
FENWICK SOLAR FARM

EN010152

Non-Statutory Consultation Report

April 2024

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the report

- 1.1.1 This non-statutory consultation report has been prepared by AECOM on behalf of Fenwick Solar Project Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant') and presents the results of the non-statutory consultation that took place on proposals for Fenwick Solar Project (hereafter referred to as the 'Scheme') between 27 June and 24 July 2023.
- 1.1.2 The non-statutory public consultation provided the Applicant with an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the views, understanding and expectations of local stakeholders, including local communities, landowners, businesses, local authorities, and other political stakeholders at a local level.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out details of the consultation undertaken, and a summary of the feedback received in relation to the Scheme. It also sets out the methods used to analyse the responses, as well as the Applicant's responses to feedback received.
- 1.1.4 Responses gathered during the consultation to date are considered and analysed in this report. The findings of this consultation will inform the Applicant's further work on the Scheme design. Wherever possible, feedback received will be taken into consideration during the ongoing Scheme design.
- 1.1.5 The Scheme is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 as an onshore generating station in England with a capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). It will therefore require consent via a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).
- 1.1.6 This report will inform and be appended to the Consultation Report that will accompany the DCO application for the Scheme. The Applicant currently intends to submit the application later in 2024.

1.2 Scheme background

- 1.2.1 The Scheme will generate low carbon electricity from photovoltaic (PV) panels on land to the east of Fenwick, in the north of the City of Doncaster borough near the town of Askern and the smaller villages of Moss, Topham and Sykehouse.
- 1.2.2 The Scheme would comprise the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) and energy storage (referred to as the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)), together with an export connection to the national grid via National Grid's Thorpe Marsh substation.
- 1.2.3 The Site comprises land for solar PVs, BESS, the grid connection, associated infrastructure, and landscaping and biodiversity measures, as described below:

- The construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) generating station, to generate electricity with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW), making it a nationally significant infrastructure project, located within the “Solar PV Site” east of Fenwick, near the town of Askern, the villages of Moss, and Sykehouse and the hamlet of Topham. The northern edge of the Solar PV Site borders the River Went.
- A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located on part of the Solar PV Site, allowing the storage, export and import of electricity to/from the national electricity transmission system.
- Supporting electrical infrastructure, including a new On-Site Substation and cables.
- Two options for connecting the Scheme to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). One option is an underground grid connection from the On-Site Substation located within the Solar PV Site to the Existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation. The preferred route of the Grid Connection Corridor travels south from the Solar PV Site to the Existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation. There is also an option to connect the Scheme to the grid via underground cables from the On-Site Substation to an existing overhead power line that passes across the east of the Solar PV Site.
- Associated infrastructure, mitigation and enhancement measures, and other ancillary works, for example, fencing, security, temporary and permanent means of access, highway works, temporary works compounds and work sites.

1.2.4 The Site is located entirely within the City of Doncaster Council’s administrative area.

1.2.5 The DCO process requires an approach to consultation as prescribed in the Planning Act (2008) and associated regulations. The DCO Application will be decided by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, following an examination conducted by the appointed Examining Authority.

1.3 Structure of the report

1.3.1 This report is structured as follows:

- a. Chapter 2: approach to consultation – presents a summary of the consultation and engagement approach, pre-consultation engagement, stakeholder mapping and the purpose of the consultation;
- a. Chapter 3: delivery of consultation – presents the delivery of the consultation materials, the consultation events and webinars, and consultation response channels;
- b. Chapter 4: analysis of responses – sets out a summary of the feedback received from consultees, together with the Applicant’s responses; and
- c. Chapter 5: summary and next steps – presents a brief summary and discussion on the Scheme’s next steps.

2. Approach to public consultation

2.1 Consultation and Engagement Approach

- 2.1.1 The approach to public consultation aligns with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Guidance on the pre-application process by adopting an iterative process. An iterative approach to consultation at this early stage gives stakeholders an opportunity to comment as proposals develop and aligns with the Applicants intention to carry out two phases of consultation.
- 2.1.2 Effective stakeholder engagement is vital for the early development of the Scheme design, as it is a mechanism to understand the objectives and requirements of key stakeholders, and to build trust and a productive relationship through an open, transparent and collaborative approach. Constructive stakeholder engagement allows relevant stakeholders the opportunity to be involved in the consenting process. It provides a platform for feedback to be shared, which can in turn help to inform more detailed proposals as the Scheme design progresses.
- 2.1.3 Targeted and effective engagement with stakeholders has been crucial to understanding the initial views and objectives of the Scheme's key stakeholders and has been pivotal in shaping the engagement approach and proposals at this stage of the Scheme's development.
- 2.1.4 The Applicant also carried out some specific engagement prior to the launch of the non-statutory consultation.

2.2 Pre-consultation engagement

- 2.2.1 Several groups of key stakeholders were identified ahead of the non-statutory consultation. These groups consisted of Local Authorities, local elected representatives, local interest groups with historical and technical expertise, individuals, landowners, statutory bodies and the local community. These groups were contacted either through or in advance of the non-statutory consultation and were invited to take part in the non-statutory consultation. Ongoing stakeholder engagement will underpin the development of the scheme and technical assessment as the project progresses.
- 2.2.2 A series of introductory meetings were also held from March 2023 with key stakeholders relating to the Scheme, including:
- The Planning Inspectorate;
 - South Yorkshire Archaeology Service;
 - Parish Councils, meeting scheduled with Moss and District Parish Council;
 - Member of Parliament (MP) for Doncaster North;
 - Environment Agency;
 - United Kingdom Health Security Agency & Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.

- 2.2.3 The first meeting with the City of Doncaster Council commenced in May 2023 and provided the Host Authority with an introduction to the Scheme.

2.3 Approach to non-statutory consultation

- 2.3.1 Non-statutory consultation on the proposals took place between 27 June and 24 July 2023.
- 2.3.2 A hybrid approach to non-statutory consultation was adopted in order to maximise engagement opportunities for all stakeholders throughout the consultation period. This involved a mixture of in-person and online webinar events, with members of the project team on hand at each event in order to take questions from stakeholders.
- 2.3.3 This hybrid approach, which included a mix of online and in-person sessions, enabled those who may not have been able to access information or attend events otherwise to participate fully in the process. This made the consultation more inclusive and reduced barriers of participation for people with disabilities, health and/or mobility difficulties.
- 2.3.4 Two in-person events were held (Friday 30 June 2023 and Wednesday 5 July 2023) to enable people to find out more about the Scheme proposals, speak to members of the Scheme project team and ask any questions they may have had.
- 2.3.5 Consultees were able to provide feedback online, via an online response form hosted, as well as via email. Consultees could also respond via hard copy response forms sent to a freepost address.
- 2.3.6 Consultees were also able to contact the project team via a dedicated telephone number or via the project inbox should they have any questions.
- 2.3.7 Information provided across all consultation materials was worded in a non-technical way for ease of access, recognising that the current policy climate is complex, and that large-scale solar development is relatively new.

2.4 Purpose of the consultation

- 2.4.1 The non-statutory consultation sought feedback from members of the public, impacted landowners and local stakeholders on the Solar PV Site boundary presented, as well as the Grid Connection Corridor.
- 2.4.2 The stakeholder engagement approach taken for the non-statutory consultation was underpinned by:
- a. Early and ongoing engagement to inform and influence the Scheme design process;
 - b. Long-term relationships being built with key stakeholders throughout the different stages of the Scheme development to help better understand their views; and
 - c. Providing opportunities for any concerns raised by stakeholders to be addressed where possible and practicable.

2.5 Non-statutory consultation objectives

- 2.5.1 As noted above, two rounds of consultation will take place regarding the Scheme. The first non-statutory consultation is the focus of this report. A statutory consultation is planned to take place between 18 April and 31 May 2024, and a separate Consultation Report will be compiled following the 2024 statutory consultation and submitted alongside the DCO application.
- 2.5.2 The non-statutory consultation that took place between 27 June and 24 July 2023 sought to ensure relevant stakeholders were made aware of the Scheme at an early stage, in line with the City of Doncaster Council's recommendations on early informal and pre-application consultation.
- 2.5.3 Stakeholder feedback received at the non-statutory consultation stage of the Scheme's development will influence the future design of the Scheme, with questions and concerns of local stakeholders being addressed by the project team wherever possible and practicable.

3. Delivery of consultation

3.1 Publicising the consultation

3.1.1 In preparation for the consultation, the Applicant targeted communications at stakeholders including the local community, statutory bodies, the Local Authority and local elected representatives. These stakeholder groups are outlined further in Appendix 1. The Applicant's approach to engaging these communities and stakeholders is outlined below. Non-statutory consultation launched on 27 June 2023 and closed on 24 July 2023.

3.2 Press release

3.2.1 The Applicant issued a press release to promote the non-statutory consultation. The press release provided readers with information regarding the non-statutory consultation period, including when it was taking place and how to take part, as well as a brief overview of the Scheme proposals. It also advised where materials were available, and explained to readers how they could engage with the project.

3.2.2 The press release was issued to local media on 1 June 2023 and trade media on 21 June 2023. The press release is shown in Appendix 2 and the media outlets contacted are shown in Appendix 3 of this Consultation Report.

3.3 Identifying the consultation zone

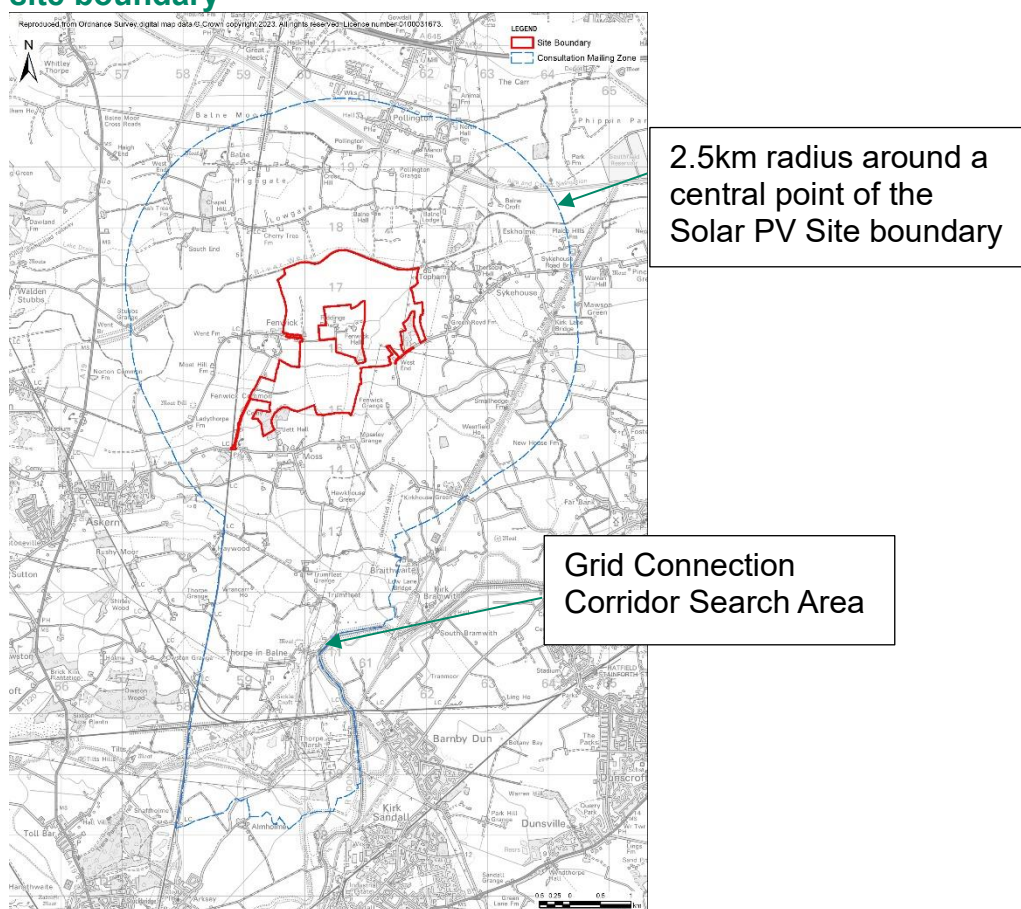
3.3.1 A radius of 2.5 km around a central point of the Solar PV Site boundary (as it stood at the time of the non-statutory consultation) was identified as a core consultation zone. This was extended to include the Grid Connection Corridor search area that had been identified between the Solar PV Site and Thorpe Marsh substation. Business and residential addresses within this area were hand-delivered a non-statutory consultation brochure between 15 and 16 June 2023. The site boundary used and the consultation area can be viewed below at Figure 3-1.

3.3.2 The consultation zone contained approximately 1,160 home and business addresses.

3.3.3 This area was established by the Applicant following an exercise which sought to balance the need to promote the non-statutory consultation widely, against the likely interest levels of residents located beyond 2.5 km from the Solar PV Site boundary (as it then was) and the Grid Connection Corridor search area. It also considered the potential impacts from the Scheme, as understood at that early stage. Natural borders, such as rivers and A roads, were also considered as part of this boundary, but ultimately had no impact on the consultation zone area.

3.3.4 Figure 3-1 outlines the consultation zone boundary within which residents received the non-statutory consultation brochure and the Scheme site boundary at the time of the non-statutory consultation.

Figure 3-1: Scheme non-statutory consultation mailing zone / Scheme site boundary



3.4 MP Engagement

3.4.1 A pre-consultation briefing meeting via Microsoft Teams was held on 22 June 2023 with the local Member of Parliament (MP), Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP. This was a positive discussion where the Scheme project team briefed the MP ahead of the non-statutory consultation commencing on 27 June 2023, the ways in which the consultation had been promoted, as well as providing background on the Scheme itself.

3.5 Website

3.5.1 The Applicant website includes bespoke web pages for each of their renewable schemes across the country, including the proposed Scheme at Fenwick. This web page was updated to provide information of relevance to the consultation.

3.5.2 Key information was uploaded, including details of consultation events, how to contact the project team to share questions and feedback, and details of both the in-person and online consultation events.

3.5.3 The Scheme webpage provided:

- An overview of the Scheme;
- An introduction to the purposes of consultation;
- Details of consultation events (both in-person and online);

- d. Details on the construction and operation of the solar farm;
- e. An explanation of why this location was chosen;
- f. An overview of the DCO process;
- g. An anticipated timeline for the Scheme beyond the non-statutory consultation window;
- h. The benefits to be brought by the Scheme; and
- i. An overview of the design of the solar farm, the components used in the solar farm, and the potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures associated with the Scheme.

3.6 Social Media

- 3.6.1 The Applicant created bespoke profiles across a number of social media channels to promote the public consultation. Posts across LinkedIn (@Fenwick Solar Farm), Twitter (@Fenwick_Solar) and Facebook (Fenwick Solar Farm) were used to remind consultees about the consultation and how to take part, and were also used to share third-party endorsements for the use of solar power as a means of meeting UK net zero targets.
- 3.6.2 Appendix 4 outlines posts shared across the Scheme's social media channels.
- 3.6.3 A digital (JPEG) image was produced to promote the non-statutory consultation across bespoke social media channels. The image was also shared with local elected representatives. A copy of the image promoting the consultation can be found below in Figure 3-2.

Figure 3-2: Digital promotional image for the non-statutory consultation



3.7 Consultation Materials

Non-statutory Consultation Brochure and Feedback Form

- 3.7.1 A 24-page brochure was produced, this included information about the Scheme and the non-statutory public consultation. This included:
- a. Information on the Scheme and the reasons for holding the public consultation;
 - b. The rationale for choosing Fenwick as a location for a solar farm;
 - c. The likely impacts of construction and operation of the solar farm;
 - d. An explanation of what a DCO application process involves;
 - e. The anticipated benefits brought about by the Scheme;
 - f. Information on the components used in a solar farm;
 - g. An overview of the design of the solar farm at Fenwick;
 - h. Environmental impacts and mitigation;
 - i. An explanation on how to share questions and feedback on the Scheme; and
- 3.7.2 A feedback form was included on the back two pages of the consultation brochure. This enabled consultees to complete the feedback form and send to the project team, through the various response channels outlined in 3.7.
- 3.7.3 The consultation brochure was available to download from the Scheme website.
- 3.7.4 Hard copies of the brochure were also made available for attendees to take away at the public consultation events.
- 3.7.5 A copy of the brochure can be found on the project website: www.boom-power.co.uk/fenwick/

Exhibition Boards

- 3.7.6 A total of twelve exhibition boards were produced for the in-person public consultation events. The consultation boards presented similar information to the website and consultation brochure.

3.8 Consultation Response Channels

- 3.8.1 The Applicant encouraged respondents to submit responses to the consultation across a range of channels – these are outlined below.

Email

- 3.8.2 Consultees were able to share feedback and submit response forms via a bespoke email address, which was created specifically for the purposes of the consultation (Fenwick.enquiries@Boom-power.co.uk). It was also possible to ask questions via this channel and a member of the project team would then be able to respond to the query.

Freepost

- 3.8.3 A freepost address was set up to allow consultees to return completed hard copy feedback forms to the project team at no cost to themselves. The freepost address was Freepost FENWICK SOLAR FARM.

Phone Line

- 3.8.4 A phone line was created specifically for consultees to request information, consultation documents, or ask questions of the project team.
- 3.8.5 The project team were contactable between 9am and 5pm between Monday and Friday during the consultation programme. This information was promoted across all consultation materials.
- 3.8.6 All calls received from consultees into the phone line were recorded, logged and responded to.

3.9 Consultation Events and Webinars

- 3.9.1 The Applicant held two online and two in-person events, which enabled stakeholders to learn more about the Scheme proposals and put their questions to project team members with all technical disciplines in attendance to provide information.
- 3.9.2 The offer of both in-person and online events meant that people who were unable to attend an in-person event had other opportunities to find out more about the project and the consultation, including by attending or watching recordings of the online events via the Scheme website. During the webinar events, the project team presented the plans for the Scheme on a PowerPoint presentation introducing the Scheme proposals, location, size, components and the benefits of the Scheme to the local community. Following this presentation attendees were encouraged to ask questions via the meeting chat function. Both in-person and online events were held into the early evening to allow people to attend after the working day.
- 3.9.3 In-person event venues were chosen based on proximity to the Scheme and their suitability in terms of facilities offered. Venues were also checked for their accessibility, including provision of disabled access and parking.
- 3.9.4 The events commenced four working days into the non-statutory consultation on 30 June 2023. Events concluded on 13 July 2023, allowing consultees more than a week (from 13 July until 24 July) to feedback any additional thoughts before the consultation period concluded.
- 3.9.5 Across all consultation events, 80 people attended. The details for each event (and number of attendees) are set out in Table 3-2 below.

Table 3-2: Schedule of consultation events

| Date | Time | Location | Attendees |
|---------------------|---------------|---|-----------|
| Friday 30 June 2023 | 14:00 – 20:00 | Fenwick and Moss Village Hall, Fenwick Common Lane, DN6 0HG | 42 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|---|----|
| Wednesday 5 July 2023 | 14:00 – 20:00 | The Old George Inn, Broad Lane, Sykehouse, DN14 9AU | 31 |
| Monday 10 July 2023 | 18:00 – 19:00 | Online | 4 |
| Thursday 13 July 2023 | 19:00 – 20:00 | Online | 3 |

4. Analysis of responses

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This chapter outlines the consultation response analysis methodology, responses received, and the results of the closed and open questions as included on the response form. Tables 4-1 to 4-3 display respondents' comments to the open questions and include the Applicant's response.

4.2 Analysis Methodology

4.2.1 All consultation responses were analysed in the same way, regardless of which channel they were received through.

4.2.2 Microsoft Forms was used to enable response forms to be completed and captured electronically, then uploaded into the Scheme consultation database. Any responses received in paper copy or via email were manually inputted into the consultation database.

4.2.3 Closed questions (questions 2 (part 1), 5 and 6), where respondents answered multiple-choice options, have been displayed as charts. These charts are displayed in Figures 4-2 to 4-4 to display the findings of each question clearly.

4.2.4 Open questions (questions 2 (part 2), 3 and 4), where respondents were able to elaborate on their answers using their own words, have been coded using a coding framework. Each open question response was read and dissected into individual comments. Each comment was then assigned a theme. Tables 4-1 to 4-3 display the key themes for each question, alongside the comment summary raised by respondents and the Applicant's response to each comment.

4.3 Responses Received

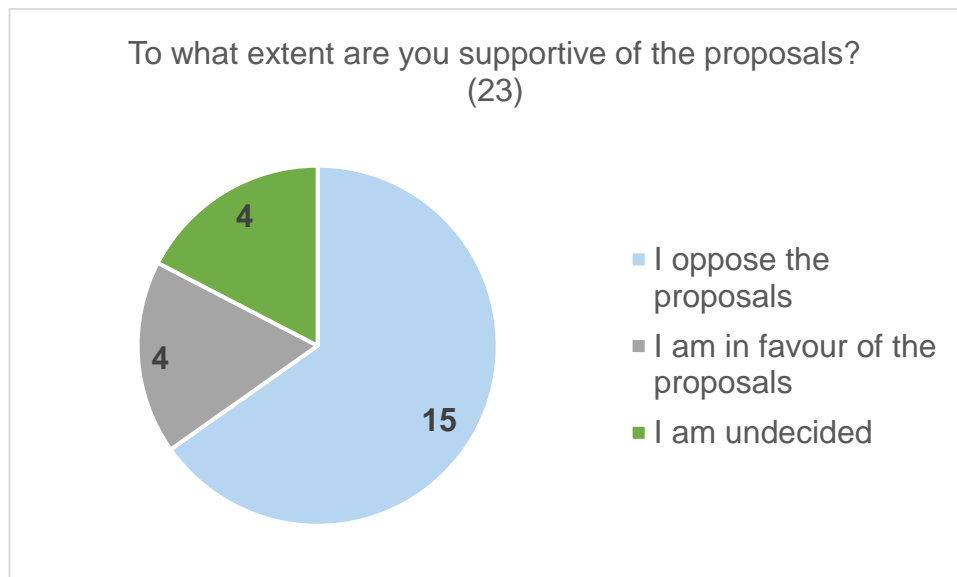
4.3.1 A total of 25 responses were received during the non-statutory consultation period between Tuesday 27 June 2023 and 23:59 on Monday 24 July 2023. All consultation responses are summarised in Figure 4-1. These were submitted through the following channels:

- 10 hard copy response forms (seven response forms were received via the Scheme's Freepost address and three response forms were received at the consultation events)
- Nine online response forms
- Five hardcopy response forms scanned and submitted via the Scheme email inbox
- One response via free-form email

4.4 Responses received to closed questions

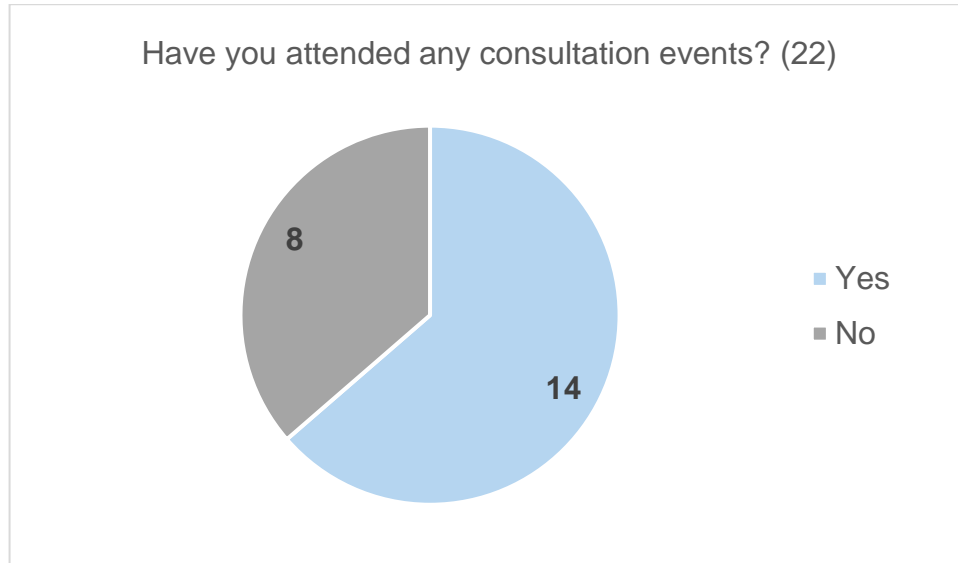
- 4.4.1 This section provides a summary of the quantitative data provided by those who responded using the consultation response form (including hard copy, online submission, and scanned response forms) which totals 24. The one free form email response has not been considered within this section, as it did not address the questions in the response form. A copy of the non-statutory consultation response form can be found on the project website: www.boom-power.co.uk/fenwick/
- 4.4.2 Questions 2, 5 and 6 in the form included closed questions. The base size for each closed question varies, as not all respondents who completed a response form answered every question. The number of respondents who responded to each question is shown in brackets in the title of the chart.
- 4.4.3 Question 2 asked respondents to provide any comments or feedback on the proposed solar farm shown in the brochure. Respondents were able to tick more than one category for this question. 23 respondents using the response form answered the question. One respondent who completed a form did not answer the question.
- 4.4.4 As shown in Figure 4-2, four respondents stated they were in favour of the proposal, four respondents stated they were undecided, and 15 respondents stated they opposed the proposal.

Figure 4-1: To what extent are you supportive of the proposals?



- 4.4.5 Question 5 asked respondents whether they had attended any of the consultation events. 22 respondents using the response form answered the question. Two respondents who completed a form did not answer the question.
- 4.4.6 As shown in Figure 4-3, 14 respondents stated they had attended a consultation event, while eight respondents stated they had not attended a consultation event.

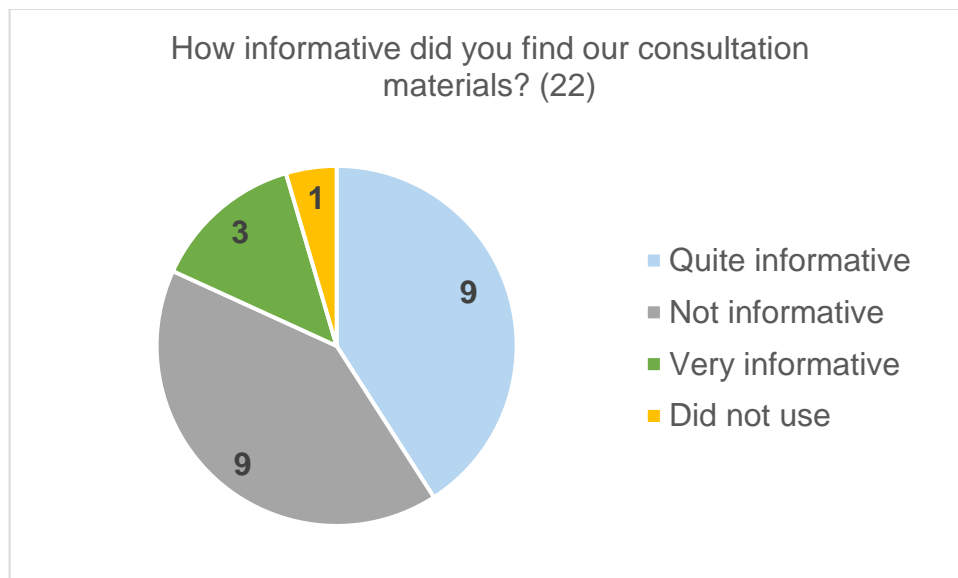
Figure 4-2: Have you attended any of our consultation events?



4.4.7 Question 6 asked respondents how informative they found the consultation materials. 22 respondents using the response form answered the question. Two respondents who completed a form did not answer the question.

4.4.8 As shown in Figure 4-4, three respondents stated they found the materials very informative, nine respondents stated they found the materials quite informative, nine respondents stated they found the materials not informative, and one respondent stated they did not use the materials.

Figure 4-3: How informative did you find our consultation materials?



4.5 Qualitative responses

- 4.5.1 This section provides a summary of the qualitative data provided by those who responded, which totals 25 responses.
- 4.5.2 Questions 2, 3 and 4 included open questions in the consultation response form. Responses to these questions were summarised using the coding framework, each open question response was read and dissected into individual comments, then assigned a theme. For the one response that did not use a feedback form, the response has been coded and considered alongside the question most appropriate to the comments raised (being Question 2).
- 4.5.3 Table 4-1, Table 4-2 and Table 4-3 display the key themes and comment summaries for each of the open questions, as well as the Applicant's response.
- 4.5.4 Question 2 asked respondents to provide any comments or feedback on the proposed solar farm. Table 4-1 outlines the key themes from question 2, as well as summaries for comments shared by consultees, and a response from the Applicant.
- 4.5.5 Question 3 asked respondents to share any ideas that might support and protect local wildlife habitats in the Fenwick area. Table 4-2 outlines the key themes from question 3 along with a respondent comment summary and a response from the Applicant.
- 4.5.6 Question 4 asked respondents about what projects are important to them and could be considered for the use of a community benefit fund. Table 4-3 outlines the key themes from question 4 – the applicant is reviewing these requests and will consider them as part of scheme development.

Table 4-1: To what extent are you supportive of the proposals that you've read about in this brochure?

| Theme | Summary of respondent comments | Applicant response |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Proximity to residential properties | Concern about proximity between Scheme boundary and residential properties. | <p>Additional land to the south-west and south-east of the EIA Scoping Layout has been incorporated into the Solar PV Site following non-statutory consultation and discussions with landowners in the vicinity of the Solar PV Site.</p> <p>This additional land provides flexibility for designing the solar PV arrangement and for providing potential mitigation areas that may be needed due to feedback from the ongoing environmental surveys.</p> <p>Appropriate buffers from properties will be incorporated and new native tree and vegetation planting will be used to screen potential views of the Scheme. Detail of the proposed mitigation measures related to potential impacts to residential properties will be included within the relevant chapter of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the Environmental Statement (ES) (prepared as part of the DCO application) assessments.</p> |
| Cumulative traffic impacts | Concern over increased traffic in the rural area causing multiple issues, congestion, noise, pollution, unsuitable roads. | <p>Construction traffic will not pass through the village of Fenwick. The Applicant may still need to use the southern half of Fenwick Common Lane during the construction phase of the project.</p> <p>Details of the potential traffic effects and proposed mitigation associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Site will be included within Chapter 13 of the PEIR and ES assessments, informed by detailed technical studies and further ongoing engagement.</p> <p>A Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan will be prepared which will secure the measures that will be taken to mitigate traffic</p> |

| Theme | Summary of respondent comments | Applicant response |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Change of local landscape/character | The Scheme will change the local landscape and rural character of Fenwick. | <p>impacts, and the Framework Environmental Management Plan will identify how commitments made in the EIA will be translated into actions at the Site and includes a process for implementing the actions through allocation of key roles and responsibilities. These plans will be submitted with the Applicant's DCO application</p> <p>Changes to the local landscape character and visual amenity of Fenwick, and all settlements and properties, have been assessed through a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and will be reported as part of the PEIR and ES.</p> <p>Intervisibility with the Scheme will be reduced as far as practicable through careful siting of solar infrastructure and landscape mitigation. Appropriate buffers from properties will be incorporated, and new planting used to screen potential views of the Scheme. Open and uninterrupted views will be retained across Fenwick's rural landscape to the north, south and west of the village.</p> |
| Footpaths and bridleways | Provide assurance that footpaths and bridleways will be maintained or improved. | The Applicant is committed to mitigating any disruption to footpaths as far as practicable. The Applicant has taken steps to ensure access to existing Public Rights of Way will be maintained. In a worst-case scenario, PRoW crossing the Grid Connection Corridor may be disrupted by traffic management or temporary diversions, but these disruptions would be short-term in duration. The Applicant will require one permanent Public Rights of Way diversion (Sykehouse 29). More information on the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures related to potential impacts on footpaths or bridleways will be included within the relevant PEIR and ES chapters. |

| Theme | Summary of respondent comments | Applicant response |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Food production and agriculture | Loss of agricultural land and impacts on food production/security. | The agricultural land within the Solar PV Site is predominantly ALC Grade 3b (moderate quality agricultural land), which is not classified as BMV land. Surveys are ongoing to classify the agricultural land quality present within the Solar PV Site. Damage to the structure, function and resilience of soil resources (and consequent impacts to its ability to support agriculture) will be mitigated by the use of industry standard good practice measures for the stripping, handling and storage of soil materials, in line with a Soil Management Plan. |
| Landscape and visual | Request for more information on the position of the solar panels and how they will impact local views. | The Applicant has decided to use fixed south-facing solar panels in the updated proposal for the Scheme. These panels are generally lower in height than Tracker Systems and have a smaller Ground Cover Ratio than East/West designs. |

Table 4-2: We are looking to support and protect local wildlife habitats in the Fenwick area. In the text below, please share any ideas on support that might be needed?

| Theme | Summary of respondent comment | Response |
|----------|--|--|
| Wildlife | Impact on the local wildlife, including deer, foxes, rabbits, owls, birds etc. | <p>Our terrestrial and aquatic ecology teams are currently carrying out habitat and species surveys allowing us to identify any potential biodiversity impacts of the Scheme. These surveys include, but are not limited to, breeding birds, wintering birds, bats, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, water voles and otters. Where there are potential impacts, we will look to provide appropriate mitigation in consultation with Natural England.</p> <p>Further to the above, as part of the landscape design for the Scheme, new habitats would be provided to increase biodiversity compared to existing. This would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converting areas of agricultural land adjacent to and beneath the solar panels into grassland • Strengthening hedgerows by planting up any gaps • Planting new areas of trees and enhancing habitats next to watercourses. <p>These measures would benefit wildlife by increasing areas of habitat provision and improving connectivity between habitats. This would be of value to a wide range of animals. It is expected that the Scheme would deliver more than 10% biodiversity net gain.</p> |
| Wildlife | Suggestion for a secluded wildlife reserve with water. | <p>This will be considered by the project team as part of the emerging design. A solar scheme of this size provides opportunities to achieve a range of improvements for the habitats and fauna found locally, including those associated with wetland habitats.</p> |

| Theme | Summary of respondent comment | Response |
|----------|---|--|
| Wildlife | There are roosting bats in the area which need consideration. | The baseline of ecological data and ongoing survey work will include consideration of bats in accordance with best practice. In line with the requirements of national legislation and planning policy the Scheme design will maintain the favourable conservation status of bats. Where necessary this will include the replacement of any habitat that may be impacted, such as bat roosts, as identified by the ongoing ecological studies. |

Table 4-3: As part of this Scheme, we are exploring the use of a community benefit fund. We would like to understand what projects are important to you.

| Theme | Summary of respondent comment |
|--------------------|--|
| Community benefits | Provide or support solar panels installation for residents of the local area. |
| Community benefits | I would like to know the amount of funds available for the community benefit fund. |
| Community benefits | Support for the local Moss and Fenwick parish council and village hall. |
| Community benefits | Suggestion for electric car charging points to be installed at the Baxter Arms. |
| Community benefits | Provide reduced energy bills for the local/affected area. |
| Community benefits | Improve public transport links between Fenwick and Doncaster. |

5. Summary and next steps

- 5.1.1 The non-statutory consultation formed the first stage of consultation for the Scheme and provided stakeholders an opportunity to provide their views on the emerging proposals in advance of further Scheme design.
- 5.1.2 Each consultation response received has been analysed by the Applicant and where relevant the feedback from this consultation will be used to inform the design of the Scheme as it is developed further.
- 5.1.3 This report is being published at the launch of the statutory stage of consultation. This statutory consultation is an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals as they have developed following the non-statutory consultation, in advance of the DCO Application being made (anticipated in late 2024).
- 5.1.4 Prior to the statutory consultation, a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been published. This document sets out the Applicant's approach to statutory consultation.
- 5.1.5 Following the statutory consultation, further design work will be carried out, taking into account the responses received. A final Scheme design will be prepared, along with the documents required for the DCO Application.
- 5.1.6 The Consultation Report, submitted as part of the DCO Application, will outline how both non-statutory and statutory consultations were undertaken alongside supporting stakeholder engagement, the feedback received and how the Applicant has responded to this feedback. This non-statutory consultation report will inform and be appended to the Consultation Report to be submitted with the DCO Application.

Appendix 1 Stakeholder groups

Stakeholders contacted:

- City of Doncaster Council Chief Executive
- City of Doncaster Councillors
- City of Doncaster Council - Mayor of Doncaster
- City of Doncaster Council – Technical Officers
- Askern Town Council Clerk
- Balne Parish Council Clerk
- Moss and Fenwick Parish Council Clerk
- Norton Parish Council Clerk
- Member of Parliament for Doncaster North
- South Yorkshire Mayor
- Natural England
- Historic England
- Yorkshire Humber Drainage
- National Highways

Appendix 2 Local press release

237.5 MW Solar Farm in development for Fenwick, Doncaster

Embargo – immediate

Contact details:

Email: Fenwick.Enquiries@Boom-Power.co.uk

Telephone: 01964 782 214

Boom Power is set to begin work developing a proposal for a new solar farm in Fenwick, Doncaster.

The outline proposal for Fenwick Solar Farm involves the construction of an approximately 325 hectare development in Fenwick, north of Doncaster. The solar farm will connect to an import and export grid connection at Thorpe Marsh Power Station.

Boom Power has a proven track record of delivering renewable energy projects across the UK and the Fenwick project will be the latest in an extensive pipeline of projects being delivered by Boom Power in the UK, including sites in East Yorkshire, at Cleve Hill in Kent and the recently consented Kenley Solar Farm in Hull.

The Fenwick Solar Farm will have a generation capacity of up to 237.5 megawatts, enough to power around 60,000 homes per year.

Boom Power currently anticipates submitting a Development Consent Order in Spring 2024. Fenwick Solar Farm qualifies as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), meaning that the Planning Inspectorate, as well as the Secretary of State for Climate Change and Net Zero, must approve the plans before construction can begin.

Boom Power will now begin consulting with local stakeholders and residents, before making an application to the Planning Inspectorate for approval to begin construction of the solar farm.

Since its formation in 2019, Boom Power has worked to deliver a renewables pipeline which will support the UK's push towards clean power generation, which forms part of the country's efforts to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Mark Hogan, Founder and Director of Boom Power comments: "Boom Power is committed to supporting the UK's target of achieving a sustainable, clean power generation future, which will allow the country to achieve its net zero targets.

"Solar energy will play a critical role in this journey, and Fenwick will be at the forefront of that drive. As a business, we are committed to working closely with local stakeholders to make sure that local people and community groups in Fenwick are able to help shape our plans. We take our role as a neighbour to the people of Fenwick seriously, and want to ensure this project leaves a positive, long-term local legacy."

END

If you would like further information on the Fenwick Solar Farm project or would like to request an interview with a member of the project team from Boom Power, please contact:

Email: Fenwick.Enquiries@Boom-Power.co.uk

Telephone: 01964 782 214

Note to Editors

Boom Power Ltd

The Applicant (Fenwick Solar Project Limited) is a wholly owned subsidiary of BOOM Developments Limited, who specialise in non-subsidised solar and battery storage projects. BOOM Developments was founded in 2019, and the name BOOM is an acronym for Build Own Operate Maintain. This reflects the organisation's intentions to be involved in sustainable energy projects from day one right the way through to operation.

Boom Power combine world class technology with industry leading expertise to deliver international solar infrastructure projects. Their ambition is underpinned by the formation of long-standing partnerships with one primary objective – to work in balance with nature to harvest energy sustainably, shaping the world for future generations.

Boom Power has partnered with law firm Pinsent Masons and infrastructure consulting firm AECOM to support the development through the NSIP planning process and achieve a development consent order for the project.

www.boom-power.co.uk

AECOM

AECOM is the world's trusted infrastructure consulting firm, delivering professional services throughout the project lifecycle – from planning, design and engineering to program and construction management. On projects spanning transportation, buildings, water, new energy, and the environment, our public- and private-sector clients trust us to solve their most complex challenges. Our teams are driven by a common purpose to deliver a better world through our unrivalled technical expertise and innovation, a culture of equity, diversity and inclusion, and a commitment to environmental, social and governance priorities. AECOM is a Fortune 500 firm and its Professional Services business had revenue of \$13.3 billion in fiscal year 2021. See how we are delivering sustainable legacies for generations to come at aecom.com and @AECOM.

Pinsent Masons

Pinsent Masons is an international law firm, with over 3000 advisers operating from 25 offices across the globe. Our energy, finance, corporate, litigation and arbitration, environment, planning, property, commercial and construction lawyers have extensive experience of advising on all stages of the life cycle of renewables projects regardless of location.

Appendix 3 Press release media outlets

Figure 5-1 Local media press releases (emailed 1st June 2023)

| Newspaper | Area | Contact |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Doncaster Free Press | Local (Doncaster) | subscriptions@nationalworld.com |
| Doncaster Echo | Local (Doncaster) | info@createtvt.co.uk |
| Thorne Times | Local (Thorne) | enquiries@thornetimes.co.uk |
| The Star | District (Sheffield) | news@thestar.co.uk |
| The Yorkshire Post | County | yp.newsdesk@ypn.co.uk |
| Yorkshire Live - Doncaster | County | newbookanad@reachplc.com |

Figure 5-2 Trade Press release (emailed 21st June 2023)

| Trade Press | Contact |
|--------------------|--|
| ReNews | sales@renews.biz |
| Solarmagazine.com | business@solarmagazine.com |
| Solardaily.com | info@spacemedianetwork.com |
| rechargenews.com | editorial@rechargenews.com |
| Solar Power Portal | info@solarpowerportal.co.uk |
| renews.biz | sales@renews.biz |
| Renewables Now | editorial@renewablesnow.com |
| InfraBe | info@infra-be.com |

Appendix 4 Social media posts

| Date | Content | Posted on |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Friday 2 June | <p>We're developing plans for a new solar farm at Fenwick, in East Yorkshire.</p> <p>Over the coming weeks and months, we'll share our plans for the solar farm on here, as well as Facebook and LinkedIn.</p> <p>Find out more about BOOM Power https://boom-power.co.uk</p> | Twitter, Facebook |
| Monday 5 June | <p>Located 13 kilometres north of Doncaster, the proposed solar farm at Fenwick will provide secure, affordable renewable energy generation to the UK's national grid.</p> <p>https://boom-power.co.uk</p> | Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook |
| Tuesday 6 June | <p>Being a responsible neighbour is at the heart of our work.</p> <p>We're committed to having open dialogue with the local community in Fenwick and surrounding areas, as well as other stakeholders.</p> <p>Stay tuned for more information on our public consultation.</p> <p>https://boom-power.co.uk</p> | Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook |
| Monday 9 June | <p>We want to hear your thoughts on our plans for Fenwick solar farm.</p> <p>We're launching a non-statutory public consultation at the end of June, which will allow you to share your feedback and ask questions of our project team, either online or in-person.</p> <p>https://boom-power.co.uk</p> | Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook |
| Monday 12 June | <p>A BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker report revealed overwhelming public support for the use of renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Solar energy will play a critical role in the provision of electricity, fuel and heat in the decades ahead. Read the report here: http://bitly.ws/G724</p> | Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook |
| Thursday 15 June | <p>Consultation on our plans for Fenwick solar farm begins in less than two weeks' time.</p> <p>More information coming soon on our plans for the solar farm and the consultation period, including how to attend our in-person and online events.</p> <p>https://boom-power.co.uk</p> | Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook |

| Date | Content | Posted on |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Tuesday 20 June | Well-designed solar farms contribute to biodiversity and combat habitat loss. A report from @SolarEnergyUK shows the positive relationship between solar farms and ecology. Let's harness solar energy for a greener future. https://tinyurl.com/229jnc4c | Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook |
| Thursday 6 July | Interested in taking part in our consultation, but weren't able to attend an in-person event? We're running two online consultation sessions next week. Find out more and sign up to attend: https://boom-power.co.uk/fenwick/ | Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook |
| Tuesday 11 July | We're running another online consultation event at 7pm on Thursday evening. The session will involve a presentation from the project team and will allow you to share your questions with us. Sign up here: http://bitly.ws/KpyK | Twitter, Facebook |
| Wednesday 12 July | Tomorrow evening we'll run our final engagement event of the non-statutory phase of consultation. Sign up to attend the event, where you'll be able to share feedback and ask questions of our project team, here: http://bitly.ws/KqT7 | Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook |
| Thursday 13 July | Tonight we're running our final online consultation event at 7pm. The session will involve a presentation from the project team, and will allow you to share your questions with us. Sign up here: http://bitly.ws/KpyK | Twitter, Facebook |
| Friday 14 July | There's still time for you to share your feedback on our plans for the Fenwick Solar Farm. To find out more about the project and share your feedback, take a look at our project brochure: https://boom-power.co.uk/fenwick/ | Twitter, Facebook |
| Monday 17 July | There is one week left before our consultation period closes! To find out more about the project and share your feedback, take a look at our project brochure: https://boom-power.co.uk/fenwick/ | Twitter |
| Tuesday 18 July | It's not too late to share your feedback. You can still get in contact with us and provide feedback before 25th July: https://boom-power.co.uk/fenwick/ | Twitter, Facebook |

| Date | Content | Posted on |
|---------------------|--|-----------|
| Thursday 20 July | Solar Power capacity needs to rise faster for the UK to reach its carbon targets, according to @theCCCUk 's latest report. Fenwick Solar Farm will contribute to a cleaner and secure energy future for the UK. https://solarenergyuk.org/news/progress-on-solar-power-significantly-off-track-says-ccc/ | Twitter |
| Friday 21 July | There's still time for you to share your feedback on our plans for the Fenwick Solar Farm over the weekend. To find out more about the project and share your feedback, take a look at our project brochure: https://boom-power.co.uk/fenwick/ | Twitter |
| Tuesday 25 July | Our consultation period has now closed! Thank you to everyone who has engaged with this round of consultation. We will be reviewing all feedback and will share our updated proposals in due course. | Twitter |



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