarding the Proposed Development. Full detail of negotiations and engagement undertaken with land interests regarding the Proposed Development can be found in the Schedule of Negotiations [EN010127/APP/4.4] and Book of Reference [EN010127/APP/4.3]

### 13.4. **ONGOING AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND**

13.4.1. Statements of Common Ground are being drafted and engagement will be undertaken with the relevant Section 42 consultees after the submission of the application.

## 14.0 CONCLUSION

### 14.1. CONCLUDING REMARKS

- 14.1.1. The Applicant has undertaken a comprehensive pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development pursuant to the PA 2008. The consultation has complied and exceeded the requirements of the PA 2008, and taken into account the guidance of the DLUHC, the Planning Inspectorate and UK Government legislation.
- 14.1.2. The Applicant carried out an iterative consultation process across two stages of consultation with key changes to the Proposed Development summarised in Table 1, with the Stage Two Section 47 consultation running in parallel to the Section 42 consultation on the PEIR and the Section 48 consultation. This reflected the level of interest from stakeholders to engage in the pre-application consultation process and influence the design of the Proposed Development.
- 14.1.3. Consultation responses to each stage of consultation have been carefully documented and considered as part of the iterative development of the Proposed Development, with stakeholders playing a key role in the design of the proposals.
- 14.1.4. During the consultation periods, the Applicant has actively sought and taken due regard to feedback provided by stakeholders on its approach to community consultation, and has made changes where possible as documented in this Consultation Report.
- 14.1.5. The Applicant has received a higher level of interest throughout both non-statutory and statutory stages of consultation, it has sought to address comments, concerns and issues raised in the final Proposed Development design where possible and has responded to comments raised in the Consultation Report.

- 14.1.6. At each stage, the Applicant has considered and complied with relevant advice and guidance, including DLUHC's guidance and the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report.
- 14.1.7. As well as preparing the Consultation Report, the Applicant has set out how it has complied with guidance and advice on consultation in the section 55 checklist [**EN010127/APP/1.4**] that is also part of the DCO application documents.

