



One Earth Solar Farm

Statement of Community Consultation

May 2024

Introduction

One Earth Solar Farm Ltd is inviting feedback from the local community on its proposals for One Earth Solar Farm as part of a public consultation from 29 May - 9 July 2024.

One Earth Solar Farm is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage (the Project) that would help meet the country's need for low-carbon, homegrown energy. The Project is primarily located in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire and would connect into the National Grid at High Marnham substation. It is being brought forward by One Earth Solar Farm Limited, a joint venture between PS Renewables and Ørsted.

Because of its size, One Earth is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The Planning Act 2008 and associated legislation and guidance set out the planning process for NSIPs. They require that we apply for a type of planning approval known as a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate it. Unlike planning applications which are determined by local authorities, NSIPs are submitted to and decided at the national level by the relevant Secretary of State.

The Project is still in the early stages, and consultation is an important part of our development process. We want to hear the views of local residents, technical experts, and elected representatives to help inform the design of One Earth. This feedback will help us develop our plans responsibly, in a way that is sensitive to the local environment and community.

We have already completed our initial stage of consultation that took place from 27 September to 8 November 2023 on our early designs. Although this consultation was informal, the feedback we received is being taken into account to inform the project design as well as our approach to consultation, which is set out in this document.

We have prepared this document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. It explains how we plan to consult with people living in the vicinity of the Project about our proposals. It will be published according to the requirements of the Planning Act, and includes:

- Information about One Earth and the companies behind it;
- An explanation of the planning process for One Earth including pre-application consultation and environmental assessments;
- Our approach to community consultation including who we will consult, when, how, and what about;
- How we will let people know about the consultation, provide information, and receive feedback; and,
- The next steps after consultation, including how we will have regard to the feedback we receive.

About Us

The Project is being brought forward by One Earth Solar Farm Ltd, which is a joint venture between PS Renewables and Ørsted.

PS Renewables

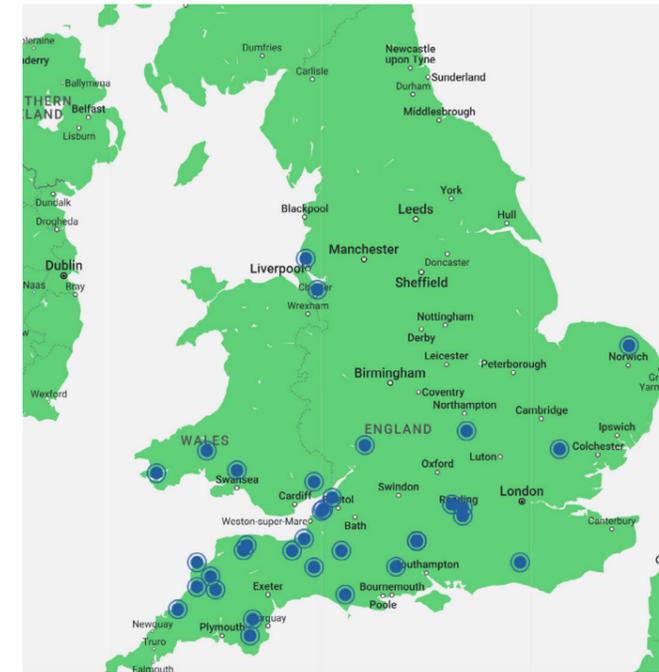
Established in 2012, PS Renewables has rapidly become one of the UK's largest renewable energy development, construction, and operation companies. Alongside an existing solar farm portfolio totalling over 300MW, PS Renewables is one of the UK's largest developers of solar NSIPs, including Longfield Solar Farm, which received consent last year.

Ørsted

Ørsted is taking tangible action to create a world that runs entirely on green energy. Within the UK, Ørsted is a leading offshore wind developer. It presently operates 12 offshore wind farms alongside onshore wind farms in Scotland, and energy storage. Ørsted is committed to ensuring that its presence contributes to sustainable growth and development, helping to support UK net-zero targets and benefit the communities in which it operates.

The Project Team

PS Renewables and Ørsted are being supported in developing One Earth by an experienced team of specialists in design, planning, landscaping, ecology and consultation.



Existing PS Renewables Solar Farms

About One Earth

One Earth Solar Farm is a proposed new solar farm with associated battery storage and infrastructure located primarily in Nottinghamshire that would help meet the country's need for low-carbon, homegrown energy.

Over the next three decades, the country needs to undergo a clean energy transformation to combat climate change and enhance energy security. We must change the way we power our homes and businesses, get around, and manage our resources, while boosting our supply of clean energy.

As we phase out older forms of power generation, such as the former coal-fired power station at High Marnham, new renewable energy sources must be developed to replace them. At the same time, we are relying more and more on electricity in our daily lives, as petrol cars and gas boilers are phased out, increasing demand for electricity.

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 **More than 200,000**
The project could meet the energy needs of more than 200,000 homes annually

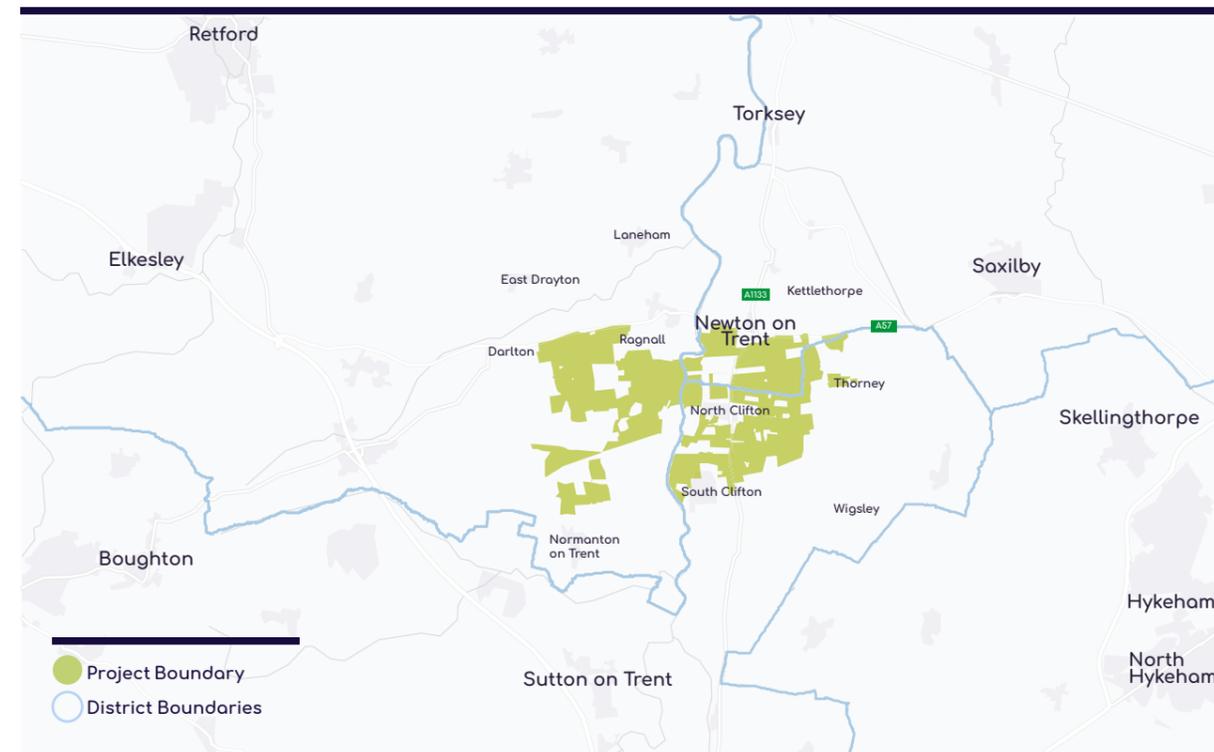
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 **740MW**
We have secured a 740MW grid connection agreement with the National Grid

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The Project could make a significant contribution to meeting this need. We have an agreement to supply 740MW to the National Grid, which is enough to power more than 200,000 UK homes each year.

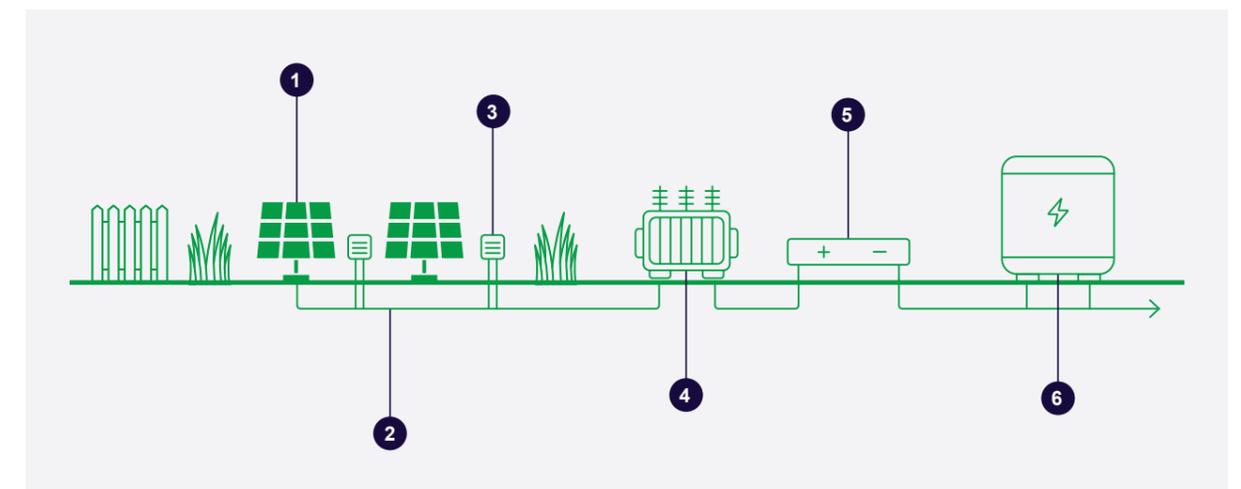
Project location



Components of a Solar Farm

The Project would include the following components:

- 1. Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels** – Ground-mounted solar panels would collect energy from sunlight and turn it into electricity in the form of low voltage, direct current (DC).
- 2. On-site cabling** – Underground cables would connect the solar PV panels to other parts of the solar farm.
- 3. Solar stations** – These stations would prepare the electricity to connect to the grid. They would include an inverter to convert the electricity from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC), and a transformer to 'step up' the voltage.
- 4. On-site substation** – Cables would bring electricity from across the site together at a substation, which would combine the power sources together and 'step up' the voltage again, so that the energy is ready to enter the National Grid.
- 5. Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** – The primary purpose of the BESS would be to store the energy generated by the solar photovoltaic (PV) panels at times when it is not needed by the National Grid and then release it to the grid when it is needed most. Additionally, the BESS would also provide vital grid services by taking energy from the National Grid, storing it during periods of low demand (when it could otherwise be wasted) and releasing it to the National Grid when homes and businesses most need it.
- 6. Grid connection** – The electricity would enter the National Grid at the High Marnham substation, and then go on to power homes and businesses locally and nationwide.



Components of a solar farm

The Planning Process

Because One Earth would produce more than 50MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

The Planning Act 2008 and associated legislation and guidance set out the planning process for NSIPs and require that we apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate One Earth. Unlike planning applications which are determined by local authorities, NSIPs are submitted to and decided at the national level. We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), an independent body that administers the process of reviewing and examining the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. After examination, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation about whether or not to approve the Project, but the final decision will be made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net-Zero.

Pre-Application Consultation

Consultation is an important part of the DCO Process. Before we submit our DCO application, the Planning Act 2008 requires us to consult on our proposals. For One Earth, we will consult early and often, throughout the project's development, to ensure valuable local knowledge is built into our proposals. Under sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act 2008, we must consult with:

- Local authorities and parish councils in which the Project is located or which neighbour the local authorities and parish councils that are hosting the Project;
- Persons that have an interest in the land affected by the Project, including landowners, occupants and tenants;
- Certain organisations and technical bodies (like Historic England and the Environment Agency) which have been prescribed by the Planning Act 2008; and,
- The local community.

Consultation and the Design Process

The design process for One Earth is iterative, which means that there will be several versions of the design as the project develops. Feedback from consultations and results of environmental assessments will inform our evolving proposals at each stage. We have carried out one stage of non-statutory consultation already and anticipate at least one further round of consultation:

1. **Non-Statutory Consultation: 27 September - 8 November 2023** - This first consultation was on our initial proposals for One Earth.
2. **Statutory Consultation: 29 May - 9 July 2024** - The second consultation will be on our revised proposals, which have been updated based on feedback from the first consultation and ongoing environmental assessments. This is a 'statutory consultation', subject to the approach described in this document and the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated design we submit in the DCO application.

Environmental Impact Assessment

Due to the size and nature of the Project, it is considered 'EIA Development'. This means that we will conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which we will report on in an Environmental Statement in our DCO application. The EIA will assess the Project's potential effects on the environment in accordance with the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. If we identify any potential significant impacts, we will also explain how we propose to mitigate them.

Scoping

An applicant for a DCO can ask the Secretary of State for their opinion on the scope of the EIA and the level of detail to be presented in the EIA. One Earth Solar Farm Limited applied to the Secretary of State for a Scoping Opinion on 13 November 2023, and PINS subsequently provided the Scoping Opinion on behalf of the Secretary of State on 22 December 2023. The Scoping Opinion will now be used to guide how we will complete our EIA. You can find it on the PINS website (scan QR code to see).

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

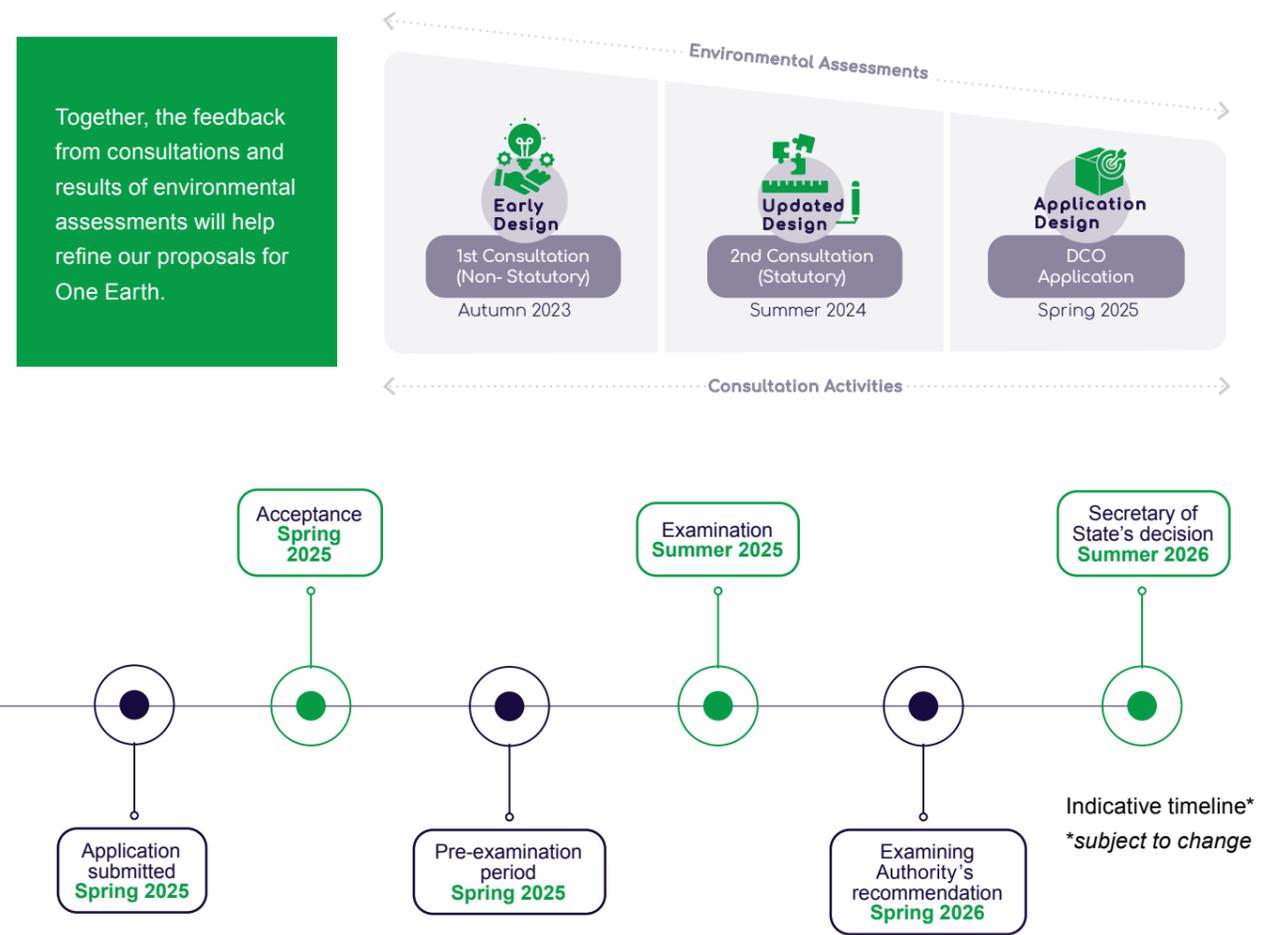
We are required to prepare a 'Preliminary Environmental Information Report' or 'PEIR' which will be published as part of the statutory consultation. The PEIR must include the information which is reasonably required for consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Project.

DCO Application

Our DCO application will include the Environmental Statement and a Consultation Report that sets out the consultation we have undertaken as part of the pre-application process. In the Consultation Report we will explain how we have had regard to the consultation feedback we have received. It will also explain if we have made changes to the Project design as a result of consultation responses received.



<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010159/EN010159-000009-EN010159%20-%20One%20Earth%20Solar%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion%202017%20EIA%20Regs.pdf>



To learn more about the PINS and NSIP process, visit the Planning Inspectorate's website: infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Our Approach to Community Consultation

We aim to ensure that anyone who wants to engage in the consultation is able to do so, by providing a variety of ways people can learn about the proposals and provide their feedback.

We have developed the approach set out in this document taking into account what has worked well in previous round of consultation, feedback from local authorities, and best practice. We have also considered requirements included in the Planning Act 2008, EIA regulations, associated guidance and PINS advice notes.

We will structure our consultation with accessibility at its heart, making sure it is as easy as possible to take part. This means providing materials both in print and online, using easy to understand, non-technical language and providing alternative formats if requested. We will schedule events for the community to learn about our proposals in locally convenient locations at various days of the week and times of day to accommodate different work/life schedules, as well as provide both in-person and virtual options to attend. We will also reach out to gateway organisations for hard-to-reach groups, so that we can hear from as many voices as possible.

Non-Statutory Consultation

During our first consultation held over six weeks in Autumn 2023, we presented our early designs for One Earth. We held in-person and online events to present information about One Earth, in addition to providing materials through our website and in hard copy. We asked for feedback on the proposed development as well as our consultation approach, which has helped inform our next phase of consultation. Feedback included requests for additional visualisations and project details, which we will provide at the statutory consultation.

Feedback from Local Authorities

Our approach to consultation has been informed by feedback from local authorities, to ensure that we are utilising local knowledge to inform an effective consultation process. From 5 April to 4 May 2024, we consulted with the host local authorities on our proposed approach to the next stage of consultation, as laid out in this document. Our strategy has been updated to include their feedback including extending events into evening hours, adding an additional community access location, and providing a second webinar.

What are we consulting on?

During our statutory consultation from 29 May – 9 July 2024, we will present our updated proposals and ask for your feedback.

During the statutory consultation, we will be asking for your views on:

- Our proposals for One Earth Solar Farm as a whole;
- The location of the Project's components, including the solar panels, substations, and batteries;
- The PEIR and potential impacts from the Project during construction, operation, and decommissioning to the local environment and community;
- Our proposals for mitigating the potential impacts and environmental enhancements;
- Potential benefits that the Project could include for the local environment and the community; and,
- Anything else that you think we need to consider.

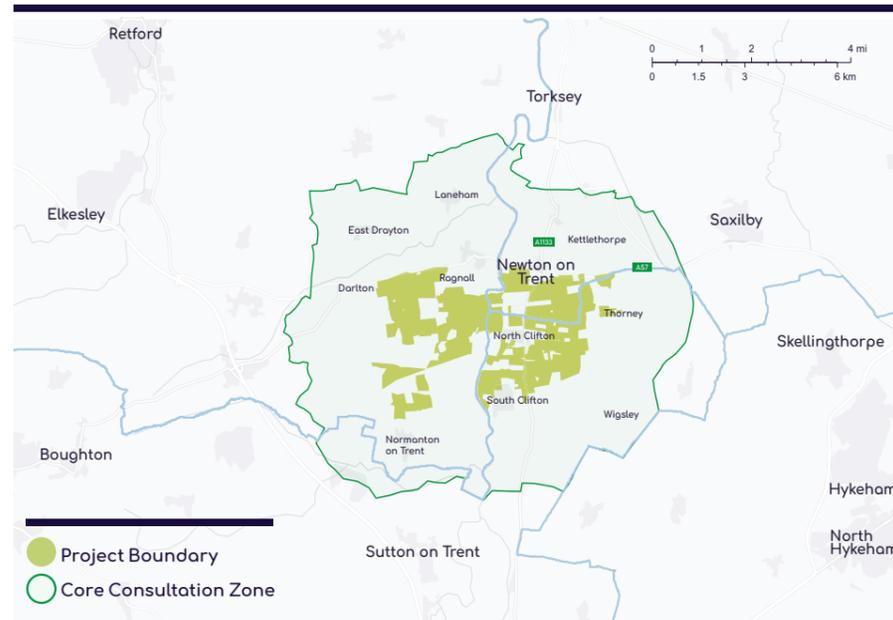


Who are we consulting?

We want to consult widely with anyone who has an interest in or feels impacted by One Earth Solar Farm. We have identified a variety of stakeholders that we believe may have an interest the Project, and developed a plan to notify these groups and individuals - but anyone is welcome to submit their feedback.

Zone 1: Core Consultation Zone

We have identified an area that includes around 1,500 addresses by drawing a shape 2km from the Project's boundaries, and then expanding further to ensure entire communities were included. Being in close proximity to the proposed development, this zone was selected as the group of homes and businesses that would have the greater interest in the Project.



Zone 2: Additional members of the community, groups, and elected officials

We recognise that there may be other individuals and organisations that work, visit, or have an interest in the Project location but do not live within the core consultation zone. We have identified organisations and community groups that serve the broader community, including organisations that support seldom heard groups. We have also identified elected officials from the host regions where the Project would be located.

MPs	Counties	Districts	County Electoral Divisions	District Wards	Host Parishes
Gainsborough	Lincolnshire	West Lindsey	South Gainsborough	Torksey	Kettlethorpe and Laugherton
					Newton on Trent
Newark	Nottinghamshire	Bassetlaw	Tuxford	Tuxford and Trent	Dunham with Ragnall, Fledborough and Darlton
					Normanton on Trent with Marnham
		Newark and Sherwood	Collingham	Collingham	South Clifton
					North Clifton
					Thorney

Consultation Zones

We have defined two different zones of community consultation based on proximity to the site, which will be contacted and notified through different methods, as described below.

Zones of Consultation	Description
Zone 1	Anyone living or working within the core consultation zone, roughly 2km from the project boundary
Zone 2	Anyone living or working in the districts including Newark and Sherwood, West Lindsey and Bassetlaw

Publicising the Consultation

To ensure that local residents and other interested parties are aware of the upcoming consultation and how they can take part, we will publicise the consultation through several methods. At the start of the consultation, we will:

Actions	Zone 1	Zone 2
Send a leaflet to the core consultation zone	X	
Place posters in local information points including village halls, churches, and other public information boards	X	
Advertise in Lincolnshire and Nottingham Live online and in paper and on Facebook	X	X
Email the parish councils in Zone 1	X	
Email the community groups and elected officials from host regions in Zone 2	X	X
Send a press release to local and national media outlets	X	X
Update the dedicated project website	X	X

Providing Information about One Earth

We will develop a variety of opportunities and materials to provide detailed information about the proposals for One Earth.

Meetings and Events

We will host in-person events where members of the community can learn about our proposals from members of the project team including technical experts across a variety of relevant topics. The in-person events will be located across Zone 1, to ensure no individual need to travel far to attend an event. For those who cannot attend an in-person event, we will also host two webinars and publish their recordings on the project website. We will also offer to host briefing sessions for elected representatives.

Date	Location
Friday, 7 June 2024 4 - 8 pm	Dunham on Trent Village Hall, Dunham NG22 0FJ
Saturday, 8 June 2024 12 - 4 pm	St Peters Church Newton on Trent, Lincoln LN1 2JS
Wednesday, 12 June 2024 2 - 6 pm	South Clifton Coronation Hall South Clifton, NG23 7AN
Thursday, 13 June 2024 12 - 4 pm	Normanton Village Hall Normanton on Trent
Tuesday, 18 June 2024 6 - 7 pm	Webinar – Please visit our website to register: oneearthsolarfarm.co.uk
Saturday, 29 June 2024 12 - 4 pm	South Clifton Coronation Hall South Clifton, NG23 7AN
Wednesday, 3 July 2024 6 - 7 pm	Webinar – Please visit our website to register: oneearthsolarfarm.co.uk

Information Materials

We will produce a range of documents and materials to provide more information about One Earth which will be available through our dedicated project website: oneearthsolarfarm.co.uk, including:

- A leaflet with a short, non-technical explanation of the proposals and consultation information;
- A project booklet that provides a non-technical explanation of the proposals and the preliminary results of environmental assessments;
- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report which provides the preliminary results of the environmental impact assessment we have undertaken;
- A questionnaire to provide feedback on the proposals (provided in both printed and digital version);
- A presentation for use in meetings or webinars;
- Information boards to be used in public events and a virtual exhibition; and,
- Maps and a 3d visualisation.

Community Access Locations

We will also make hard copies of this SoCC, the project booklet, and questionnaire available in convenient locations across consultation Zones 1 and 2 during the consultation period. Alternative format hard copies of these materials (i.e. large print, braille) will be available upon request at the communications channels below. Please check opening hours before travelling.

Locations	Opening hours
South Clifton Sports Pavilion, South Clifton, Newark NG23 7AH	After 5:30pm on Fridays
The Courtyard Tea Room, Collingham Rd, Newton on Trent, Lincoln LN1 2LL	9am - 4pm Tuesdays - Fridays
Saxilby Library, St Andrews Centre, William St, Saxilby LN1 2LP	10:30am - 4pm Tuesdays, 10:30am - 1pm Wednesdays - Fridays
St Helen's Church, Main Street, Thorney, Newark, NG23 7EU	11am - 4pm Sundays
Bassetlaw District Council, 17B The Square, Retford, DN22 6DB	9am - 5pm Mondays - Fridays
Bassetlaw District Council, Queens Buildings, Potter St, Worksop S80 2AH	9am - 5pm Mondays - Fridays
Newark and Sherwood District Council, Castle House, Great North Rd, Newark NG24 1BY	9am - 5pm Mondays - Fridays
West Lindsey District Council, Guildhall Marshall's Yard, Marshalls Yard, 13b Beaumont St, Gainsborough DN21 2NA	9am - 5pm Mondays - Fridays

Communication Channels

Throughout the consultation, we will operate the following communications channels for individuals to contact us with any questions:

-  www.oneearthsolarfarm.co.uk
-  info@oneearthsolarfarm.co.uk
-  0800 169 6507 Answered weekdays between 9am - 5pm, or leave a message and we will call you back
-  One Earth Solar Farm, Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL

Changes

If there are any changes needed to the arrangements described above including any changes to guidance due to COVID-19, we will notify the community by writing to addresses within Zone 1, elected from host regions, and community groups and updating our website.

Receiving Feedback

Any groups can submit their written feedback by 9 July 2024 through various methods, including:

- By completing a questionnaire either in hard copy or at oneearthsolarfarm.co.uk
- By writing or emailing the contact details on page 13

Please note, we are only able to accept written feedback, but can provide transcription services if needed, upon request.



After the Statutory Consultation

Once the consultation has concluded, we will review the feedback we have received.

Any comments received will be analysed by One Earth Solar Farm Ltd and any of its appointed agents. Copies may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered as part of the DCO process. We will request that any personal details are not placed on public record and will be held securely by One Earth Solar Farm Ltd and its agents in accordance with the data protection law and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent DCO application and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties.

All feedback will be considered alongside the ongoing environmental assessments to help inform the updated design that will be submitted in the DCO application. As required by the Planning Act 2008, Within the DCO application, we will include a Consultation Report that shows how we have had due regard to all consultation feedback, as well as how we complied with the approach to consultation set out in this document.

Ongoing Engagement

Our communications channels will remain open throughout the pre-application process to answer any questions from the community. Individuals can opt-in through the project website or consultation questionnaire if they would like to receive project updates. We will provide a community update newsletter after the consultation has ended to describe the project's next steps. If there are any significant changes to the project, we may be required to host a targeted consultation on the project changes. In that case, we would notify the community in line with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008, PINS guidance, and the approach described in this document.



The Planning Inspectorate has also published details of how it manages comments received in a Privacy Notice available on its website:



https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/attachment_data/file/879604/PrivacyNotice_Final_15042020.pdf

Get in touch



www.oneearthsolarfarm.co.uk



info@oneearthsolarfarm.co.uk



0800 169 6507 Answered 9am-5pm on weekdays,
or leave a message and we will call you back



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