
FENWICK SOLAR FARM

Statement of Community Consultation

Fenwick Solar Farm

Fenwick Solar Project Limited

2024

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1. Introduction

1.1 About this document

- 1.1.1 Fenwick Solar Farm (the Scheme) is a proposed solar farm development with energy storage facilities at Fenwick. The proposed solar farm will generate low carbon electricity from photovoltaic (PV) panels on land to the east of Fenwick in the north of the borough of the City of Doncaster Council, near the town of Askern and the smaller villages of Moss, Topham and Sykehouse. PV modules will generate the electricity and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be installed to enable electricity to be stored and released into the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) when it is most needed. At the time of writing, work is ongoing to determine how the Scheme will connect to the existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation, whether via underground cables or by connecting directly to an overhead line that passes close to the Scheme site.
- 1.1.2 The Scheme will deliver enough carbon-free electricity to power approximately 75,000 homes at a time of increased energy insecurity, and will also contribute to the UK government's target of reaching a net-zero carbon electricity grid by 2035 and an overall net-zero carbon economy by 2050.
- 1.1.3 The Scheme is being brought forward by Fenwick Solar Project Limited (the Applicant), a Boom Power company.
- 1.1.4 As the solar farm will generate over 50 MW of electricity, the Scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and therefore requires consent by way of a Development Consent Order (DCO) for it to be constructed, operated, and decommissioned.
- 1.1.5 The Scheme is currently in the 'pre-application' stage of the DCO application process. This will involve a statutory consultation - the purpose of which is to seek the views of all stakeholders including the community, landowners, local businesses and interest groups, and statutory consultees on the Scheme proposals.
- 1.1.6 This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been prepared in accordance with:
- a. Section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008, which outlines the Applicant's obligation to 'prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult about the proposed application with people living in the vicinity of the land'
 - b. Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations), which requires the SoCC to set out whether the development is an EIA development and, if so, how the Applicant is publicising and consulting on the preliminary environmental information.

- 1.1.7 As required by Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008, the SoCC has been prepared in consultation with City of Doncaster Council (CDC), whose administrative area the Scheme lies within, as defined by Section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008. CDC's advice and recommendations have been taken into consideration when finalising the proposed consultation activities. In preparing this SoCC the Applicant has had regard to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) guidance on the pre-application process required by Section 50(3) of the Planning Act 2008, as last updated in March 2015¹.
- 1.1.8 This document outlines the Applicant's proposed approach to consulting the local community, including residents, businesses and other stakeholders within the local area. It is currently anticipated that a statutory consultation will be held between 18 April and 31 May 2024, and the final dates of the statutory consultation will be confirmed in the statutory consultation materials, including the newspaper notice published pursuant to section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.1.9 The Applicant will follow the established DCO process outlined below in Figure 1-1.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418009/150326_Pre-Application_Guidance.pdf

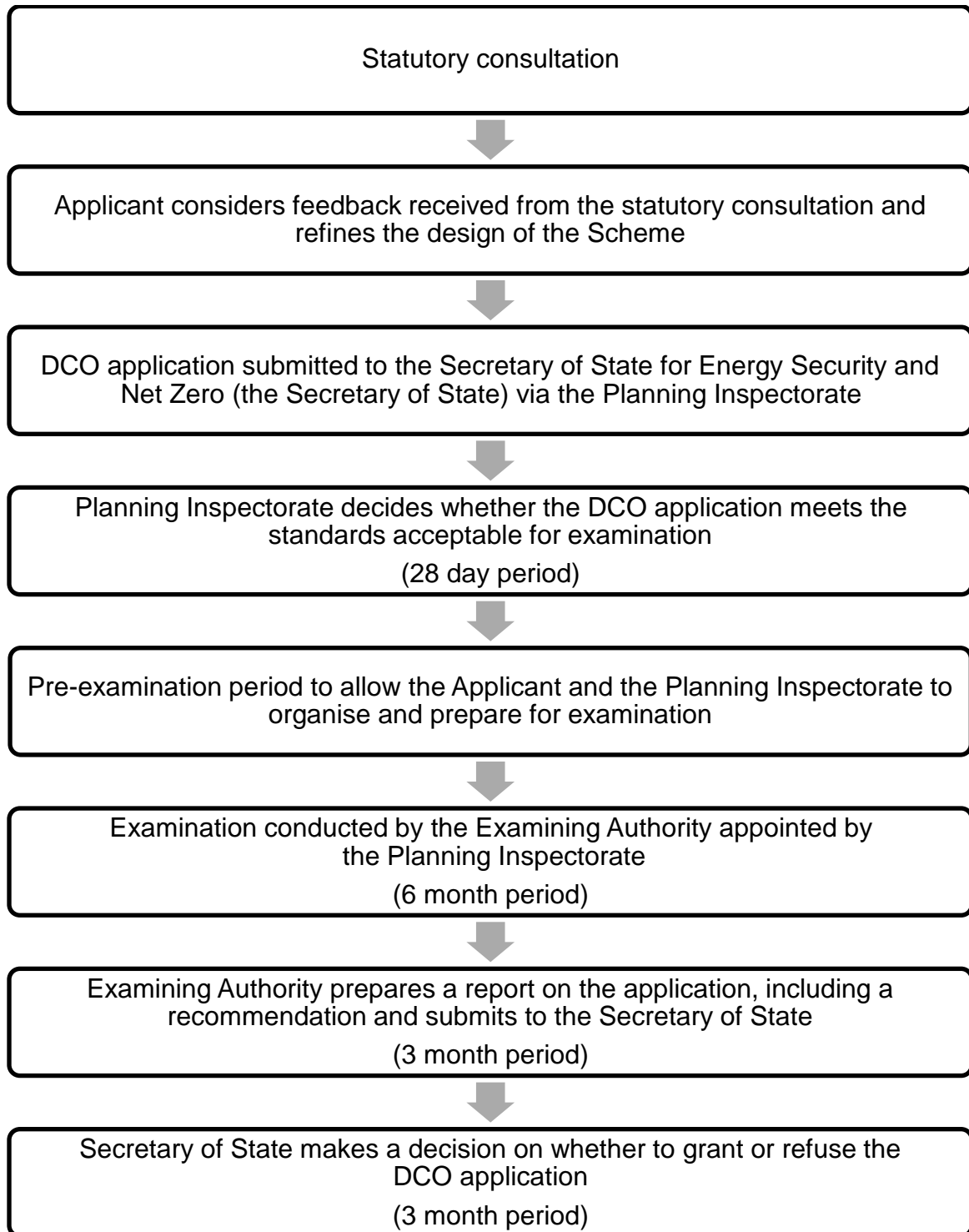


Figure 1-1 DCO process

1.2 About the Applicant

- 1.2.1 The Applicant is Fenwick Solar Project Limited, a Boom Power company. Boom Power specialises in building solar infrastructure projects, producing clean energy that contributes to a sustainable economy and aids in the repair of our planet through a biodiversity net gain approach.

- 1.2.2 Boom Power wishes to promote solar farm technology to enable and encourage the transition towards net-zero carbon, which the UK Government aims to achieve by 2050.

1.3 Scheme description

- 1.3.1 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) together with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), export and import connection to the existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation.
- 1.3.2 There are two options for connecting the Scheme to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS). One option is an underground Grid Connection Corridor from the Solar PV Site to the National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation. The preferred route of the Grid Connection Corridor, which has been refined from an initial corridor since non-statutory consultation travels south from the Solar PV Site. The DCO application will also include an option to connect the Scheme to the grid via an overhead power line that passes close to the Solar PV Site.
- 1.3.3 BESS will be used at the Solar PV Site to allow electricity to be stored and then released when it is most needed. The battery storage will be located in a single defined area within the Solar PV Site.
- 1.3.4 The Site is located entirely within the City of Doncaster Council's administrative area, east of Fenwick, near the town of Askern, and the smaller villages of Moss, Topham and Sykehouse. The northern edge of the Solar PV Site borders the River Went.
- 1.3.5 The principal Scheme components are:
- a. Solar PV Panels;
 - b. Solar PV mounting structures;
 - c. Field Substations incorporating centralised inverters, transformers switchgear, and protection and control equipment. These substations may include string inverters as standalone within the array (parallel to or at the end of frames), if central inverters are not used;
 - d. Grid Connection Substation (33 kV/400 kV) within the Solar PV Site;
 - e. BESS structures and units and associated infrastructure located within the BESS Area;
 - f. On-Site Cables connecting the Solar PV Panels, Field Substations and BESS infrastructure to the on-site Grid Connection Substation;
 - g. 400 kV cable connection to the NETS by either;
 - i. Below ground Grid Connection Cables connecting the On-Site Grid Connection Substation to the Existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation; or
 - ii. Below ground cables connecting the on-site Grid Connection Substation to a new cable sealing end compound (the Grid Connection Line Drop Compound) at the base of a 400 kV

overhead line tower located within the Solar PV Site. The tower would likely require modification to allow the associated infrastructure to connect by this method.

- h. Operations and Maintenance Hub with welfare facilities;
- i. Fencing and security measures (for example lighting and closed-circuit television (CCTV));
- j. Access tracks;
- k. Construction and decommissioning laydown areas; and
- l. Landscaping and habitat creation/enhancement.

1.3.6 Figure 1-2 shows the boundary of the Scheme as presented in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The Solar PV Site includes the area covered by the ground-mounted Solar PV Panels, BESS, Grid Connection Substation, and associated infrastructure. The Solar PV Site also incorporates areas of habitat creation/enhancement and landscaping. The Grid Connection Corridor runs south of the Solar PV Site, within which the 400 kilovolt (kV) and associated cables (the Grid Connection Cables) would be installed between the Grid Connection substation and the existing National Grid Thorpe Marsh substation (approximately 6 km south of the Solar PV Site). These areas may be subject to refinement as part of the ongoing site selection and project development including in response to consultation feedback.

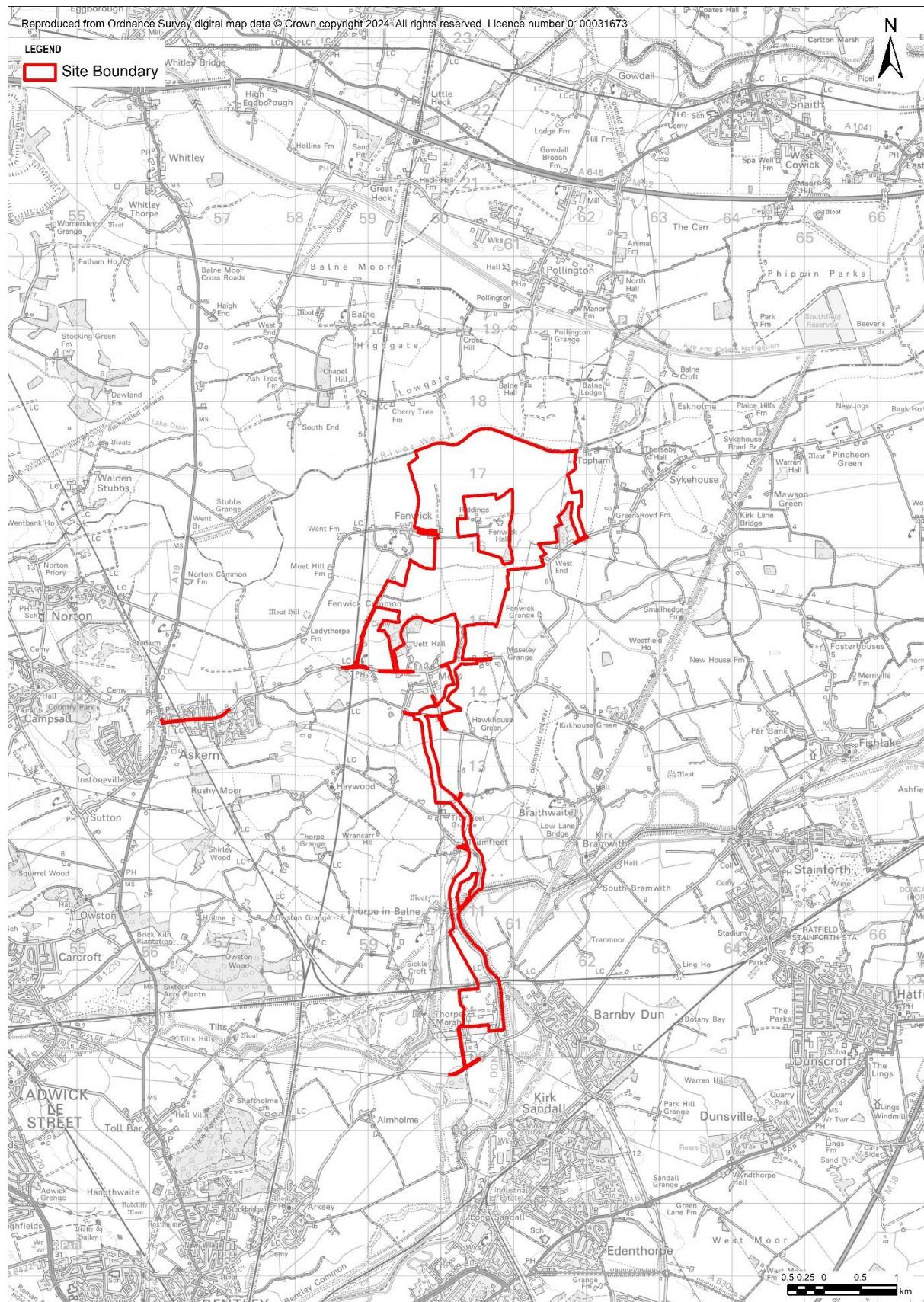
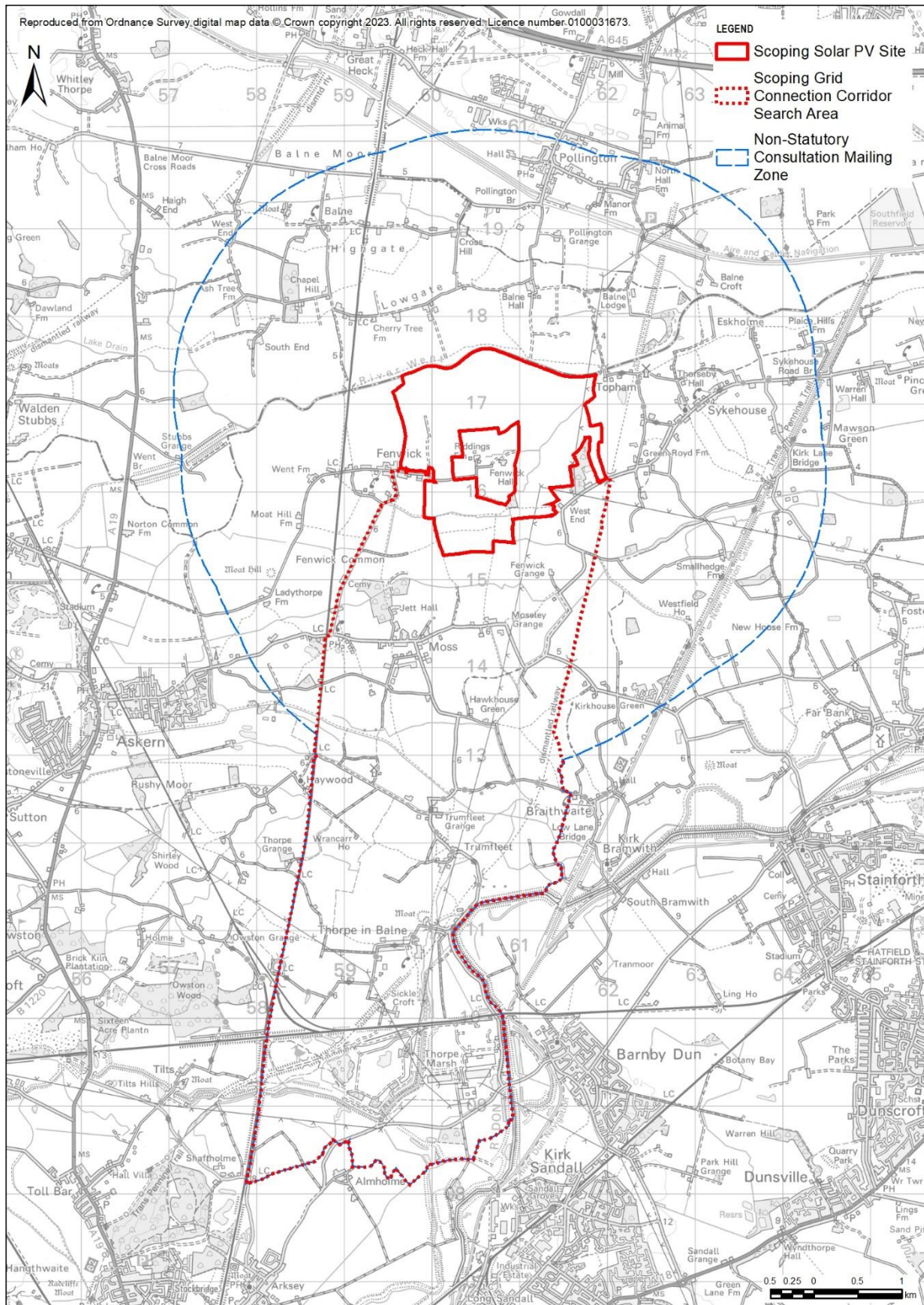


Figure 1-2 Site boundary

- 1.3.7 Subject to being granted consent and following a final investment decision, the earliest construction could start is in 2028. Construction of the Grid Connection Cables is anticipated to require 12 months, whereas construction of the solar farm will require an estimated 24 months, with operation therefore anticipated to commence in 2030, with decommissioning no later than 40 years after final commissioning.

1.4 Consultation to date

- 1.4.1 A non-statutory consultation was held over four weeks, from Tuesday 27 June 2023 to Monday 24 July 2023. This first phase of consultation introduced the Scheme, and sought feedback from the local community, landowners, local businesses and interest groups on the proposals for the Scheme, including site for the solar array, the Grid Connection Corridor Search Area and the Battery Energy Storage System(s).
- 1.4.2 The non-statutory consultation was promoted through a consultation brochure. The consultation brochure was posted to all residential and business addresses within a 2.5 kilometres (km) distance from the Solar PV Site, and addresses within the Grid Connection Corridor Search Area, as defined at the time of the non-statutory consultation. This area is referred to as the 'Consultation Zone', which is displayed in Figure 1-3. In total, brochures were sent to 1,027 residential properties and 137 businesses.



- 1.4.3 Press releases were sent to local and trade media publications. Local media press releases were emailed on 1 June 2023. Trade media releases were emailed on 21 June 2023.
- 1.4.4 Four public events were held: two in person and two online. One of the online meetings was recorded and made available on the Scheme website.
- 1.4.5 Details of the events held are listed below:
- a. Friday 30 June from 2pm to 8pm at Moss and Fenwick Village Hall;
 - b. Wednesday 5 July from 2pm to 8pm at The Old George Inn, Sykehouse;
 - c. Monday 10 July 6pm to 7pm (online); and
 - d. Thursday 13 July 7pm to 8pm (online).
- 1.4.6 A dedicated email address was available and advertised throughout the consultation for members of the public to send in feedback, request further information or to ask questions. A telephone number was also provided for people to ask questions or request information.
- 1.4.7 A response form was developed to obtain a range of feedback, including specific aspects of the proposal and detailed comments. In total, the non-statutory consultation received 25 responses. These were received through various response channels, including hard copies, a Freepost address, an online response form, and emails to the Scheme inbox.

2. The Planning Process

2.1 The Development Consent Order application process

- 2.1.1 The Scheme is classified as an NSIP under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 and will therefore requires consent via a DCO.
- 2.1.2 Following the statutory consultation, the Applicant intends to submit its DCO application for the Scheme in the latter half of 2024.
- 2.1.3 Section 42, 43 and 44 of the Planning Act 2008 (and the relevant regulations) require consultation with a number of statutory bodies and statutory undertakers, local authorities and those with an interest in land. These individuals and organisations will be consulted as required by the Planning Act 2008, as laid out in this SoCC.
- 2.1.4 In accordance with the provisions of Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant is required to consult people living in the vicinity of the land before the application is submitted and to prepare a statement in consultation with the host local authority setting out how it will do this. The Applicant must undertake adequate consultation before submitting its DCO application.
- 2.1.5 The Applicant will have regard to all responses received to the consultation which will be considered in the design evolution of the Scheme, in line with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 2.1.6 Details of any responses received during consultation and the account taken of those responses will be included in a Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of the DCO application.
- 2.1.7 More information on the DCO process can be found on the PINS website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>
- 2.1.8 This information can be found by navigating to the Planning Inspectorate's website (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>), clicking "Application process" in the navigation menu and then selecting "The process" from the drop-down menu.

Environmental Impact Assessment

- 2.1.9 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process of identifying, evaluating, and mitigating the likely significant environmental effects of a scheme or project. Owing to its size, nature and location, the Scheme is likely to have significant effects on the environment and therefore is considered to constitute EIA development requiring an Environmental Statement (ES) to be submitted as part the DCO application.
- 2.1.10 The Applicant submitted an EIA Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate in June 2023 setting out the initial details of the Scheme and the proposed scope of the surveys and assessments to be undertaken during the EIA process.

- 2.1.11 The EIA Scoping Report also described the initial studies on the baseline environment and reported the surveys undertaken so far. The EIA Scoping Report is available on the Planning Inspectorate’s website and can be read at the following link:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010152/EN010152-000010-EN010152%20-%20Scoping%20Report.pdf>
- 2.1.12 The EIA Scoping Report can be located by searching for Fenwick on the Planning Inspectorate’s website (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>), clicking Fenwick Solar Farm in the search results, then navigating to the Documents tab and selecting the document entitled “Fenwick Solar Project Limited” which carries the description “Scoping Report submitted to the Secretary of State on 1 June 2023”.
- 2.1.13 The EIA Scoping Report was considered by the Planning Inspectorate and a range of statutory consultees including, but not limited to, Natural England, the Environment Agency, Network Rail and City of Doncaster Council. The consultees provided feedback on the information provided in the EIA Scoping Report, including the proposed assessment methodologies and the topics to be included (scoped in) or excluded (scoped out) from further assessment. On behalf of the Secretary of State and taking the comments of the statutory consultees into account, the Planning Inspectorate then prepared a written Scoping Opinion – published in July 2023 – detailing the scope and level of detail of the information which is to be provided in the ES. The Scoping Opinion is available on the Planning Inspectorate’s website and can be read at the following link:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010152/EN010152-000040-EN010152%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf>
- 2.1.14 The Scoping Opinion can be located by searching for Fenwick on the Planning Inspectorate’s website (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>), clicking Fenwick Solar Farm in the search results, then navigating to the Documents tab and selecting the document entitled “Scoping Opinion” which carries the description “Adopted by the Secretary of State on 11 July 2023”.
- 2.1.15 The Applicant is planning and/or undertaking the surveys, assessments, and consultation processes outlined in the EIA Scoping Report, and taking account of the Scoping Opinion. The Applicant is also preparing a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), in line with Regulation 12(2) of the EIA Regulations, to inform the statutory consultation process. The purpose of the PEIR is to provide information to enable stakeholders to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the Scheme. As described in Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 7, the PEIR is a compilation of the environmental information available at the point in time the PEIR was produced and does not constitute a complete assessment (which will be reported within the ES).
- 2.1.16 The PEIR will be made publicly available online and information on how to view it will be included in the Consultation Brochure. A copy of all the

consultation materials (including the PEIR) will be made available on a USB and available at document inspection points for removal (free of charge) or inspection on library computers (see paragraph 3.6.3) A copy of the non-technical summary will be available at document inspection points. See Table 3-1 for a full list of document inspection points.

2.2 SoCC consultation with the relevant local authority

- 2.2.1 Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 outlines the obligation for the Applicant to consult host local authorities² on the SoCC, including county councils and district councils. In the case of Fenwick Solar Farm, the host local authority is City of Doncaster Council, which is a unitary authority.
- 2.2.2 A period of informal consultation with City of Doncaster Council took place from **15-22 January 2024**, during which initial feedback on the draft SoCC was collected.
- 2.2.3 The SoCC was then updated based on these comments ahead of a formal 28-day consultation period on the updated draft SoCC, from **19 February 2024 to 20 March 2024**. In preparing the final version of the SoCC, the Applicant has had regard to feedback submitted during the these consultations.

3. Statutory Consultation

- 3.1.1 It is currently anticipated that the statutory consultation for the Scheme will run for a period of six weeks from **18 April and 31 May 2024**. The final dates of the statutory consultation will be confirmed in the statutory consultation materials, including the newspaper notice published pursuant to section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 3.1.2 The purpose of the statutory consultation is to provide information to the local community, consultees prescribed under the Planning Act 2008, other affected stakeholders and anyone with an interest in the Scheme. The consultation will give these stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the proposals so these comments can be considered before the Scheme design is finalised for the DCO application. The DCO application is anticipated to be submitted in the latter half of 2024.
- 3.1.3 The consultation will provide an opportunity for consultees to share their feedback on the Scheme, which has evolved since non-statutory consultation. It will also enable those interested to find out more detailed information on the plans, including in particular, information contained within the PEIR (which will also be publicly available).

² The Applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement. Local authorities are included in that section if the land required for the Scheme is within its area.

- 3.1.4 The statutory consultation is an opportunity to raise awareness of the Scheme among the local community. It will also enable the Applicant to provide an update on the progress made since the non-statutory consultation and how the Scheme design has evolved.
- 3.1.5 The Applicant is committed to running a consultation that is compliant with the methods outlined in the SoCC and the Planning Act 2008. Effective stakeholder engagement and consultation is intrinsic to the Planning Act 2008 and fundamental to the success of the Scheme. Therefore, it is important to raise awareness of the Scheme and provide further opportunity for local communities and stakeholders to engage with and influence the development of the proposals prior to DCO application submission.

3.2 Consultation approach

- 3.2.1 Effective stakeholder engagement and consultation provides 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. Consultation is also essential to give stakeholders opportunities to be involved in the DCO process, allowing for an appropriate platform to provide feedback which can help inform the development of more detailed proposals.
- 3.2.2 The statutory consultation will therefore use a variety of means to ensure that access to the consultation materials is straightforward, and does not require the inspection of physical hard copies in person. For example, providing access to the materials online allows users to access materials from their own homes and use existing accessibility tools for viewing the materials (such as zoom functions or text-to-audio tools).
- 3.2.3 Additionally, section 4.9 outlines the approach taken to promote the consultation to seldom heard groups, which targets those who may find it more difficult to engage with consultations.
- 3.2.4 The stakeholder engagement and consultation approach to be taken for the statutory consultation will be underpinned by the following principles:
- a. Engagement is to be undertaken to inform and influence the design process;
 - b. Stakeholder concerns will be addressed, where possible and practicable, through engagement;
 - c. Appropriate statutory consultation is undertaken in compliance with requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and subordinate Regulations.

3.3 Who will be consulted?

- 3.3.1 The consultation process is open to anyone who may be interested in, or in any way feels that they are impacted by, the Scheme. Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 requires the Applicant to consult people living in the vicinity of the land (the local community).

Consultation zone

- 3.3.2 The non-statutory consultation zone (Figure 1-3) consisted of addresses within a 2.5 kilometres (km) distance from the Solar PV Site and addresses within the Grid Connection Corridor Search Area.
- 3.3.3 The non-statutory consultation zone (Figure 1-3) has been reviewed and refined alongside the updated proposals. This has included considering where the Scheme may have a direct or indirect impact during construction or operation (in particular, the potential visibility of the Scheme and impacts on local roads from construction traffic).
- 3.3.4 This has resulted in an updated consultation zone consisting of a 2.5 km buffer around the boundary of the Solar PV Site and a 1 km buffer around the Grid Connection Corridor (see Appendix A). The 1km buffer zone around the Grid Connection Corridor route has narrowed the consultation zone south of the boundary of the solar PV site, as the Grid Connection Corridor Search Area covered a wider area. This zone has been further rationalised to account for local roads that will need to be used by construction traffic (which has resulted in the inclusion of some properties in Askern and to avoid splitting streets or villages, such as amendments made in Pollington).
- 3.3.5 All addresses within the consultation zone will be sent consultation brochures. There are 3,762 addresses in this zone. During non-statutory consultation, brochures were sent to a total of 1,164 addresses, therefore the increase to the zone marks an expansion in the number of addresses consultation of 2,598 since non-statutory consultation.

Other stakeholders

- 3.3.6 At the same time as consulting with the local community captured by the consultation zone, we will be carrying out consultation on the same information (including the PEIR) with those bodies prescribed under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, being:
- a. Persons as prescribed under Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Application: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (as amended);
 - b. Each local authority as defined under Section 43 of the Planning Act 2008; and
 - c. Those persons captured within one or more of the categories as set out under Section 44 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 3.3.7 At the launch of consultation, relevant elected representatives within the consultation zone will also be contacted, including the Member of Parliament for Doncaster North (MP) and Doncaster City Council Councillors.
- 3.3.8 It is also recognised that other groups than those captured above may have an interest in the proposals. A list of non-statutory interest groups and seldom heard groups will be contacted at the launch of consultation.

3.4 What will be consulted on?

- 3.4.1 The statutory consultation will allow the Applicant to gather views on the Scheme. Feedback on all aspects of the Scheme will be welcome and considered, including but not limited to the below.
- a. The proposed layout of the Scheme;
 - b. The proposed route of the cable connecting the Solar PV Site to the National Grid Thorpe Marsh Substation;
 - c. Impacts of the proposed Scheme, including, but not limited to:
 - i. Environmental impacts;
 - ii. Economic impacts;
 - iii. Social impacts.
 - d. How the construction and maintenance of the Scheme will be carried out;
 - e. Proposed mitigations for the anticipated impacts as detailed above;
 - f. The PEIR and the PEIR Non-Technical Summary.

3.5 Statutory consultation documents

- 3.5.1 The documents listed in paragraph 3.5.2 will be available to view throughout the consultation period. These will be made available online via the Scheme's website: www.boom-power.co.uk/fenwick. All consultation materials (including the PEIR) will be made available online on the Applicant's website free of charge and can be downloaded for inspection at the reader's discretion. Printed copies of all the materials (including the PEIR) will also be made available for inspection at the in-person consultation events and selected documents will be available document inspection points in the area (see paragraph 3.6.4, Table 3-1 for more details).
- 3.5.2 The documents that will be made available throughout the statutory consultation are listed below:
- a. Consultation brochure;
 - b. Consultation feedback form;
 - c. Plans of the proposed solar farm and Grid Connection Corridor;
 - d. SoCC (this document);
 - e. Non-statutory consultation report;
 - f. PEIR Non-Technical Summary; and
 - g. The PEIR (available on the Applicant's website and on USB3.6.4; full printed copy available only at in-person consultation events).
- 3.5.3 The consultation brochure will be produced to provide easy to understand information about the Scheme, including a plan of the solar farm, a summary of the potential environmental effects and an outline of the construction process. The consultation brochure will be sent to all addresses within the consultation zone, as outlined in 3.3.4.

- 3.5.4 Hard copy consultation materials will be made available on request via advertised channels. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may incur a reasonable copying charge.

3.6 Document Inspection Points

- 3.6.1 The Applicant is committed to providing an accessible approach to engagement and consultation on the Scheme, and therefore selected consultation documents will be made available for members of the public to inspect at a range of local venues.
- 3.6.2 The document inspection points have been chosen as accessible locations with a range of opening hours. The document inspection points are outlined in Table 3-1 and show on the map in Appendix B.
- 3.6.3 Askern Community Library is the only library which falls within the consultation mailing zone. To ensure sufficient document inspection points within the consultation mailing zone, the Applicant will therefore also place consultation materials at two pubs within the consultation mailing zone, which are also listed in Table 3-1 below.

Table 3-1 Document inspection points

Document inspection point	Address	Opening hours (correct at the time of publication however please check with the venue before attending)
Askern Community Library	Station Rd, Askern, Doncaster DN6 0LA	Monday – Saturday: 10am – 1pm
Edenthorpe Community Library	Communal Hall, Bardon Road, Edenthorpe, Doncaster, DN3 2ND	Monday: 2pm - 5pm. Wednesday: 9.30am - 12.30pm Friday: 2pm. - 5pm. Saturday: 10a.m. - 12p.m.
Snaith Library	27 Market Place, Snaith, Goole DN14 9HE	Tuesday: 2pm – 6pm. Thursday: 10am – 4pm. Saturday: 10am – 12pm
Thorne Library	The Vermuyden Centre, Field Side, Thorne, Doncaster DN8 4BQ	Monday - Friday: 8.40am - 1pm and 1.30 - 5pm. Saturday: 8.40 - 1pm
The Baxter Arms	Fenwick, Fenwick Lane, Doncaster, DNH0HA	Monday – Wednesday: 4–11 pm. Thursday – Sunday: 12–11 pm
The Old George Inn	Broad Lane, Sykehouse, DN14 9AU	Daily: 9:30 – Late (approx. 10pm)

- 3.6.4 Hard copies of the consultation brochure, feedback form, non-statutory consultation report, plans of the Scheme, SoCC and the PEIR non-technical summary will be available to view at the document inspection points.

- 3.6.5 The Applicant will make USBs containing all consultation materials (including the full PEIR) available at the document inspection points. At the libraries the USBs will also be able to be used to inspect the documents on computers in the libraries.
- 3.6.6 The Applicant will liaise with the document inspection points regularly to ensure that sufficient consultation materials remain available should members of the public have taken materials home, and to provide any additional materials or USBs should these be required.

3.7 Consultation events

- 3.7.1 Three in-person consultation events will be held during the statutory consultation period. These will be drop-in style events designed for members of the public to attend, view the plans in more detail and engage directly with the project team.
- 3.7.2 Consultation boards will be displayed at each event to provide information about the Scheme, including maps and images. Printed copies of all consultation materials will be made available for people to inspect.
- 3.7.3 A consultation response station will be in place at the events to allow people to fill out the consultation feedback form in hard copy, or virtually via a tablet whilst they are at the event. A member of the project team will be able to assist with this if requested. Hard copies of the consultation feedback form will be available for attendees to take away to complete and return via the dedicated Royal Mail Freepost Address, (Freepost Fenwick Solar Farm).
- 3.7.4 The consultation events will be held across a number of days, to allow flexibility for attendees to take part. The number and locations of the event venues have been selected based on the level of attendance from the non-statutory consultation events held in June and July 2023, and the proximity to the Scheme.
- 3.7.5 Communication channels such as telephone, email and freepost will be publicised in the consultation brochure, the poster and on the scheme website to allow people to contact the project team if they have further questions.
- 3.7.6 The locations of the consultation venues are listed in Table 3-2. Consultation venues which were not used at non-statutory consultation Alexander House (Askern Town Hall) and Sykehouse Village Hall will undergo an assessment prior to booking, which will determine the suitability of the location in terms of accessibility for people with disabilities or mobility issues.
- 3.7.7 A map of the locations of the consultation event venues can be found in Appendix B.
- 3.7.8 One online drop-in question and answer session will be held during the statutory consultation period. This will be held on Microsoft Teams and will present attendees with an opportunity to ask questions of the project team. The details of this online surgery event are outlined in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2 Statutory consultation events

Date	Time	Venue
Friday 26 April	2-7pm	Alexander House (Askern Town Hall)
Saturday 27 April:	10am-3pm	Moss & Fenwick Village Hall
Monday 29 April	2-7pm	Sykehouse Village Hall
Wednesday 8 May	7-8pm	Microsoft Teams – online surgery

3.8 Cancellations or changes

- 3.8.1 In the event of a booked venue becoming unavailable, or other unforeseen circumstances meaning the consultation events must be cancelled and/or rearranged, the Applicant will inform people as early as possible of the cancellation and, where possible, give details of a substitute event via the Scheme’s website, on social media and notify parish councils requesting that they provide this information to residents via existing channels.

4. Publicising the Consultation

4.1 Publicity channels

4.1.1 The Applicant has identified several methods to publicise the statutory consultation, which includes those methods required in accordance with Section 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, and Section 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. This will ensure the Scheme's stakeholders have ample opportunities to participate in the consultation and provide feedback on the Scheme.

4.2 Scheme website

4.2.1 Details of the upcoming statutory consultation launch, as well as the dates and addresses of the consultation events, will be published on the Scheme website, www.boom-power.co.uk/fenwick. This will contain information for stakeholders, including contact information and a dedicated contact form.

4.2.2 The consultation documents will be available to view and download from the Scheme website free of charge the Consultation brochure; the Consultation feedback form; Plans of the proposed solar farm and Grid Connection Corridor; the SoCC (this document); the Non-statutory consultation report; the PEIR Non-Technical summary; and the PEIR.

4.2.3 The Scheme website will provide stakeholders with details of the consultation events in case they would like to attend.

4.2.4 There will also be a link to the online feedback form, allowing people to share their views on the Scheme online.

4.3 Consultation brochure

4.3.1 As set out in paragraph 3.3.4, the consultation brochure will be sent to all addresses within the consultation zone, as set out in 3.3.3. The brochure will describe the Scheme proposals, explain how to take part in the consultation and where to find more information.

4.3.2 The consultation brochure and feedback form will be available in hard copy to all consultees at in-person events, as well as at document inspection points, and via request through the various communication channels.

4.3.3 The brochure will include details of the proposed Scheme, the dates and times of the consultation events, as well as the details for the Scheme website and a summary of how to provide feedback.

4.4 Email notifications

4.4.1 Non-statutory consultees will be identified and sent a notification via email.

4.5 Statutory Notices

4.5.1 The Applicant will run a statutory notice under Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008, to publicise the proposed DCO application. It will be published as follows, meeting the publication requirements of Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008:

- Once in a national newspaper;
- once in the London Gazette; and
- for at least two successive weeks in the Doncaster Free Press and Goole Times.

The Applicant will run a statutory notice under Section 47(6)(a)) of the Planning Act 2008, to publicise this SoCC. It will be published once in the Doncaster Free Press and Goole Times local newspapers, meeting the publication requirements of Section 47(6)(a)) of the Planning Act 2008.

4.5.2 A review of circulation figures and local coverage has been carried out to consider which local publications are most appropriate. All properties within the Order Limits are covered by the local papers where the statutory notices have been placed.

4.5.3 The statutory notices will include information on the Scheme, details of the proposals and what documents will be available to view, where they can be inspected and the charge for documents. Information on the consultation launch, dates and addresses of the upcoming consultation events will be provided.

4.5.4 Instructions and the deadline for responding to the consultation will be given, alongside the different communication channels available to contact the project team. A link to the Scheme website will also be included in the notification.

4.6 Social media

4.6.1 Social media content will be shared to publicise the statutory consultation and be scheduled in the run up to the statutory consultation with the objective of raising awareness of the upcoming events and generating interest around the Scheme.

4.6.2 Social media content across the project's social media pages will include posts regarding the proposals, the consultation event schedule, how feedback can be left, and links to the Scheme website. These pages are:

- Twitter (Fenwick Solar Farm: @Fenwick_Solar);
- Facebook (Fenwick Solar Farm); and
- LinkedIn (Fenwick Solar Farm).

4.6.3 These social media channels will be promoted on consultation materials and in supporting communications as applicable.

4.7 Media

- 4.7.1 The Applicant will issue a press release to local and trade media outlets approximately one week ahead of the beginning of statutory consultation.

4.8 Poster and promotional narrative

- 4.8.1 Parish and Town council clerks, in particular those close to the site, will be provided with a narrative explaining how their communities can get involved in the consultation, and where to find out more information about the scheme. Other public locations in proximity to the site, will also be provided with a narrative explaining how their communities can get involved in the consultation and where to find out information about the Scheme. This will include a digital copy of a promotional poster and a request to promote the consultation to the local community via their established communications channels.

4.9 Seldom heard or hard to reach groups

- 4.9.1 To ensure that seldom heard or hard to reach groups have the opportunity to take part in the statutory consultation, the Applicant will prepare the materials so that they are accessible and clear. Additionally, the Applicant will also carry out the activities below:
- a. Work with the host local authority to identify a range of organisations which represent seldom heard or hard-to-reach groups. The applicant will inform the organisations of the consultation as gatekeepers for the Applicant to engage with these communities.,
 - i. The organisations which represent seldom heard or hard-to-reach groups will be written to at least four weeks prior to the consultation to identify whether their members would need any assistance to enable their participation. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - ii. At the launch of the consultation, the organisations will receive the narrative and poster outlined in section 4.8.
 - b. Display the project contact information on the consultation brochure, poster and on the scheme website to enable individuals to contact them with any questions or requests.
 - c. Ensure that the consultation materials can be made available in alternative forms on request.
- 4.9.2 Where possible, we will aim to hold events at venues that are accessible and can be reached by public as well as private transport. The events have been scheduled across weekdays and a weekend, in addition to varied hours to enable as many people to attend as possible. For anyone with specific additional requirements in relation to our consultation events, they will be encouraged to email Fenwick.Enquiries@Boom-Power.co.uk or phone 01964 782219.
- 4.9.3 For those who are unable to attend in person, an online drop-in question and answer session will be held during the statutory consultation period. This will

be held on Microsoft Teams and will present attendees with an opportunity to ask questions of the project team. It will also be recorded and posted on the website to enable those unable to attend any of the events to view the queries asked.

4.9.4 The categories of seldom heard groups with barriers to engaging with the consultation have been outlined Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Categories of heard to reach or seldom heard groups

Category	Barriers to entry
Armed Forces personnel	Time poor people
Homeless individuals	Access to communications channels
Minority Ethnic Groups	Understanding of materials
People with disabilities and/or mental health conditions	Access to in person events and understanding of materials
People with learning difficulties	Understanding of materials
Rural residents	Access to communications channels
The elderly	Access to communications channels
Travellers	Access to communications channels
Young people and young families	Time poor people

5. How to Respond

5.1 Responding to the consultation

5.1.1 A consultation feedback form will be made available to help consultees provide comments on the Scheme. All consultation responses must be made in writing unless transcription is needed. Comments made via phone calls will not be counted as official consultation responses unless there is a requirement for transcription due to accessibility considerations. Consultation responses can be provided via the following means.

- a. Online response form via www.boom-power.co.uk/fenwick;
- b. Email to Fenwick.Enquiries@Boom-Power.co.uk;
- c. Hardcopy feedback form; or
- d. Freetext letter to FREEPOST Fenwick Solar Farm.

5.1.2 Contact with the project team during the statutory consultation can be made via the channels outlined below. A member of the project team will aim to respond to the enquiry within five working days.

- a. Email: Fenwick.Enquiries@Boom-Power.co.uk;
- b. Phone: 01964 782219; or
- c. Postal address: FREEPOST Fenwick Solar Farm.

6. Next Steps

6.1 Consideration of responses

- 6.1.1 In accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008, all responses received will be carefully considered and the Applicant will have regard to them when finalising the Scheme proposals for DCO application.
- 6.1.2 If, as a result of feedback from the statutory consultation or from our pre-consultation engagement, the Scheme proposals are amended, then these may be consulted on via targeted consultation on a proportionate basis. Any targeted consultation will be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.
- 6.1.3 The Applicant will summarise consultation responses in a Consultation Report, which will include a description of how the Applicant has had regard of those responses in developing the Scheme, and any changes made since the statutory consultation. The consultation report forms part of the DCO application which will be submitted to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate as required by Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. Upon the acceptance of the DCO application the Consultation Report will be made available for consultees to review how their comments have fed into the process.

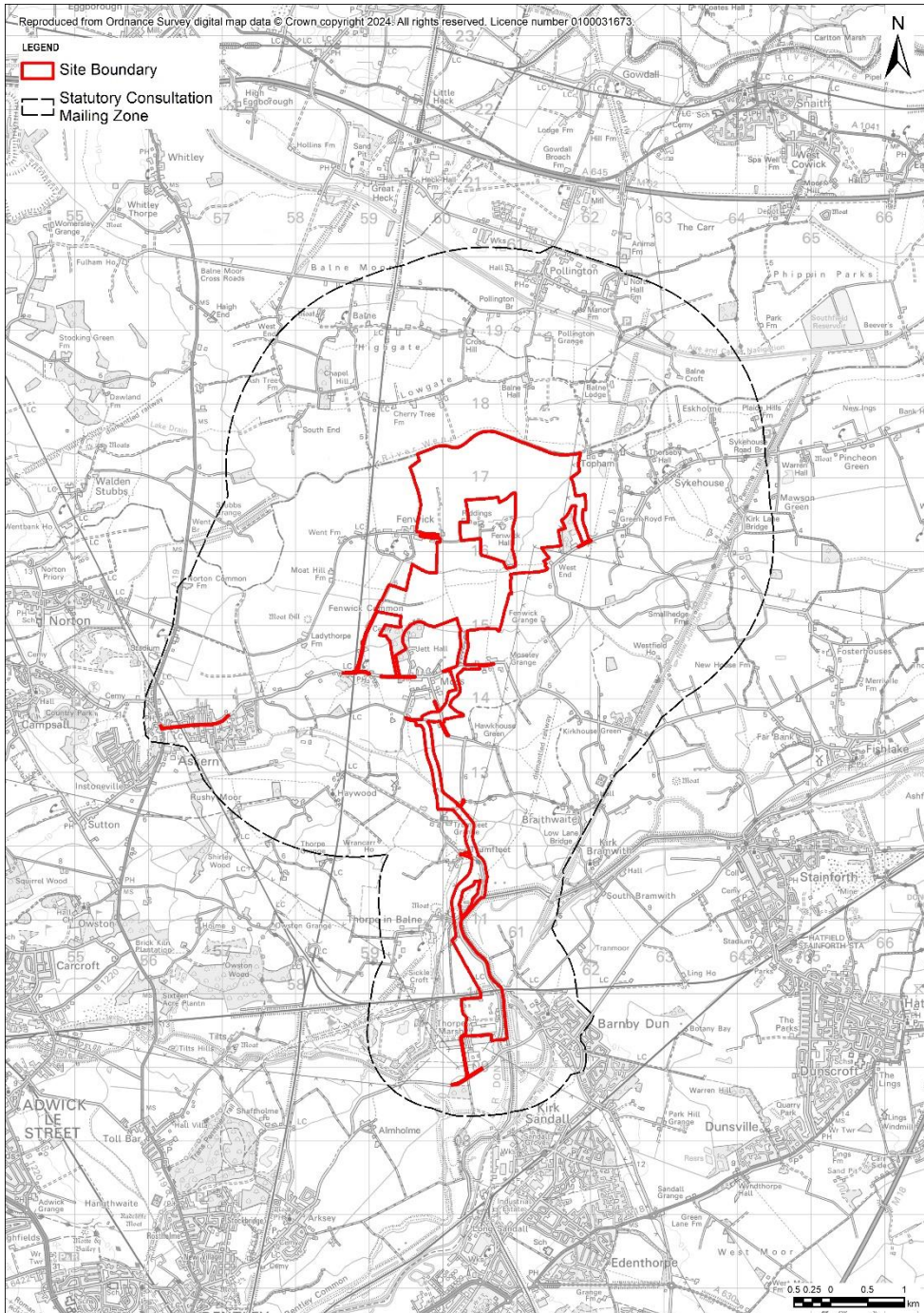
6.2 GDPR and data privacy

- 6.2.1 Boom Power's GDPR Policy can be read on their website at <https://www.boom-power.co.uk/privacy-policy/>. This document can be found on the Boom Power website (<https://www.boom-power.co.uk/>), scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking "Privacy Policy".

7. References

- 7.1.1 His Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) (2008) The Planning Act 2008. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents/enacted> (Accessed 13.12.2023)
- 7.1.2 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (2017). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents/made> (Accessed 13.12.2023)

Appendix A – Consultation Mailing Zone



Appendix B - Document inspection points and consultation event venues

