



NORTH
LINCOLNSHIRE
GREEN
ENERGY PARK

Statement of
Community Consultation

3 JUNE 2021



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Introduction

North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park Ltd is inviting feedback from the local community on its proposals for the North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park (NLGEP) as part of a public consultation from 14 June 2021 to 25 July 2021.

What is this document?

This document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), sets out how we plan to consult with the local community. It includes details on:

- The proposed development and developer information
- The planning process
- Our approach to community consultation
- What we will be consulting on
- Who we will be consulting
- How we will consult the local community
- How we will publicise the consultation
- The consultation arrangements
- What we will do with feedback from the consultation

Why are we publishing this document?

We have published this document, in line with the requirements of section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, to help people understand how we will seek their views on the project. We very much want feedback from the local community on our proposals and this document sets out the different ways you can find out more and respond.

The Applicant

About us

The proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park is being promoted by Solar 21. North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park Ltd is a company set up by Solar 21 for the purposes of promoting the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park.

Solar 21 sources, develops, and manages renewable energy projects across a range of technologies including solar, biomass, biogas and energy recovery facilities. Locally, Solar 21 has brought forward:

- a 23-megawatt biomass plant that will divert up to 150,000 tonnes per annum of waste wood that would otherwise go to landfill at Tansterne, near Hull
- a 2-megawatt biogas plant which will process up to 80,000 tonnes of potato pulp and vegetable waste per annum at Plaxton, near Hull
- a new 26-megawatt Energy Recovery Facility, located at Melton, near Hull, with planning consent to turn 250,000 tonnes of refuse derived fuel, that would normally go to landfill or export, into useable energy

These projects help to deliver the UK Government's Clean Energy Strategy, which aims to boost renewable energy technology usage in the UK. In the East Midlands and the East Riding of Yorkshire alone, Solar 21 has invested £260m, creating 28 local jobs.

You can find out more information about Solar 21 at our website: www.solar21.ie

The North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park

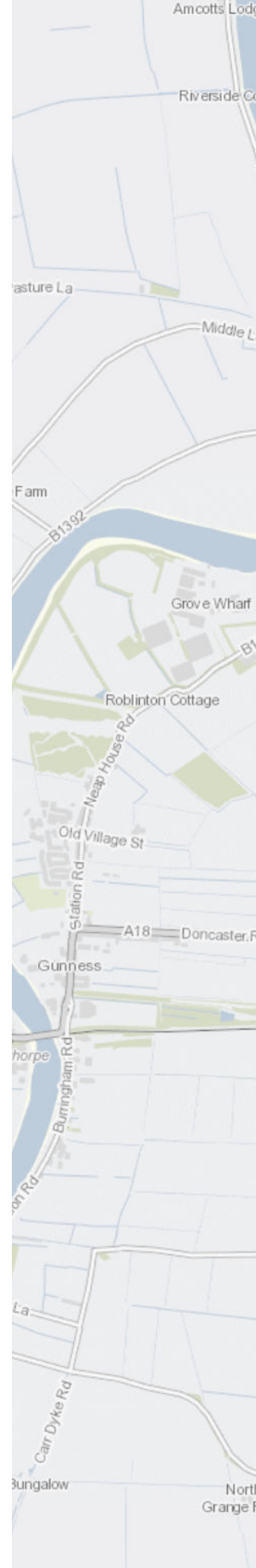
The North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park is an innovative proposal using a combination of technologies to ensure that as much energy as possible is recovered from waste that cannot be recycled.

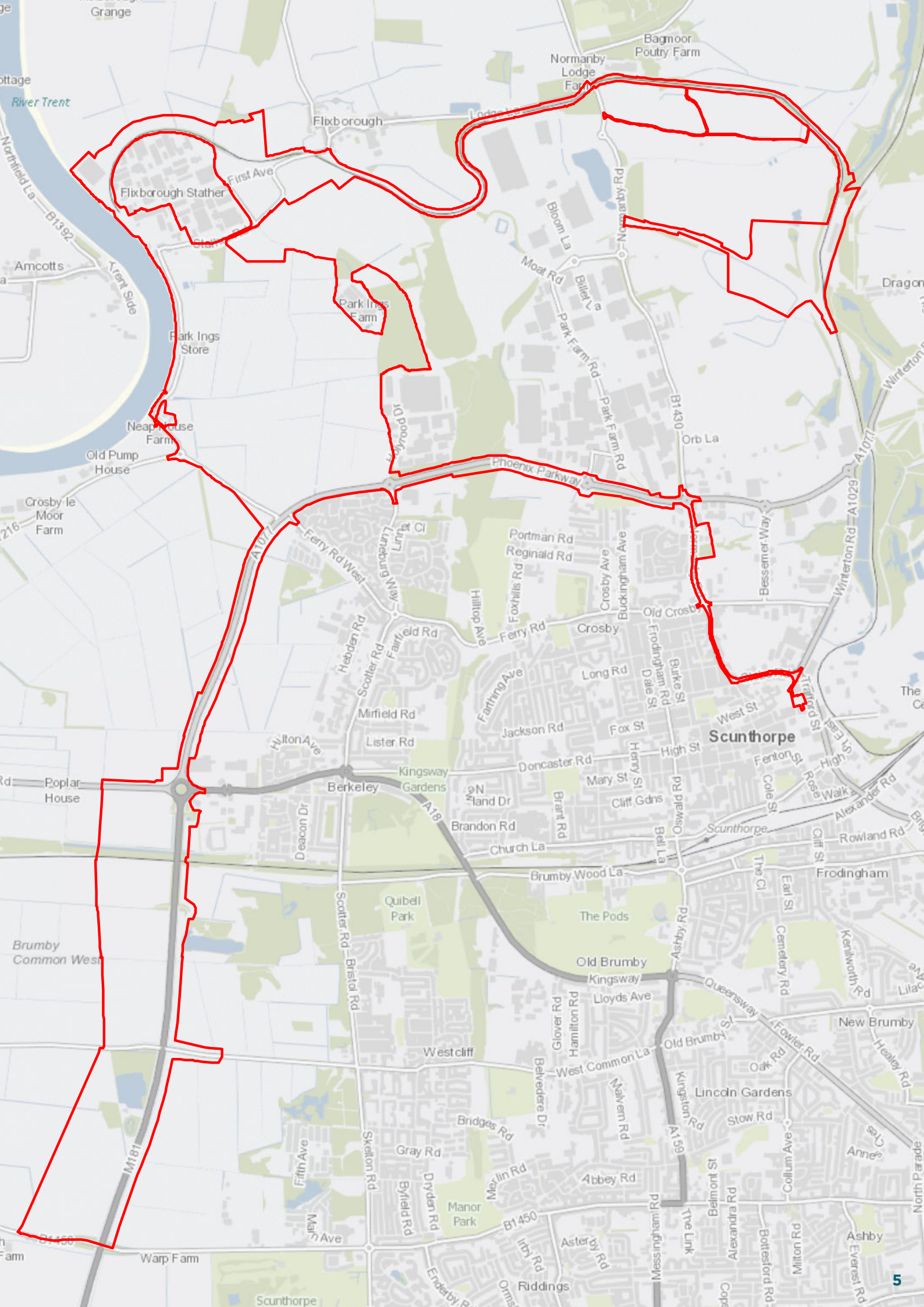
At its core will sit an Energy Recovery Facility, generating up to 95 megawatts of electricity from 380 megawatts of thermal energy. To ensure the greatest possible efficiency, this will sit alongside 10 megawatts of hydrogen storage, 30 megawatts of battery storage, 120 tonnes of steam storage, and an ash treatment facility. The Energy Recovery Facility and associated energy developments are the focus of this consultation.

The Energy Recovery Facility will make a major contribution to waste management across the region, using up to 760,000 tonnes of residual waste every year that might otherwise go to landfill or export. In doing so it will generate enough energy to meet the needs of up to 221,000 homes. It could also provide power, heat and cooling to the proposed new hospital in Scunthorpe.

Further details of the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park will be included in materials published as part of the consultation. Details of the materials that we will publish are set out in the 'Consulting the Community' section.

(Opposite) Figure 1: the scheme boundary





The planning process

We are developing the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park under the Planning Act 2008. This is because its proposed generating capacity exceeds 50 megawatts, which means that it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) requiring a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Unlike planning applications, which are considered by local authorities, DCO applications are made to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This independent body administers the application process on behalf of the relevant Secretary of State – who makes the final decision on the application.

For the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park, the decision will be made by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

PINS has produced a guide to the application process for members of the public. This is available at its website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8.0.pdf>

Figure 2 shows each stage of the planning process for NSIPs.

The Planning Act 2008 and consultation

DCOs are governed by a fixed, statutory process, which requires us to:

- consult with persons with an interest in the proposed land and certain bodies as prescribed under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008
- consult the local community under section 47 of the Planning Act 2008
- publicise the proposals locally and nationally under section 48 of the Planning Act 2008

This means we are following a well-established and clear process to develop our proposals. This provides a fixed role for local authorities, including reviewing and commenting on this SoCC and responding to our proposals as a statutory consultee.

We will meet these requirements for consultation by holding what is known as a statutory consultation. We will use the feedback that we receive during the statutory consultation to help us develop our final proposals for the North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park, before submitting our DCO application. We are publishing this document before the statutory consultation to help local people understand how they can find out more and share their views.

As part of our DCO application, we will submit a Consultation Report detailing our approach to consultation, the feedback that we received during the statutory consultation, and how we have had regard to it. When considering our DCO application, the Secretary of State will consider whether the consultation that we have undertaken has been adequate.

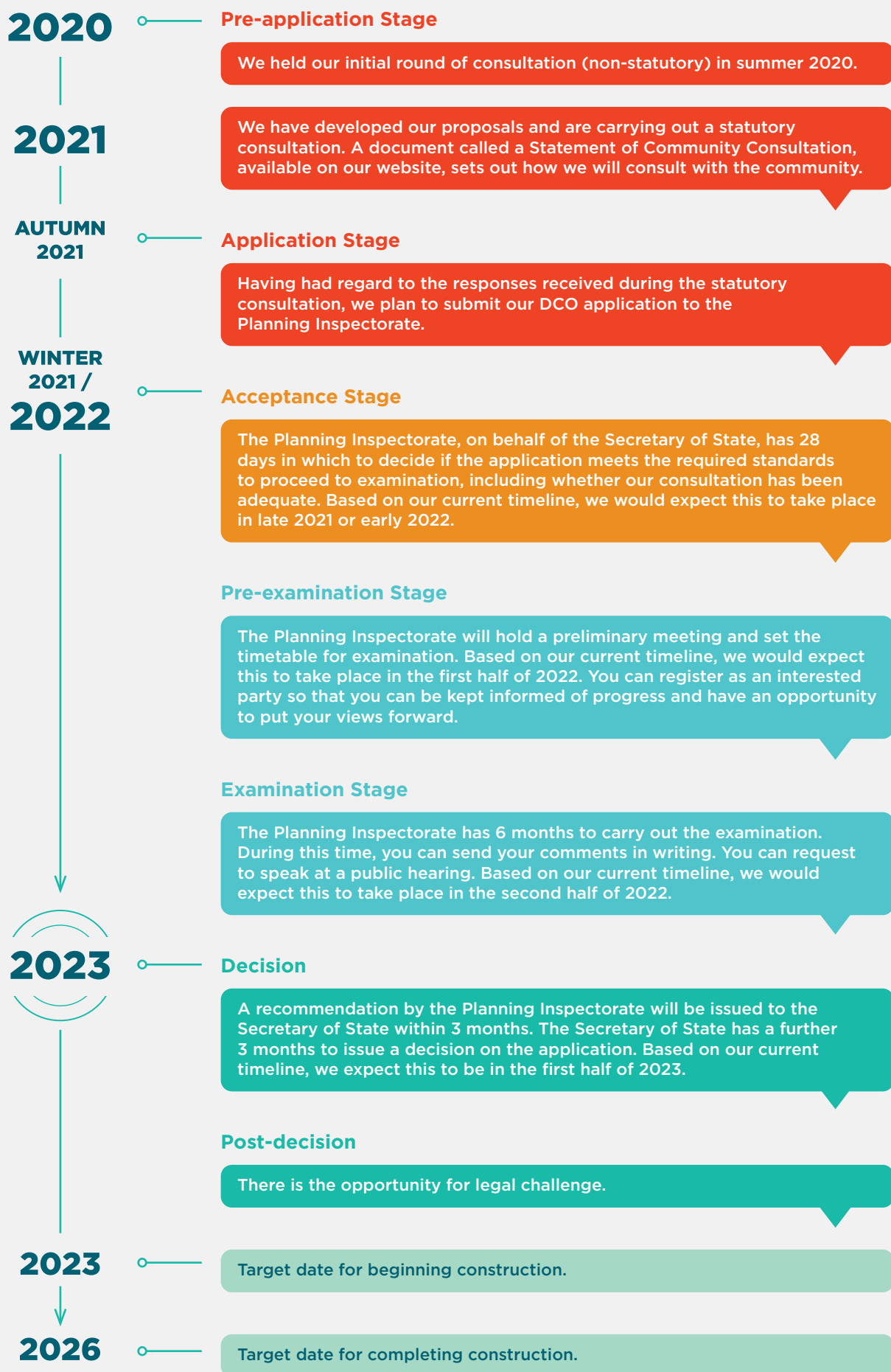


Figure 2: The planning process for the North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park.

Environmental impact assessment

Due to the nature and scale of the project, we are also carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in line with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This involves assessing potential environmental impacts from our proposals and, where appropriate, proposing mitigation.

We have already sought advice from PINS and stakeholders on how we should assess potential environmental impacts from the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park. PINS has set out the results of this process in a document called a Scoping Opinion. This is available online: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010116/EN010116-000013-NLGE%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf>

As part of the statutory consultation, we will share the next stage of our EIA work. This is a report of the preliminary findings of our EIA and our initial proposals for mitigation, known as a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

Following the consultation, we will finalise our assessments and report on them in a document called an Environmental Statement (ES). This will form part of our DCO application.

More information

You can find more information about the Planning Act 2008, PINS and its role and how to participate in the DCO process on the PINS National Infrastructure Planning website: infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk or by calling PINS on 0303 444 5000.



Consulting the community

We are inviting the community living in the vicinity of the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park to take part in the statutory consultation and provide feedback on our proposals, which contain more detail than at the last stage of consultation.

Through consultation, we want to:

- ensure that those potentially affected by our proposals have the opportunity to understand them and provide their views
- gain useful feedback on the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park which will help improve our design and EIA process
- comply with the requirements set by the Planning Act 2008 for projects of this type

In this period of statutory public consultation, we will make available further information about the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park, including details of our advanced design proposals. This will be an opportunity for members of the community to influence the project by submitting feedback.

Consulting during the COVID 19 pandemic

We are consulting at a time when the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic means there are restrictions on holding public meetings and events. While the Government has now announced a roadmap for ending the current restrictions, the dates in this are not fixed. The timing of the end of restrictions will depend on four tests set by the Government in its *COVID-19 Response: Spring 2021*.

We are aware of how important it is to make sure that anyone in the community who wants to find out more or share their views on the proposals can do so, as well as to provide certainty about how we will consult. We have developed a consultation programme designed to allow people from across the community to respond that is also compatible with different levels of social distancing requirements. As such, this document sets out a variety of different ways for local people to find out more information and provide feedback.

In preparing our approach to consultation, we have considered Government guidance on COVID 19: www.gov.uk/coronavirus. We have also considered advice from North Lincolnshire Council, the results of non-statutory consultation, and best practice guidance such as the National Infrastructure Planning Association's paper *Development Consent Orders and the Coronavirus Pandemic* (21 April 2020).

It is possible that the Government's advice regarding the COVID 19 pandemic may change during the consultation on our proposals or between the publication of this document and the beginning of the consultation. Therefore, we have set out below the different approaches that we propose to take if the Government's COVID 19 alert level changes.

Developing our approach to consultation

We have undertaken early engagement with stakeholders to develop our approach to community consultation.

This has included meeting with officers and members at North Lincolnshire Council, the local authority for the area where the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park is located, relevant statutory advisers, potentially affected land interests, parish councils, and relevant members of Parliament. We also conducted a period of non-statutory consultation between 26 May 2020 and 14 July 2020.

We conducted the non-statutory consultation remotely due to the COVID 19 pandemic. This involved sending consultation booklets and questionnaires to people living locally, launching a website with information about the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park, holding online information events, and speaking to residents individually through telephone surgeries.

Through the non-statutory consultation, we invited feedback on our early proposals for the North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park, our approach to EIA, and our approach to consultation.

We are required to consult with host authorities as defined by section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008 on the development of this SoCC. We consulted North Lincolnshire Council between 2 March 2021 and 30 March 2021. **North Lincolnshire Council confirmed that it supported the approach to consultation set out in the SoCC.**

What will we consult on?

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

- The proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park
- The short term and long term impacts of the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park including:
 - Construction impacts
 - Environmental impacts
 - Operational impacts
 - Impacts from decommissioning
 - The Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Who will we consult?

We will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC and encourage participation in the consultation by any person or group who is interested in the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park. Please see Table 2 below for the geographic areas within which we will consult.

We have defined a series of 'zones of consultation' for publicising the consultation directly to the local community for the purposes of section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. This recognises that levels of potential impact and interest are likely to vary with geography. We will use different consultation techniques within each zone.

Table 2: Zones of consultation

ZONE	PARAMETERS
Zone 1	People living and working in the immediate vicinity of the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park, as well as their political representatives (at a parish, district, county and parliamentary level) as defined in Figure 3 below. This is defined as a radius of 3km from the site of the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park, as well as a 0.5km buffer around the proposed district heating and power network and railway line serving the site.
Zone 2	People who may be interested in the wider potential impacts of the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park, such as transport, visual impact and creating new jobs. The zone is based on a 10km radius around the site, which draws on the Zone of Theoretical Visibility for the project – a tool we use to assess potential visual impacts.
Zone 3	People living and working in the host local authority of North Lincolnshire Council outside of consultation zone 1.

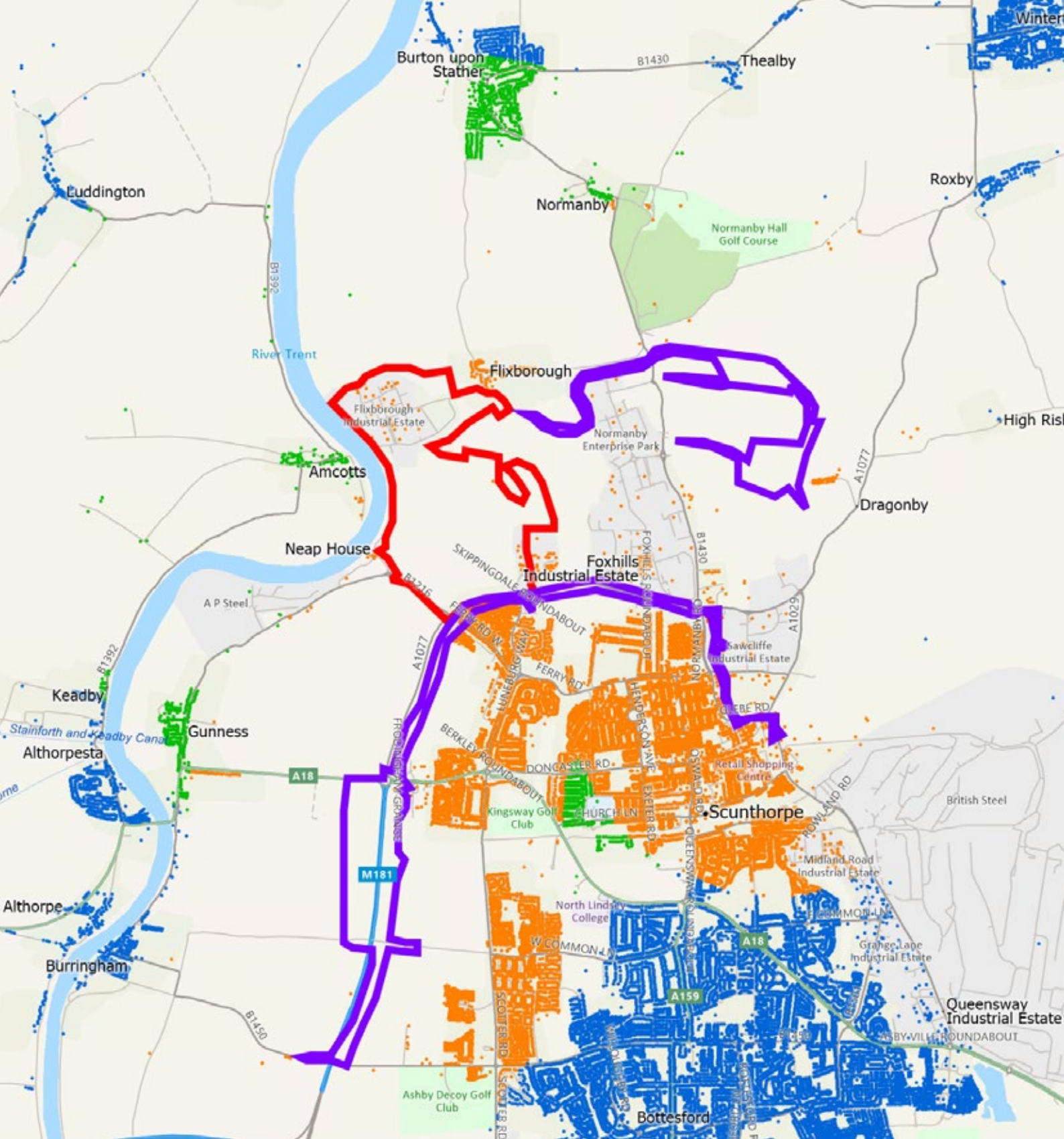


Figure 3: Addresses within consultation zone 1. Addresses within 3km of the site of the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park are shown in green. Addresses in the 1.5km buffer from the railway line and proposed district heating and power network are shown in orange. Properties outside of the zone are shown in blue.

How will we consult?

We will use a range of techniques to consult the community, which will be guided by the zones of consultation. These are designed to allow people with different needs across the community to take part in the consultation in a way that is convenient to them, while complying with Government guidance on COVID 19. These are set out in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Consultation publicity and techniques

How we will publicise the consultation	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
Writing to all addresses within the zone	✓		
Writing to elected representatives, parish councils and community groups within the zone with details of the consultation	✓	✓	
Sharing a poster with consultation details with parish councils and community groups within the zone	✓	✓	
Writing to the Leader and Chief Executive of local authorities within the zone	✓	✓	✓
Publicising the consultation in the Scunthorpe Telegraph	✓	✓	✓
Publicising the consultation via regional and local broadcasters including BBC Radio Lincolnshire	✓	✓	✓
Advertising the consultation online	✓	✓	✓
Publicising the consultation in the Lincolnshire Echo, Yorkshire Post, Hull Daily Mail			✓
How we will consult	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
Sending a copy of the consultation booklet with a consultation questionnaire and a pre-addressed Freepost envelope to addresses in the zone. Where someone in this zone is being consulted under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, they will not also be sent a duplicate booklet under section 47.	✓		
Inviting residents to take part in telephone surgeries	✓	✓	
Providing copies of consultation materials for review at deposit points in the local area if permitted by Government guidance	✓	✓	
Contacting community and voluntary organisations within the zone to offer direct engagement	✓	✓	
Sharing a consultation information pack designed to support stakeholders promoting consultation through their own existing communication channels such as social media feeds with local authorities, parish councils and community groups within the zone	✓	✓	
Publication of consultation information online at www.northlincolnshiregreenenergypark.co.uk	✓	✓	✓
Inviting elected representatives to take part in briefings through a digital meeting	✓	✓	✓
Hosting webinars which will include a presentation regarding the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions	✓	✓	✓
Hosting a virtual exhibition on the consultation website	✓	✓	✓
Inviting enquiries and responses online through the consultation website, by freephone, freepost or email	✓	✓	✓

Changes to consultation arrangements

These consultation techniques have been developed to comply with the current COVID 19 alert level set by the Government. At the time of publication, this is Level 3 – a COVID 19 epidemic is in general circulation.

We recognise that, should social distancing restrictions be lifted in line with the earliest timetable that was set out by the Government on 22 February 2021, it is likely that the alert level will change during the consultation period. However, it is also important to provide certainty to consultees about how they will be consulted.

If the alert level is changed to Level 1 or 2, which would mean the Government considers the threat posed by COVID 19 to have reduced, we will consider holding in-person engagement at physical locations on a voluntary basis. The nature and type of this activity would depend on the degree to which restrictions had been lifted.

The holding of in-person engagement will require time to organise and to get the right agreements. We will therefore assess on 2 July 2021 whether it will be possible to undertake these activities. If the alert level remains as 3 or higher on this date, we do not consider it possible to deliver this additional voluntary activity within the consultation period.

We will publicise changes in consultation arrangements due to COVID 19 by:

- Writing to all addresses and elected representatives within consultation zone 1
- Writing to all elected members at North Lincolnshire Council
- Writing to all parish councils within consultation zone 2
- Publicising the change of arrangements in the Scunthorpe Telegraph, Lincolnshire Echo, Yorkshire Post, Hull Daily Mail, which cover zones 1, 2 and 3
- Publicising the change of arrangements online

Depending on the outcome of the consultation, we may conduct further targeted consultation on a voluntary basis.

Consultation information

We will produce a range of materials providing information as part of the consultation:

- A consultation booklet providing a non-technical overview of the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, and proposed next steps
- A supplementary booklet providing further information on EIA topics
- A virtual exhibition setting out information about the proposals and how to take part in the consultation
- Presentations to be given as part of webinars
- The PEIR, accompanied by a non-technical summary
- A consultation questionnaire designed to collect responses to the consultation

Copies of consultation information will be made available for review free of charge online at www.northlincolnshiregreenenergypark.co.uk and, should it become possible as outlined above, at public deposit points. Hard copies of documents will also be made available on request using the contact details in this booklet.

Collection of responses

To capture feedback, we will produce a consultation questionnaire inviting comments on the different elements of the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park. A copy of the questionnaire will be posted to everyone living in consultation zone 1. It will also be available online through the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park website: www.northlincolnshiregreenenergypark.co.uk and on request.

Consultees will be able to respond during the consultation period by completing a questionnaire online or returning a completed questionnaire using the contact details set out in this document. Pre-addressed Freepost envelopes will also be made available on request.

Seldom heard audiences

It is important to ensure that consultation is inclusive and enables participation from a wide range of audiences, including those who are seldom heard in public consultation such as young people, people who are shielding during the COVID 19 pandemic and those for whom English is not a first language. We will do this by:

- Holding webinars at a variety of times, including evenings and weekends, to enable participation by people with different time commitments and making recordings of webinars available afterwards
- Making provision for people who do not have access to the internet through the consultation programme. This will include sending a copy of the consultation booklet and consultation questionnaire to every address in consultation zone 1, offering one-to-one telephone appointments to people living in consultation zone 1 and making hard copies of consultation materials available on request
- Choosing accessible venues for public information points, if it is safe to deposit hard copy documents
- Producing our consultation materials in accessible formats
- Contacting community and voluntary organisations including parish councils and schools within consultation zone 1 to offer direct engagement and sharing a consultation information pack designed to support them in promoting consultation through their own existing communication channels such as social media feeds
- Providing a variety of communications channels including a Freephone number, email address and Freepost address for those seeking information

Consultation arrangements

How to take part in the consultation

The statutory public consultation on the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park will take place between 14 June 2021 and 25 July 2021.

Consultees can find out more by:

- Contacting us on 0800 130 3353 or info@northlincolnshiregreenenergypark.co.uk
- Viewing a series of webinars we will give about the proposals online. These will offer the opportunity to ask questions about the proposals. These will include webinars at 19:00 on 24 June 2021 and 14:00 on 26 June 2021. We will publish details of how to register for webinars and any additional webinars at www.northlincolnshiregreenenergypark.co.uk
- Viewing a virtual public exhibition on our website, www.northlincolnshiregreenenergypark.co.uk, which will be available to view at any time from the start of consultation on 14 June 2021 to the close of consultation on 25 July 2021
- Booking an appointment to speak with members of the project team about our proposals individually. You can book an appointment using the contact details provided below. When booking appointments, we will ask for specific areas of interest to match the caller with a specialist member of the project team for their appointment
- Reading a booklet summarising our proposals and the supplementary booklet summarising our EIA. We will send a copy of the booklet to all addresses in consultation zone 1. The booklet will also be available from our website, www.northlincolnshiregreenenergypark.co.uk, and on request
- Reviewing the PEIR and other consultation documents by going to our website, www.northlincolnshiregreenenergypark.co.uk. Subject to Government guidance on COVID 19, we also plan to make the consultation documents available to view at following locations in the local area:
 - Fenestra Conference Centre**
24 High St, Flixborough, Scunthorpe DN15 8RL
 - Scunthorpe Central Library**
Carlton Street, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, DN15 6TX
 - Crowle Community Hub**
The Market Hall, Market Place, Crowle, North Lincolnshire, DN17 4LA
 - Winterton Library**
54 West Street, Winterton, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, DN15 9QF

If this is possible, details of how to view documents at these locations will be included in the consultation booklet and at www.northlincolnshiregreenenergy.co.uk. Copies of consultation documents on USBs/CDs will be made available free of charge. Hard copies of consultation documents will also be available on request. A charge of £0.35 per page will be applicable for hard copies of the PEIR and its non-technical summary.



Responding to the consultation

We welcome feedback on our proposals for the North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park. Anyone can share their views by:

- Completing a consultation questionnaire online at www.northlincolnshiregreenenergypark.co.uk
- Returning a questionnaire to North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park Consultation, FREEPOST reference RTRB-LUJJ-AGBY, c/o SEC Newgate UK, Sky Light City Tower, 50 Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 5DE or info@northlincolnshiregreenenergypark.co.uk
- Submitting their comments by email to info@northlincolnshiregreenenergypark.co.uk or in writing to the above Freeport address.

Responses must be received by the consultation deadline of 23:59 on 25 July 2021.

How we will consider the responses

Following the statutory consultation, we will consider all the views that we receive and continue to develop our design for the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park ahead of submitting our DCO application to the Secretary of State. Our DCO application will include a Consultation Report setting out how we have had regard to all responses received.

Any comments received will be collected and processed by North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park Ltd and its appointed agents in accordance with its privacy policy: <https://northlincolnshiregreenenergypark.co.uk/privacy/> and the relevant data protection legislation. However, please be aware that responses will be used in connection with the application and that copies may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, PINS and made public.

PINS 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/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879604/Privacy_Notice_Final_15042020.pdf

Further information

For further information, please contact us by:

- Visiting the proposed North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park website: www.northlincolnshiregreenenergypark.co.uk
- Calling 0800 130 3353 (9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday)
- Emailing info@northlincolnshiregreenenergypark.co.uk
- Writing to North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park Consultation, FREEPOST reference RTRB-LUJJ-AGBY, c/o SEC Newgate UK, Sky Light City Tower, 50 Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 5DE

Registered address: North Lincolnshire
Green Energy Park Limited, Regents Court,
Princess Street, Hull, East Yorkshire,
UK, HU2 8BA. Company number: 10949653.
Directors: Michael Bradley, David Jones.

