Statement of Community Consultation

June 2026

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this document

This document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC'), sets out how EcoPower Suffolk Ltd ("the Applicant"), plans to consult with the local community on its proposals for EcoPower Suffolk Solar (hereinafter referred to as the "Proposed Development").

1.2. Why are we publishing this document?

The Applicant is preparing a Development Consent Order ('DCO') application ("the Application") under the Planning Act 2008 ("the Act") for the Proposed Development which comprises the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a new solar farm with a generating capacity over 100 megawatts ("MW"), battery energy storage system ("BESS") and associated development.

The Proposed Development will be located predominantly on agricultural land in the vicinity of settlements at Yaxley, Brome, Eye, Gislingham, Mellis and Occold in Suffolk, and is within the administrative boundaries of Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council.

The Proposed Development is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). An NSIP is a major development proposal considered by the UK Government to be of such importance that the consent (a 'development consent' granted in the form of a DCO) to build and operate it needs to be confirmed at the national level. For energy NSIPs, the decision on whether to grant consent would be taken by the Secretary of State ('SoS') for Energy Security and Net Zero.

This document explains how the Applicant will consult with the local community, stakeholders, and interested groups during the stage of statutory consultation. Statutory consultation follows early engagement, and stage one consultation that took place between March – April 2025 (please see section 5.2 for further information). The statutory consultation is an opportunity for stakeholders and members of the local community to consider and influence our proposals before we submit the Application. This SoCC outlines how people can learn more about the Proposed Development and engage with the process, provides an overview of what is being proposed and what is being consulted on, and the statutory pre-application consultation process.

This SoCC has been prepared in accordance with section 47 of the Act and Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations'). We have has also referred to applicable Government guidance on pre-application consultation under the Planning Act 2008 and the Planning Inspectorate's Advice note 14 including how to engage with local communities and ensure the consultation process is clear, transparent, and meets statutory obligation.

Statutory consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the methodology and commitments set out in the SoCC as published.

In accordance with section 47(2) to (5) of the Act, in developing the SoCC we will consult with and have regard to comments received from the following section 43(1) local authorities:

- Suffolk County Council
- Mid Suffolk District Council

In accordance with section 47(6) of the Act, we will be publishing a notice providing details of where the SoCC can be inspected. Information on how the consultation will be advertised through local press is detailed within Section 6.7.

The following neighbouring local planning authorities will also receive the SoCC for information purposes.

- Babergh District Council
- Ipswich Borough Council
- South Norfolk District Council
- Breckland District Council
- East Suffolk Council
- West Suffolk Council
- Broads Authority
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Norfolk County Council
- Essex County Council

Although statutory consultation requirements are expected to be removed from the DCO regime following the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 coming into force, no replacement guidance has yet been published. In the absence of such guidance, the Applicant will continue to follow the established statutory approach as a prudent and proportionate measure for engagement.

2. The Planning Process

Section 14 of the Act defines the types of development that constitute an NSIP and require development consent under Section 31. Development consent is granted in the form of a DCO.

2.1. Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

As the Proposed Development is a generating station that will have a capacity exceeding 100MW, it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Act. The consenting regime for NSIPs under the Act therefore requires the Applicant to apply for a DCO, pursuant to section 31 of the Act.

The Applicant intends to submit an application for a DCO for the Proposed Development under Section 37 of the Act. The Application will be submitted to the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate) who will appoint an Examining Authority to examine the Application and make recommendations to the SoS for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) pursuant to the Act. The SoS will subsequently determine whether a DCO should be granted.

Before submitting an application for a DCO, the Act requires applicants to carry out consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land to which the development relates, prescribed consultation bodies, relevant statutory undertakers, and those with an interest in the land that is the subject of the application.

Early involvement of communities, local authorities and other stakeholders helps to ensure that we identify valuable information about the potential effects of the Proposed Development and provides an opportunity for early feedback from stakeholders to shape our proposals.

Consultation also ensures that potential mitigation measures can be considered and, where appropriate, built into proposals before an application for a DCO is submitted.

More information about the DCO process can be found here:
https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8.0.pdf

3. Project Overview

3.1. The Applicant

Econergy is an international independent power producer of renewable energy projects, operating across six different countries in Europe, including the UK. Its aim is to develop, own and operate utility-scale renewable energy projects, driven by deep industry, regulatory and technology expertise at every critical stage from origination to supply. For the purposes of the Proposed Development, an SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle), EcoPower Suffolk Ltd., has been formed and will serve as the Applicant for the DCO submission.

3.2. The Proposed Development

The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a new solar farm with a generating capacity over 100 MW, BESS and associated development including underground cabling and grid connection infrastructure to connect to the new National Grid Substation at Yaxley.

The Proposed Development will include the:

- **Principal Area** which comprises land within five Areas for solar PV panels, BESS and Associated Development, which will form the majority of the Proposed Development; and
- **Cable Corridors** which comprise underground cabling to connect the five Areas within the Principal Area to the grid, along with proposed works to facilitate access.

The Proposed Development has a generating capacity of over 100MW of electricity to the National Electricity Transmission System. The Proposed Development, if consented and developed, would have the capacity to generate energy for approximately 75,000 homes and will make a significant contribution to the country's need for low-carbon energy.

The parameters of the Proposed Development are not yet finalised, and will be refined as the Proposed Development progresses, taking into account environmental and technical factors and consultation responses. At this stage, based on an indicative site layout plan, the Proposed Development would comprise the following key components:

- Solar PV modules;
- Solar PV module mounting structures;
- Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS);
- Inverters;
- Transformers;
- Switchgear;
- Substations;
- On-site cabling;
- Biodiversity and landscaping enhancement, including environmental mitigation;
- Maintenance and welfare facilities;
- Fencing, boundary treatments, security measures and lighting;
- Drainage and utility works; and
- Highway works including temporary and permissive access tracks.

The design of the Proposed Development is being informed by design principles set by the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC):

Climate

- Designed to support the transition to net zero and assist the UK in fulfilling the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan and achieving net zero targets by 2050.

People

- Meaningful engagement with local communities and key stakeholders to understand how best to protect and enhance their environment and the local area.

Environment

- Manage, protect and, where practicable, enhance the local environment and design the Proposed Development with consideration to the local community, cultural heritage, supporting local wildlife and delivering a biodiversity net gain, in line with requirements of the Environment Act 2021 and local planning policy.

Value

- A good design should achieve multiple benefits. Effective consultation should identify opportunities to secure economic, environmental and social benefits.

3.3. Proposed Development site

The site for the Proposed Development, as shown on Figure 1 below, is within the administrative boundaries of Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council.

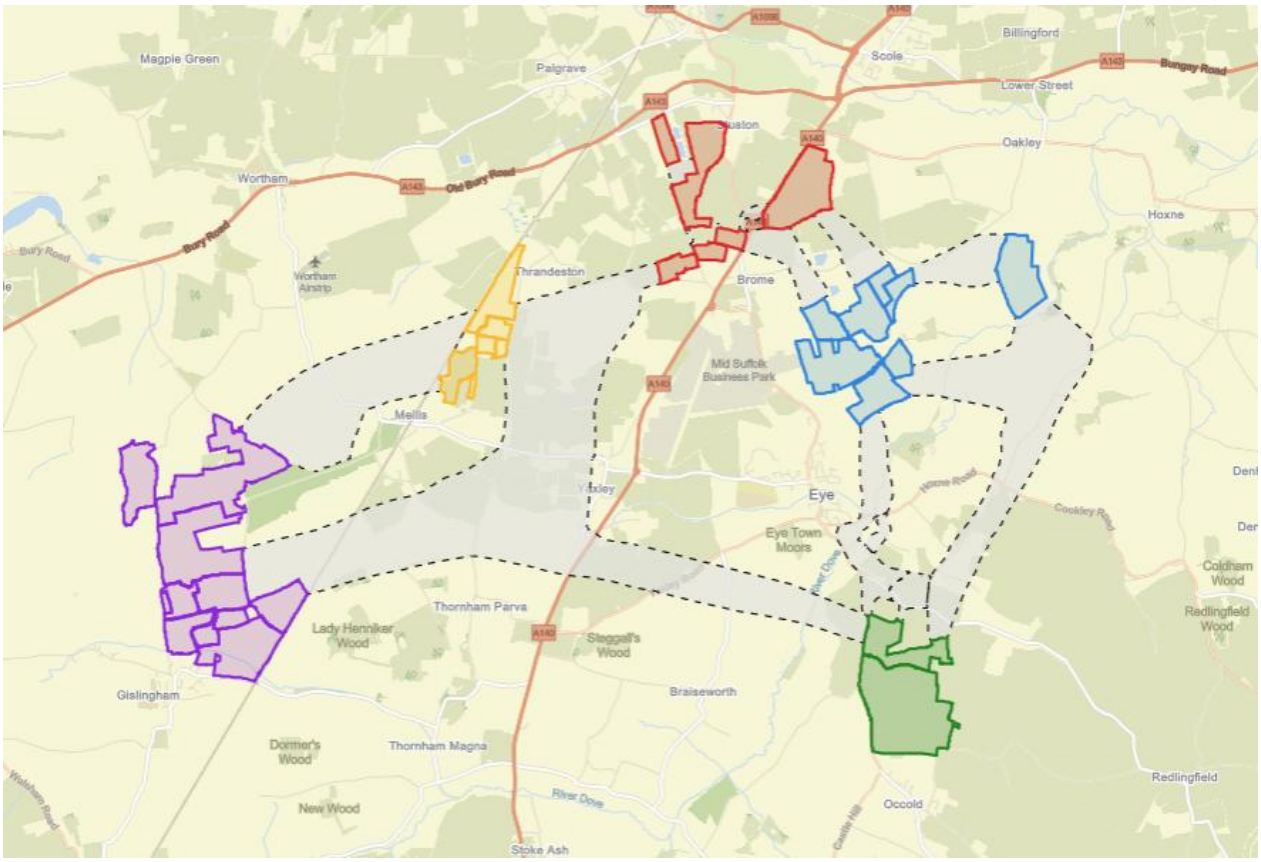


Figure 1: Stage one consultation Proposed Development site

Since Stage One (Non-Statutory) Consultation, additional land has been included within the Principal Area of the Proposed Development. This was in response to consultation feedback, where potentially suitable and available land was suggested. The inclusion of this land has provided the Applicant greater design flexibility. For example, the Applicant has more land to use for environmental mitigation such as visual screening and the ability to increase the buffer distances from potentially sensitive receptors. The intention of including the additional land is to minimise the potential impacts of the Proposed Development. The Principal Area of the Proposed Development now comprises approximately 900 hectares.

The Principal Area comprises the following five discrete land parcel areas ('Areas') proposed for the installation of solar PV panels, ecological mitigation or BESS:

- Area 1: Land south of Stuston (Area 1 Stuston);
- Area 2: Land north of Eye (Area 2 Eye);
- Area 3: Land north of Gislingham (Area 3 Gislingham);
- Area 4: Land north of Occold (Area 4 Occold); and
- Area 5: Land south of Thrandeston and north of Mellis (Area 5 Thrandeston and Mellis).

These five Areas will be connected by underground cabling, currently shown within 'Cable Corridors'. A new high voltage electrical grid connection will also be required to connect the Principal Area via underground cabling to the new National Grid Substation being constructed at Yaxley (the 'National Grid Substation'). This will allow the Proposed Development to export electricity to the transmission network.

The updated site for Proposed Development can be found in Figure 2 below:

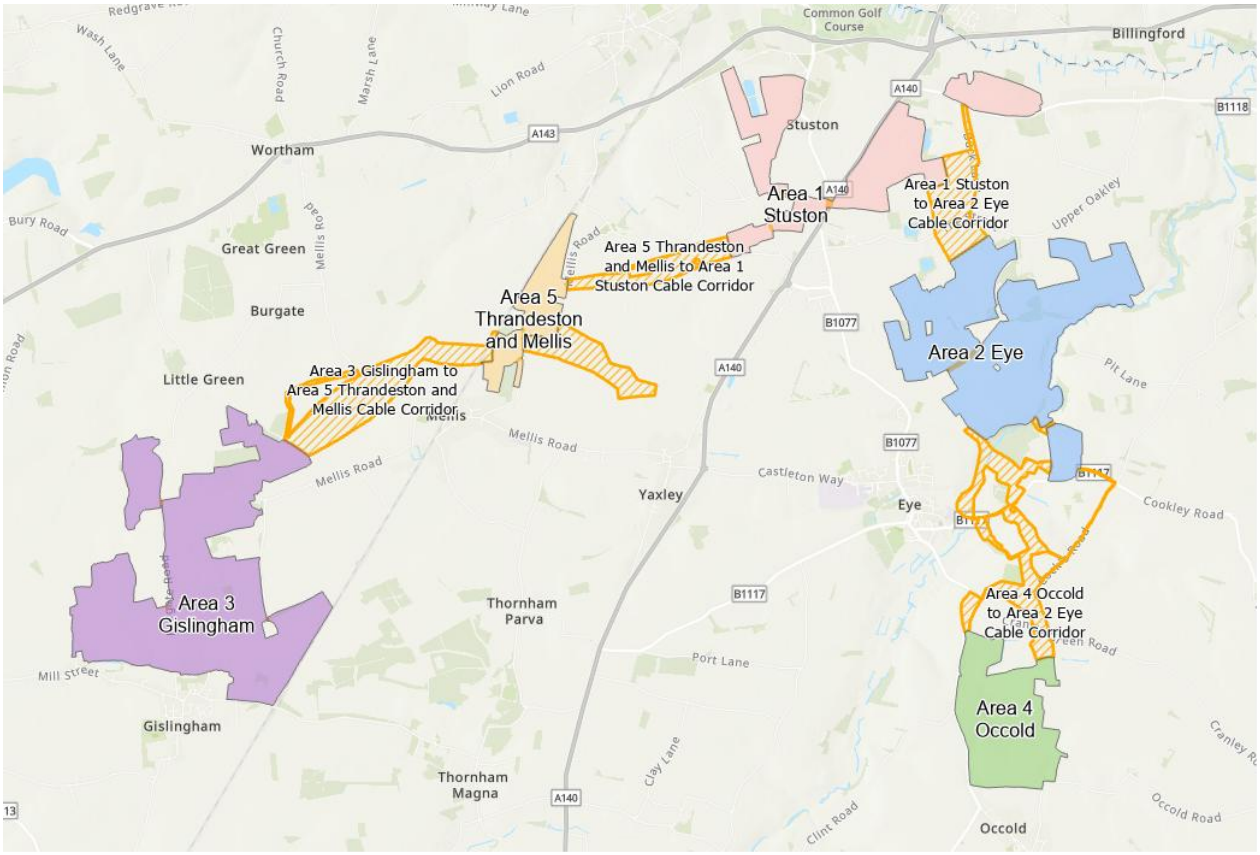


Figure 2: Stage two consultation Proposed Development site

3.4. Environmental Impact Assessment

The Proposed Development is a 'Schedule 2 development' under paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations 2017, meaning that an EIA is required only if it is considered likely to have significant effects on the environment due to its nature, size or location. As there is potential for the Proposed Development to have significant effects on the environment, an EIA is required. This means the Applicant must assess the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development and, where appropriate, implement mitigation measures that will prevent or reduce any significant adverse effects.

As part of the EIA process, the Applicant submitted an EIA Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') on 23 January 2026. The EIA Scoping Report provided a description of the Proposed Development

and set out the proposed scope of the environmental assessments to be undertaken to inform an understanding of any likely significant effects of our proposals. An EIA Scoping Opinion was issued by PINS on 4 March 2026 and includes feedback from Local Planning Authorities and statutory consultees. The Scoping Opinion identifies the environmental issues and topics relevant to the Proposed Development, and which should be assessed as part of the EIA. The Scoping Opinion is available to view on the PINS website at: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0110019/documents

Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) will be prepared and publicised as part of the statutory consultation in accordance with Section 42 of the Act. The PEI will be available to view on the Proposed Development website and at in-person events during the statutory consultation period.

The PEI will be informed by the initial information compiled as part of the Scoping Report, Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate, ongoing baseline surveys and feedback received through engagement with stakeholders. The PEI will provide a description of the Proposed Development and options being considered, along with preliminary information on the potential environmental effects, leaflets or posters with topic-specific information and drafts of the outline management plans intended for submission with the Application. The PEI will be prepared in an accessible, visual format and provide details of what is being proposed to avoid, reduce and manage potential environmental effects, to help facilitate a useful and meaningful consultation process.

We will be inviting feedback and comments on the information presented in the PEI as part of the statutory consultation. Feedback received will be considered before the DCO Application and EIA are finalised for submission.

4. Consultation and Engagement Approach

In line with the requirements set out in the Act, along with the guidance in the Planning Inspectorate's 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects'[1], the Applicant will be carrying out meaningful, statutory pre-application consultation and engagement with the local community in the vicinity of the Proposed Development as well as with statutory consultees, landowners, businesses, parish councils, elected representatives, and wider stakeholders where appropriate.

As aligned with our design principles, we will where possible, work with local communities to understand how best to protect and enhance their environment and the local area. The Applicant acknowledges that consultation is an important factor in the development of the Proposed Development and values the local knowledge provided in consultation responses. Throughout the pre-application process, the Applicant will seek to address feedback as part of design development, where appropriate.

4.1. Consultation objectives

The programme of consultation and engagement has four core objectives:

- ensure that everyone who has an interest in the Proposed Development is made aware of the stages of the consenting process and provided with information explaining how they can participate in that process;
- to gain insight through listening to the views of local communities and other stakeholders about the updated project proposals, whilst still at an early stage;

[1] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects

- to identify potential impacts of the project and take stakeholder and community input into account in developing potential mitigation strategies; and
- to provide robust evidence base for the DCO application, enabling us to demonstrate how community and stakeholder feedback has influenced our considerations where possible.

4.2. Consultation approach

The Applicant wants to ensure that the Proposed Development is listening and learning from the people who live in the area as well as wider stakeholders.

The Applicant is committed to engaging and consulting with communities and stakeholders at an early stage of the development process, giving people the opportunity to provide feedback and insight at a formative stage, ahead of more detailed design work being carried out. This commitment includes providing accessible information on the project to help inform engagement and gain feedback from stakeholders.

In order to maximise the opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to participate in the programme of consultation and engagement, and to increase the opportunity for local views to influence considerations, the Applicant has committed to undertake a multi-phase programme, with non-statutory and statutory consultations.

5. Stage One (Non-Statutory) Consultation

5.1. Early engagement

In February – April 2025, the Applicant undertook a programme of initial engagement and consultation to help raise local awareness of the early-stage proposals.

The stage one (non-statutory) consultation aimed to:

- introduce the Proposed Development to the local community and stakeholders;
- begin early engagement with the community and statutory consultees to incorporate technical advice and local knowledge into the Proposed Development;
- brief local elected representatives and secure their support for the engagement approach;
- understand initial views and allow stakeholders to shape the Proposed Development through the design process; and
- provide an early indication of the Applicant's approach to consultation and the aspects of the Proposed Development for which feedback was sought.

The stage one consultation included:

- A Consultation Newsletter – delivered to 10,349 addresses in the launch Primary Consultation Zone, (see Appendix 1) informing local residents of the Proposed Development and how they could get involved in the upcoming consultation.
- Launch of a Proposed Development website – including messaging and information about the Proposed Development and upcoming engagement activities. The website also contains contact details for people to get in touch with the project team, which can be found here: https://ecopowersuffolk.com/
- Project briefings were offered to Adrian Ramsay MP (Waveney Valley), including follow up offers.
- Member briefings were offered and delivered to Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council.

- Briefings were also offered to local Parish and Town Councils, Councillors and MPs. A full record of the briefings delivered as part of our (Stage One) Non-Statutory Consultation is in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary of stage one consultation events

Stakeholder category	Briefing attendees	Date	Time	Format
Local Authority	Mid Suffolk District Council Members' briefing	5 February 2025	16:00 – 17:00	Online
Local Authority	Suffolk County Council Members' briefing	18 February 2025	11:00 – 12:00	Online
Parish Council	Thrandeston Parish Council	25 February 2025	7:30	In-person
Parish Council	Yaxley Parish Council	26 February 2025	7:30	In-Person
Local Authority	Councillor Andrew Mellen	27 February 2025	15:15 – 16:00	Online
Key Stakeholder	Anglian Water	2 April 2025	15:00 – 16:00	Online
Parish Council	Mellis Parish Council	14 April 2025	17:00	In-person
Parish Council	Brome & Oakley Parish Council	14 April 2025	19:30	In-person
Parish Council	Eye Town Council	25 April 2025	14:00 – 15:00	Online

5.2. Stage one consultation

The stage one consultation took place between 10 March 2025 and 22 April 2025. The primary aim of our stage one consultation was to introduce the early-stage proposals and provide stakeholders and members of the local community with the opportunity to submit their initial feedback.

The stage one consultation included three in-person events and one webinar, where project specialists from the planning, environmental, communications, and engineering teams were available to answer detailed questions as they arose. A summary of events can be seen in Table 2 and an overview of the consultation feedback received can be found in Table 3.

Table 2: Summary of stage one consultation events

Date	Time	Location	Attendance
14 March 2025	15:00 – 19:00	Brome & Oakley Village Hall	158
15 March 2025	11:00 – 15:00	Gislingham Village Hall	134
17 March 2025	18:00 – 19:00	Webinar – held online on Livestorm	27
20 March 2025	15:00 – 19:00	Occold Village Hall	112
Total			431

Table 3: Overview of feedback received

Feedback Type	Breakdown	Amount Received
Feedback Form	Digital	141
	Hard Copy (Freepost; events; scanned and submitted via email)	41
Communications Lines	Project inbox (Emails)	49
	Letters (Freepost address; events)	7
Total		238

Feedback received from local authorities, technical stakeholders, interest groups and members of the local community has helped us to refine our early stage proposals. An updated Proposed Development design will be presented to stakeholders as part of our statutory consultation.

6. Community Liaison Group

Following our Stage One consultation, the Applicant formed a Community Liaison Group (CLG). This was formed considering consultation feedback and conversations with 'host' stakeholders at our consultation events and community briefings that made it clear there was an appetite amongst the most impacted stakeholders for a regular meeting with the Applicant. EcoPower Suffolk invited host Parish, Town, District, County Councillors, MP and local residents' groups most impacted by the Proposed Development to the group.

The overarching role of the CLG is to encourage communication and collaboration between EcoPower Suffolk and local stakeholders. The CLG would help to ensure that the project team understand the views of the community and would provide an opportunity for the local community to share their insights and to be provided with timely updates about the Proposed Development.

The first meeting was held on 30 July 2025, with a second meeting on 27 November 2025, and a third meeting on 12 March 2026 focusing on the EIA and Scoping Report. The intention is then to hold meetings every 2 months in 2026 as we head closer to towards the Stage two statutory consultation. However, regularity of meetings may be subject to change.

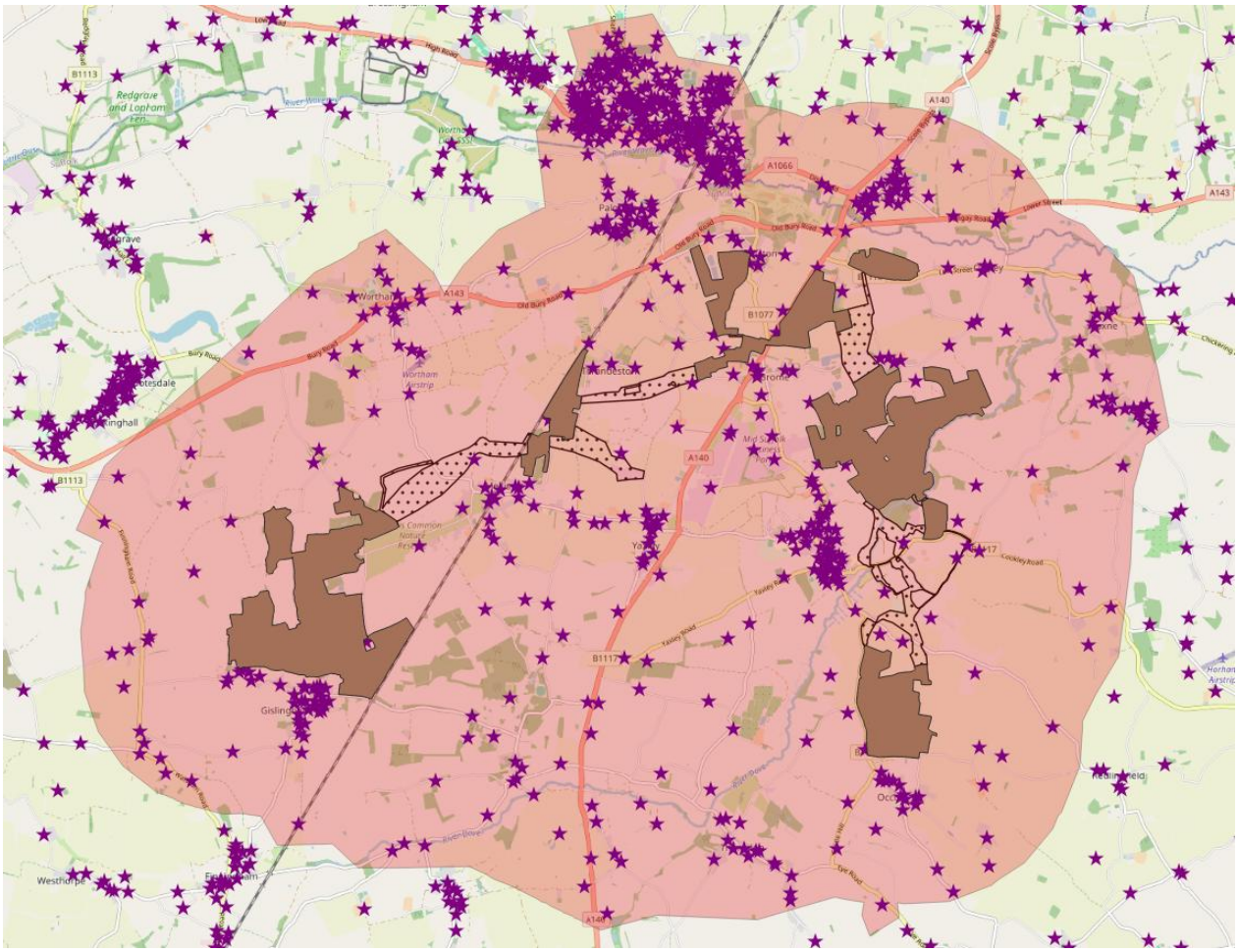
7. Stage Two (Statutory) Consultation

7.1. The Primary Consultation Zone

To help facilitate and guide the engagement with the local community, a Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) has been established which comprises the homes and businesses surrounding the Proposed Development. The PCZ was in place for the stage one consultation. The PCZ can be seen in Figure 3, with the Proposed Development presented in brown, the cable corridor in the black dotted pattern and the PCZ in red. This is consistent with the PCZ used during stage one consultation.

In advance of any mailings to the PCZ, elected members of Parish, District, County and Local MP's offices will be notified and sent any mail pieces electronically. This is to ensure stakeholders are kept up to date on the progress of the Proposed Development and know in advance materials entering the public domain.

Figure 3: Map of the Primary Consultation Zone



The PCZ:

- extends to approximately 2km from the indicative Proposed Development boundary;
- incorporates the core settlements of Eye, Thrandeston, Mellis, Yaxley, Brome & Oakley, Occold, Gislingham and Mellis;
- follows existing landmarks and roads, thereby avoiding intersecting residential streets, or established communities; and
- includes residents and businesses along the A140 and the A143 who may be impacted by transportation of abnormal loads during construction.

The PCZ was developed to be proportionate to the size and potential impact of the Proposed Development.

All homes and businesses within the PCZ will be sent a notice of the consultation via Royal Mail delivery service at the start of the statutory consultation period.

We recognise that people who live and work beyond the PCZ may have an interest in our proposals and may wish to participate in the statutory consultation. We are committed to making sure individuals, communities, and organisations can participate in the consultation and will raise awareness using several methods such as advertising and engagement with Parish and Town Councils. See Section 6.7 – Promoting the consultation – for further details.

7.2. Consultation timings

Our statutory consultation is scheduled to take place for eight weeks, opening in June 2026. This is an eight-week period, in excess of the statutory minimum period of 28 days required by the Act.

Held in accordance with sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act, this consultation provides an opportunity for the Applicant to present proposals for EcoPower Suffolk for a formal response. More details on what we will be consulting on and how we propose to consult are included below.

7.3. What are we consulting on?

The Applicant will be seeking feedback on the Proposed Development. This will involve inviting comments on topics including, but not limited to:

- The overall Proposed Development;
- The updated plans for the development areas, including the indicative location of equipment and infrastructure within each;
- Suggestions on how EcoPower Suffolk can benefit the local community;
- Surveys and studies we have carried out of the existing conditions within and around the development areas;
- A non-technical summary of the initial assessments of the Proposed Development;
- Measures we are proposing to avoid, manage and reduce the impacts associated with the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Proposed Development; and
- Proposed areas for environmental enhancement.

The primary aim of this (Stage Two) statutory consultation is to ensure that that the community, landowners, stakeholders, and technical consultees have a formal opportunity to understand and feed into our proposals before we submit the Application.

7.4. Who are we consulting?

Anyone who is interested in the proposals is welcome to take part. The Applicant welcomes all views and will have regard to them before the Application is submitted.

Under section 47 of the Act, the Applicant has a duty to consult people living in the vicinity of the land that is the subject of the Application. In consultation with host local authorities, the PCZ was developed, as shown in Figure 3.

In addition to the PCZ mailing, the Applicant will consult the following groups:

- host local authorities, including members;
- neighbouring local authorities;
- host and neighbouring parish councils;
- statutory consultees as defined by the Act;
- host and neighbouring members of Parliament;
- landowners with interest in the Proposed Development;
- as outlined in Appendix 2, the following groups:
  - residents and businesses;
  - community groups;
  - environmental groups in the vicinity of the Proposed Development;
  - schools and colleges within the vicinity of the Proposed Development;
  - seldom heard groups; and
  - non-statutory consultees.

7.5. How are we consulting?

During statutory consultation, we will use a range of methods to ensure that the consultation is inclusive and accessible for a broad range of stakeholder audiences.

We will upload an online information presentation to the Proposed Development website during the consultation period to provide an overview of our proposals and where to find out more information.

In line with our hybrid approach, non-digital methods will be used alongside the digital medium to provide alternative means for consultees to engage with the Proposed Development. In-person consultation events are also planned to be held within the vicinity of the Proposed Development during statutory consultation.

The following documents will be made available as part of the consultation:

Table 4: List of statutory consultation documents

Document	Detail
Consultation letter	A consultation letter providing a high-level overview of the Proposed Development, of the consultation events and how people can get involved. The letter indicates where the relevant project information can be found and publicises the consultation events, including locations, dates, and times. This will be sent to all homes and businesses within the PCZ and will be available on the consultation website, and on request by post.
Consultation Information Booklet	The Consultation Information Booklet will include the following information: • summary of the proposals we are consulting on; • details of how people can take part in the consultation; • information on the potential benefits and impacts of the Proposed Development; • how we propose to mitigate any potential impacts; and • the timeline for the Proposed Development (planning, construction, operation and decommissioning). Paper copies of the Consultation Information Booklet will be available at our consultation events, information points, and on request by post.
Feedback Form	A Feedback Form will be prepared to allow people to provide feedback on the proposals. This will include an 'open box' question should consultees wish to provide any other feedback after responding to the questions in the form. The questionnaire can be completed online or downloaded in a printable format, if required, and sent into the consultation via Freepost. Paper copies of the Feedback Form will be available at consultation events, information points, and on request by post.
Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI)	The PEI will provide a description of the Proposed Development and options being considered, along with preliminary information on the potential environmental, leaflets or posters with topic-specific information and drafts of the outline management plans intended for submission with the Application. The PEI will be prepared in an

	accessible, visual format and provide details of what is being proposed to avoid, reduce and manage potential environmental effects, to help facilitate a useful and meaningful consultation process. The assessments will be refined following statutory consultation to reflect the description of the Proposed Development and reported within the Environmental Statement to be submitted with the Application, The PEI will summarise the preliminary assessments and proposed mitigation measures in a non-technical manner. The PEI will be available to download from the Proposed Development website, with a paper copy available at consultation events.
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	The SoCC document will be made available online as part of the consultation, and in paper format at our consultation events and the information points.

At the start of the consultation period, copies of consultation information booklets and feedback forms will be deposited in local information points located in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. This SoCC will be available in printed format for inspection at local information points.

The consultation materials are available in hard copy for individuals at no extra charge (except the PEI – hard copies of which can be requested for a charge of £0.35 per page to cover printing and posting costs). If you require this information in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print or alternative languages, please contact us using the details in this SoCC.

7.6. How the public will be able to participate and respond

The public will be able to participate in, and respond to, the consultation through:

- Three community drop-in events hosted in an exhibition format at locations across the consultation zone;
- Three online information presentations, to learn about the Proposed Development and consultation materials;
- a dedicated consultation website;
- an interactive Proposed Development map, which is a digital map hosted on the website for users to engage with elements of the Proposed Development by zooming, dragging and clicking to reveal more information;
- information points at community venues to host copies of consultation materials and signposting to feedback mechanisms; and
- a project contact centre, including a dedicated email address, phone number and Freepost.

7.7. Promoting the consultation

The Applicant will use a variety of methods to make people aware of the Proposed Development and advertise the consultation.

Table 5: Overview of promotional activity

Method	Detail
Consultation newsletter	All residents, local businesses, and communities within the PCZ will be notified of the start of statutory consultation through a consultation letter. The letter will also be issued by email to wider consultees, including community groups and seldom heard groups (see Appendix 2).

Emails	Emails will be sent to stakeholders informing them of the statutory consultation, upcoming events, how to request further information, and how to provide feedback. This will allow stakeholders to engage with the consultation and to share the consultation information among their networks, such as with local constituents or group members.
Proposed Development website	The Proposed Development website will be updated on the launch of the statutory consultation. This update will include details of consultation events, consultation materials, and information on how to feed back on the Proposed Development proposals. This will allow stakeholders to engage fully with the consultation, either in-person or online.
Statutory notices	Statutory notices to publicise the consultation and the SoCC will be published in local and national news publications.
Information point	Hard copies of the consultation materials will be available to takeaway or view for reference in local information points, as outlined in Section 7.5.
Site notices	Notices will be placed in publicly accessible locations within the Proposed Development site to notify of the consultation.
In-person consultation events and online information presentation	We are holding three in-person for anyone with an interest in the Proposed Development to attend, learn about our proposals and provide their initial feedback. In-person events are being held at venues within the PCZ and publicised alongside online events in site and press notices. We will also host three online information presentations about the Proposed Development during the consultation period to provide an overview of our proposals.
Stakeholder briefings & previews	Briefings with key political stakeholders will be arranged prior to public consultation events to provide an opportunity for early feedback and input. Briefings will be conducted either in-person or remotely online. The briefings will be offered to key affected stakeholders including Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, the host Members of the UK Parliament, host ward councillors, portfolio holders and host parish councils.

7.7.1. Community consultation events

We will hold three in-person public consultation events in the local area, providing consultees with an opportunity to meet the team, learn more about the proposals and ask any questions they may have. Key information about the Proposed Development will be provided on large consultation boards and members of the project team will be on hand to discuss the Proposed Development and answer questions.

We will also upload an online information presentation to the Proposed Development website during the consultation period to provide an overview of our proposals and where to find out more information.

To ensure a balanced split of locations, three events are planned to be held over weekdays and a weekend.

All venues are subject to change pending their availability, as well as the completion of risk assessments to determine their suitability for a consultation event.

7.7.2. Proposed Development contact channels

In addition to the methods described above, people will be able to find out about the consultation, ask questions and request documents through the Freephone number and email address which have remained

the same from the stage one consultation. People will also be able to submit feedback to the project email address and Freepost address.

Contact channels for the project are as follows:

- Calling 0800 0129 156 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday);
- Emailing contact@ecopowersuffolk.com; and
- Writing to the project team at Freepost ECOPOWER SUFFOLK (no stamp required).

7.8. Wider engagement

Ongoing engagement will be undertaken ahead of the launch of the consultation with relevant stakeholders including local authorities, MPs and technical stakeholders, along with local interest groups, residents, and landowners.

All relevant local and parish councils, elected members for the county, and MPs will be contacted at the launch of the consultation and will be kept informed about the proposals. They will also be encouraged to share information about the consultation with members of their constituencies or local communities.

7.9. Seldom heard groups

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. Seldom heard groups are defined as being inaccessible to most traditional and conventional methods of consultation. To ensure that seldom heard groups are encouraged to get involved in the consultation, the materials will be prepared to be accessible and clear.

Examples of seldom heard groups include:

- elderly people;
- young people;
- working people with limited time;
- people with visual impairments;
- people with hearing impairments;
- people with limited mobility;
- those with English as a second language;
- gypsy and traveller communities; and
- geographically isolated individuals or communities.

We will seek to engage with seldom heard groups by:

- holding events at a variety of times, including evenings and a weekend, to enable participation from people with different time commitments;
- making provision for people who do not have access to the internet or are isolated by sending a letter to every address in the PCZ and making key materials such as the consultation information booklet and feedback form available at information points;
- choosing accessible venues for public information points and in-person events. Where possible, side rooms at venues will be utilised to allow communication in a quiet environment;
- providing materials in alternative formats such as Braille on request;
- providing translated materials on request;
- communication with the Suffolk and Norfolk GTR liaison officer;
- responses in other languages or by alternative means will be accepted, and translation or other provisions employed to capture the feedback;

- contacting local community and voluntary organisations including parish councils and schools with Proposed Development information and encouraging them to promote the consultation through their own existing communication channels; and
- providing a variety of communication channels including a Freephone number, email address and Freepost address for those seeking information.

7.10. How to respond to the consultation

Consultation responses can be submitted in the following ways:

- online – by completing the online feedback questionnaire, which can be accessed via the project website: https://ecopowersuffolk.com/;
- at an in-person consultation event – attendees at consultation events will be able to complete a paper copy of a feedback form, which can be filled in and handed to a member of the project team or posted back to us via Freepost;
- at an information point – hard copies of the feedback form will be available at the information points; and
- via a request at the community contact centre – requests for paper copies of the feedback form can be made via the community contact centre channels listed below.

    - Calling 0800 0129 156 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
    - Emailing contact@ecopowersuffolk.com
    - Writing to the project team at Freepost ECOPOWER SUFFOLK (no stamp required)

- Submitting comments via email – Anyone can share their views by submitting their comments via email to or in writing to the Freepost address during the consultation dates.

7.11. How we will record feedback and respond to it

The Applicant will have regard to all feedback received during the consultation period. All feedback will be processed into a secure database, read and then analysed. Thematically similar comments will be identified and grouped together into 'issues'. All comments per issue will then be summarised and considered by the Applicant. The team will consider this as part of the ongoing design process and assess how potential impacts of the Proposed Development could be managed and mitigated, while taking onboard suggestions where appropriate.

A Consultation Report will be produced as part of our application. This document will set out how the Applicant has had regard to the feedback from the consultation, including where it has shaped and influenced the proposals. Responses submitted during the statutory consultation will be summarised and themes will be responded to within the Consultation Report and included within the document. All personal details will be redacted. We will take reasonable care to comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Policy.

8. Further Consultation

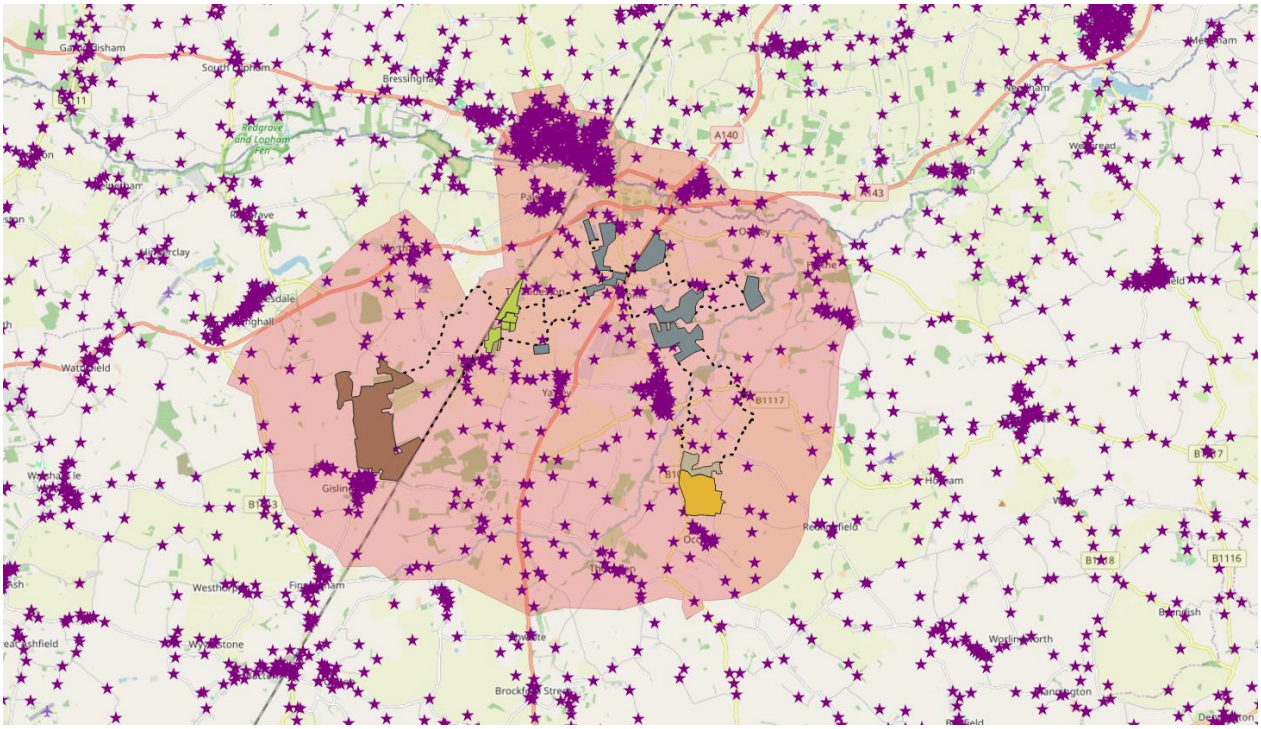
If, following the statutory consultation, we consider it is necessary to undertake further targeted or supplementary consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.

Appendices

1. Primary Consultation Zone for stage one consultation

Key

- Yellow, Brown, Lime Green, Green and Blue shaded areas – Project sites
- Black dashed areas – Cable Corridor
- Purple stars – Properties in the area with a postal address
- Shaded red overlay – Primary Consultation Zone



2. Community stakeholders

Below is an indicative list of community groups that will be notified directly about the consultation processes. Please note this is not an exhaustive list.

Stakeholder
Say no to Sunnica
Green Suffolk
Greener Peasenhall and Sibton
Bungay and Valley Golf Club
RSPCA Suffolk Central
Suffolk Agricultural Association
Suffolk Ramblers
Suffolk Wildlife Trust
Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth
Greenpeace Suffolk
Suffolk Preservation Society

Community Action Suffolk
Emmaus Suffolk
4YP (For young people)
Communities Together East Anglia
Community Energy South
Greener Ipswich
Sizewell C Community Fund
Suffolk Community Foundation
Ipswich Friend's of the Earth
St Nicholas Church , Oakley
South Hartismere Benefice
St Mary's Church , Brome
West Suffolk Vineyard Church
St Mary's Church , Bedingfield
Thrabdeston Church, St Margaret of Antioch
Gislingham CE Primary
Hartismere School
Thorndon Primary School
St Peter and St Paul Primary
St Botolph's Primary School
Wortham Primary School
Palgrave CE Primary School
Wetheringsett CE Primary School
Occold Primary School
Mellis CE Primary School
St Edmund's Primary School and Nursery , Hoxne
Gislingham Playgroup and Pre School
The Woodman
Brome and Oakley Village Hall
Climatech
CN Plumbing and Heating
Carbon storage limited
Cranswick Country Foods
Be Well Barn
Greenlight Environment Consultancy
Dove Trees and Gardens
Thrandeston Village Hall and History Group
Little Green Wedding Barn
Yaxley Allotments
The Pennings Nature Reserve
Oak Lodge Retreat
Parke's Farm
Eye Castle
Swattesfield Campsite
Gislingham Village Hall

GLH Equestrian