

# Springwell Solar Farm

Statement of Community Consultation  
Phase Two Consultation



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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. Climate change is a challenge we must all play our part in addressing – from the small changes we need to make in our everyday lives to the transformational changes we need to make across our whole economy, including how we power our homes, businesses, and transport systems.
- 1.1.2. Over the next decade, the fossil fuels that once powered our economy need to be replaced with sources of low-carbon electricity. Solar is an important part of the way we can meet this challenge – it is affordable, reliable and can be built quickly.
- 1.1.3. Springwell Solar Farm ('Springwell') is a proposed new solar farm with battery storage located in North Kesteven. Backed by EDF Renewables and Luminous Energy, Springwell would make an important contribution to our future energy network by producing enough clean, secure and affordable energy to power over 180,000 homes every year\*.
- 1.1.4. Springwell is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') under the Planning Act 2008 because the amount of electricity it would generate is over 50 megawatts ('MW'). This means that a type of planning consent called a Development Consent Order ('DCO') is needed to build and operate it.
- 1.1.5. Unlike planning applications which are determined by local planning authorities, NSIP applications are submitted to and determined by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zeros.
- 1.1.6. Applying for a DCO is a fixed, legal process, which is illustrated in Figure 1. A key part of this process is the requirement for consultation with the local community and other stakeholders, including statutory consultees, before the DCO application is submitted. This is known as a 'statutory consultation.'
- 1.1.7. We held an initial stage of consultation (called a 'non-statutory consultation') between January and March 2023 on our early plans for Springwell. This was to introduce our early proposals for Springwell and gain feedback on them while they were still being developed.
- 1.1.8. The feedback we received from the community at this first stage, as well as the environmental surveys carried out since, have helped us to develop our plans to the extent that we are now ready to carry out our statutory consultation.
- 1.1.9. The feedback we receive at this stage will help inform our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm before we submit our DCO application.
- 1.1.10. Before we carry out this consultation, we must publish a statement of how we will consult with the local community – known as a Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC'). This SoCC has been prepared and publicised in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, Regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and relevant guidance from the Planning Inspectorate (Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process).

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\* Based upon the average domestic electricity consumption per home (temperature corrected) per the Energy Consumption in the UK (published September 2021, Table C9 of ECUK: Consumption data tables)

- 1.1.11. It also reflects feedback we have received from the host local authorities for Springwell – North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council – which we have consulted in the preparation of this document.
- 1.1.12. As part of our DCO application we will submit a Consultation Report, detailing how we have consulted, the feedback that we received during our statutory consultation and how we have had regard to it. When considering our DCO application, the Secretary of State must consider whether the consultation that we have undertaken has been adequate.
- 1.1.13. This SoCC sets out how we will consult with the local community. It includes:
- A brief summary of the Springwell Solar Farm proposal
  - When consultation will be carried out
  - Who will be consulted
  - Where people can find out more about Springwell Solar Farm
  - How we will consult (including on Preliminary Environmental Information)
  - How feedback will be collected and used to inform our proposals

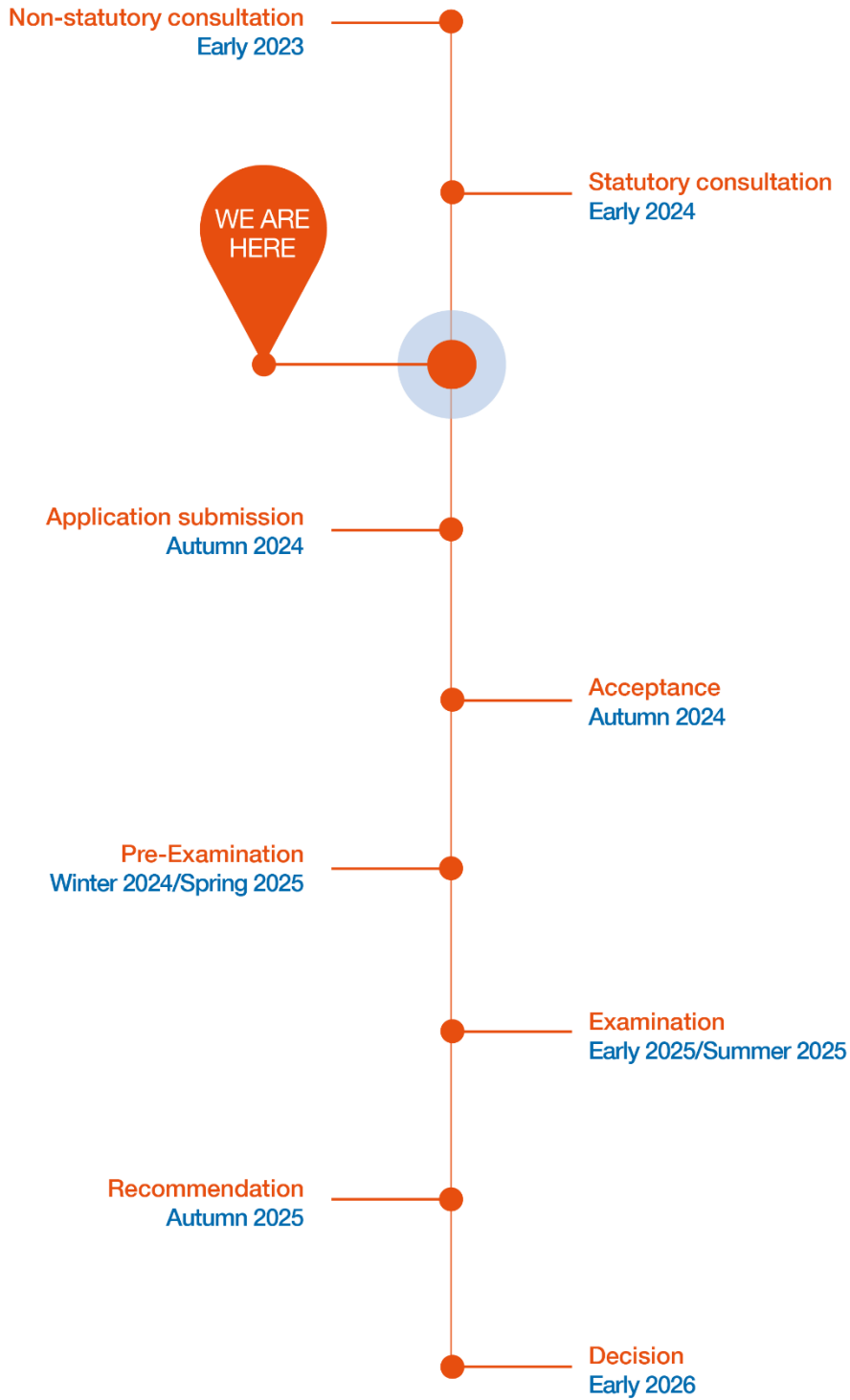
## 1.2. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 1.2.1. Springwell Solar Farm is classed as an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') development requiring an assessment of its likely significant effects on the environment under The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Where appropriate, we will also describe mitigation that is proposed to avoid, reduce, or mitigate any significant adverse effects. We will report on this process in a document called an Environmental Statement ('ES') when we submit our DCO application.
- 1.2.2. At the statutory consultation, we will be sharing the initial results of our ongoing environmental assessments as well as preliminary information on mitigation measures that we may need to introduce to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any likely significant adverse effects. We will do so in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') document.

## 1.3. More information

- 1.3.1. You can find more information about the Planning Act 2008, the Planning Inspectorate and its role, as well as how to participate in the DCO process on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>, or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000.

Figure 1: Planning process for NSIPs and indicative timescales for Springwell



## 2. Springwell Solar Farm

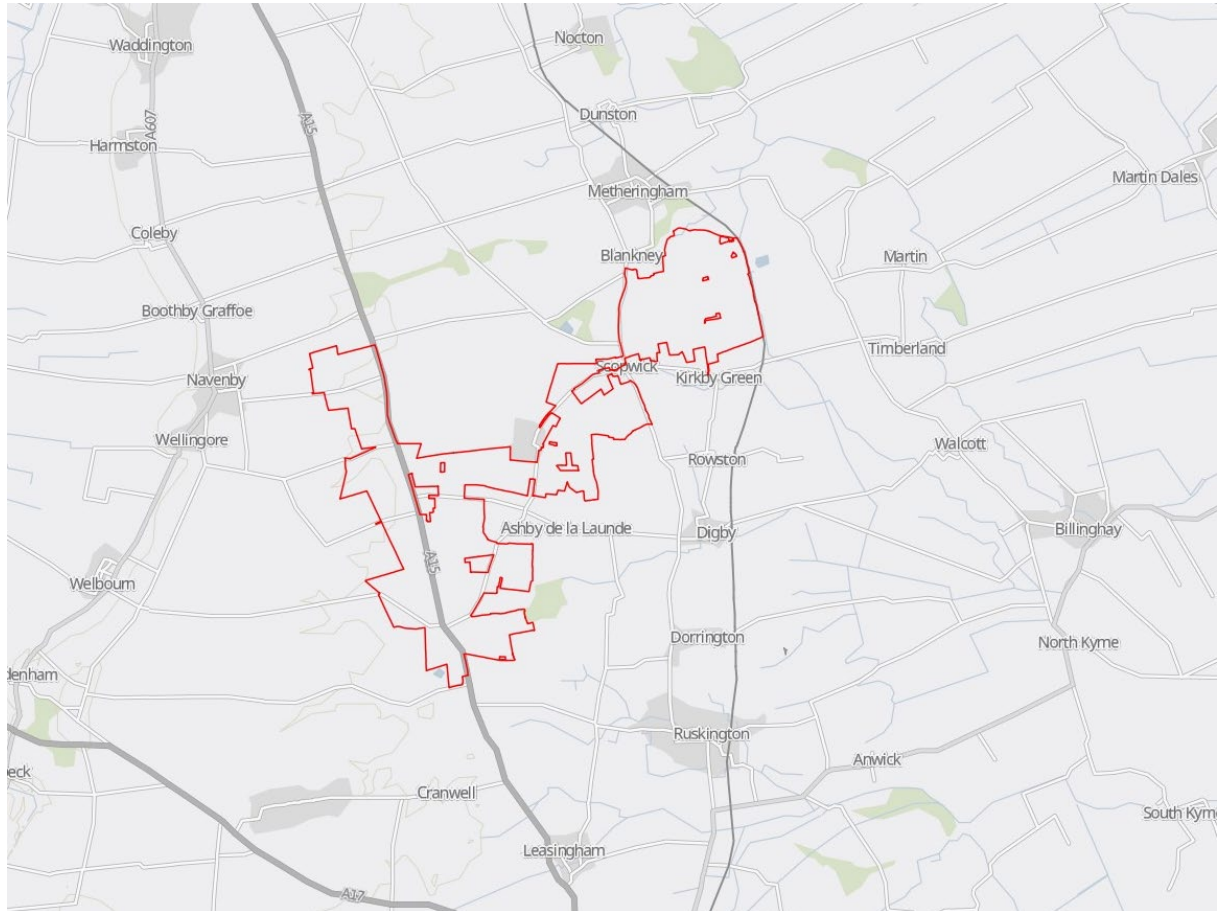
### 2.1. About Springwell Solar Farm

- 2.1.1. Springwell Solar Farm is a proposed new solar energy farm with battery storage. The proposals also include infrastructure to connect Springwell Solar Farm to the National Grid and any necessary supporting site infrastructure and environmental mitigation, including landscaping.
- 2.1.2. It is located in the local authority areas of North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (the host authorities). Figure 2 shows the location of the proposed Springwell Solar Farm.
- 2.1.3. We have secured a grid connection agreement with National Grid which would allow us to export up to 800MW of clean, secure and affordable electricity to this network, through a new substation owned by National Grid. There would also be capacity to import power from the network.
- 2.1.4. Further details of the proposed Springwell Solar Farm will be included in materials published during the consultation. Details of the materials we will publish are in the 'How we will consult' section below.
- 2.1.5. More information can also be found on our project website: [www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk).

### 2.2. About us

- 2.2.1. Springwell Solar Farm is backed by Springwell Energyfarm Ltd - a joint venture between EDF Renewables and Luminous Energy.
- 2.2.2. EDF Renewables has over 25 years' experience delivering renewable energy projects in more than 20 countries worldwide. In the UK, it has 41 operating sites providing much needed affordable, low carbon electricity across all renewable technologies.
- 2.2.3. Luminous Energy is an established UK-based renewable energy developer with projects in the UK, US, Chile and Australia. The company was set up in 2013 to provide people around the world with affordable, renewable energy. Luminous Energy is now regarded as a leading player in the market, having delivered 1GW of projects globally, and the company's core values remain firmly at the heart of the business.
- 2.2.4. You can find out more about both organisations at: [www.edf-re.uk](http://www.edf-re.uk) and [www.luminous.energy](http://www.luminous.energy)

Figure 2: Location of Springwell Solar Farm



*This is the proposed location of Springwell Solar Farm. Since the previous stage of consultation our red line boundary has changed to accommodate an underground cable corridor, to allow Springwell to connect into the National Grid.*

### 3. Developing our approach to consultation

- 3.1.1. Our approach to consultation has been informed by our early engagement with key stakeholders, as well as our phase one consultation.
- 3.1.2. The phase one consultation was held between 24 January 2023 and 7 March 2023 to introduce our proposals and gain initial feedback on them, including our early design for Springwell Solar Farm, our approach to assessing environmental effects, and community benefit.
- 3.1.3. We presented materials in a range of different formats to ensure that everyone with an interest in our plans could find out more and share their feedback.
- 3.1.4. This included:
  - Sending a newsletter to 3,126 local addresses around the proposed site.
  - Holding four in-person events.
  - Hosting a virtual exhibition on our project website.
  - Publishing a consultation booklet and questionnaire, which were available online, at public events, in hard copy at local community buildings and on request.
  - Offering to meet with stakeholders, community organisations and close neighbours to discuss our proposals.
- 3.1.5. Feedback options included completing the hard-copy questionnaire and returning it at our public events or via our Freepost address, completing the online questionnaire accessed through our project website and virtual exhibition, emailing us, or writing to us using our Freepost address.
- 3.1.6. Anyone could get in touch with the consultation team via email, Freepost and our freephone to find out more about our proposals and ask the team questions.
- 3.1.7. Feedback from this consultation has helped us refine our proposals and our ongoing approach to consultation and engagement. For example, we received feedback on the timings of our public events (to go past 7pm to accommodate different working schedules) and on the content that should be included at the next stage of consultation – such as visualisations of the proposals. This has informed our approach, which is set out in more detail in Chapter 4.
- 3.1.8. We have continued to engage with the community and stakeholders since the consultation. The key activities, detailed in Table 1, reflect our intention to keep the community informed and engaged as our plans for Springwell evolve.



Table 1: On-going engagement following non-statutory consultation

Activity	Summary
Near neighbour engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We sought to conduct a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) at 49 properties around the proposed Springwell site.</li> <li>• Following the completion of the RVAA, we invited the residents of these properties to a workshop with members of the project team to show them how our design is evolving to consider the results of our surveys - including the RVAA – as well as the feedback we received from the non-statutory consultation.</li> <li>• We have continued to accommodate requests for site visits and meetings from near neighbours where practicable.</li> </ul>
Wider community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have created an on-site surveys page on our project website to ensure that the community is being kept up to date with on-site activity: <a href="http://www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk/category/surveys">www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk/category/surveys</a>.</li> <li>• We have written to residents to give advance notice where survey work has been expected to be disruptive.</li> <li>• We have offered and held meetings with community organisations and representatives, including ward councillors, primary schools, the local MP, landowners, and local businesses. We have also held meetings with residents on request.</li> <li>• We are continuing to answer enquiries through our communication channels.</li> </ul>
Engagement with host authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have continued to hold regular meetings with host local planning authorities since the close of our non-statutory consultation. The purpose of these meetings is to share updates on Springwell Solar Farm, including discussions on our approach to consultation and engagement.</li> </ul>
Engagement with statutory consultees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have offered and held meetings with statutory/technical consultees to assist with the EIA process and the evolution of our design. This includes relevant statutory bodies such as Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Environment Agency, Lincolnshire Fire &amp; Rescue Services and Historic England.</li> </ul>

## 4. Consulting the community

### 4.1. Our approach to statutory consultation

- 4.1.1. Our statutory consultation will be open to anyone with an interest in Springwell Solar Farm who considers that they may be directly, or indirectly affected by the proposals, or has a view that they would like to be considered.
- 4.1.2. Our multi-stage approach to consultation has ensured that community input has already helped to shape the plans we are presenting. The feedback that we receive from this stage of consultation will help us to further refine our proposals and inform our assessments before we submit our DCO application.
- 4.1.3. We are committed to making sure that everybody has the opportunity to understand and provide their feedback on our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm. Our key objectives for achieving this through our pre-application consultation include:
- Ensuring thorough, open, and transparent engagement and consultation on our proposals.
  - Ensuring proposals are clearly presented, and issues easily understood.
  - Providing sufficient opportunities for interested parties to understand and influence our plans.
  - Gathering high quality responses to, and feedback on, our plans to help inform proposals.
  - Delivering consultation that meets the legal requirements and best practice for a DCO application.

### 4.2. Timing

- 4.2.1. The statutory consultation will run for six weeks, between Thursday 11 January – Thursday 22 February 2024. All responses must be received by 11:59pm on Thursday 22 February 2024.

### 4.3. What will we consult on?

- 4.3.1. During the statutory consultation, we will be asking for views on:
- The proposals for Springwell Solar Farm, including the preferred locations of each of its elements and our proposed environmental enhancements and mitigation.
  - The PEIR, which will present an initial account of the likely significant environmental effects of Springwell Solar Farm during construction, operation and decommissioning, as well as preliminary details on mitigation measures that we may need to introduce to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any potentially significant adverse effects.
  - How Springwell Solar Farm could contribute to the local community, including the development of a community benefit package.

## 4.4. Who will we consult?

- 4.4.1. We have defined two geographic zones – an inner zone and an outer zone - for the purpose of consulting with the local community. This recognises the fact that levels of potential impact are likely to vary with distance to the site. These zones have informed how we will publicise the consultation and are set out below, with further detail about the consultation information detailed in section 4.6.
- 4.4.2. We will publicise the consultation in both zones using our project website, by placing adverts in local newspapers and on social media, and by issuing press releases to local media outlets.

### Inner zone

- 4.4.3. The inner zone covers people who live and work close to the proposed Springwell Solar Farm who are likely to be directly affected by the proposals and their political representatives. Our consultation activity will be most intensive within this zone.
- 4.4.4. This zone includes all residential properties within two kilometres of the proposed site boundary, extending in some areas to consider the potential wider effects of the proposal and human geographic boundaries e.g., ensuring all homes within a settlement have been included. A map of this zone is shown in Figure 3.
- 4.4.5. A newsletter will be sent to all homes and businesses within the inner zone at the beginning of consultation. Where possible, it is intended that public events and deposit points will be focused in or close to this area.
- 4.4.6. We will write to political representatives and community groups within this zone to offer them a briefing and support them to promote the consultation using their existing communication channels.

### Outer zone

- 4.4.7. The outer zone covers those living and working in the area outside of the inner zone, who may be affected by or have an interest in our proposals due to the proposals being brought forward in their local authority. This zone follows the local authority boundary of North Kesteven District Council.
- 4.4.8. As well as the methods set out in section 4.4.2, we will write to district and county political representatives within this zone to support them to promote the consultation using their existing communication channels.

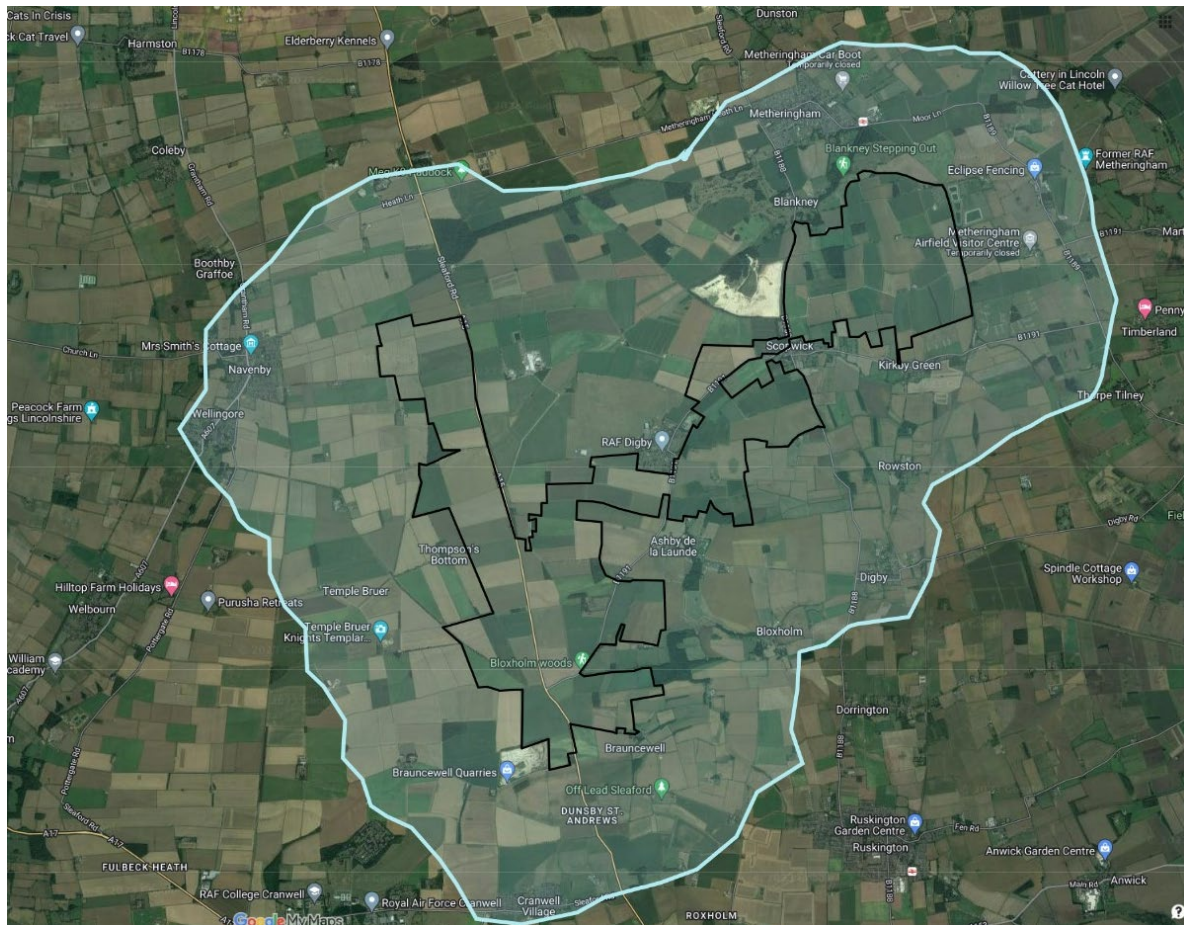
### Statutory consultees and community organisations

- 4.4.9. At the same time as consulting the local community, we will also consult a range of statutory consultees as set out by Section 42 and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, and additional organisations that we recognise to have an interest in the proposed Springwell Solar Farm. These groups include:
- The host and neighbouring local authorities.
  - Statutory bodies (such as the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England and others).

- Other community groups and organisations that may have an interest in the proposals (such as Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Lincolnshire Ramblers and others).
- People with an interest in land (e.g., owners or tenants) that may be affected by the proposals.

4.4.10. The proposed application will also be publicised as required by Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

Figure 3: Inner zone. The location of the site is shown in black.



## 4.5. How will we consult?

- 4.5.1. This section sets out how we intend to consult during the consultation, which will be open between Thursday 11 January and 11:59pm on Thursday 22 February 2024.
- 4.5.2. We will present information in a variety of formats and enable feedback to be provided in a number of ways to encourage participation in the consultation. More detail on the consultation techniques we will use is provided sections 4.7-4.14.
- 4.5.3. Should we carry out any further stages of consultation prior to submission of the DCO application, we will use some, but not necessarily all, of the means of consultation set out in this document. We will work with the host authorities to assist us in deciding the most appropriate activities for any further stages of consultation.

## 4.6. Consultation information

- 4.6.1. Information about our proposals will be published for consultation in the following formats:
- **A consultation newsletter:** a newsletter issued to addresses within the inner zone setting out how to find out more about the proposals and participate in the consultation; including information on accessing materials, the locations and timings of the public events, and how people can share their feedback. This will additionally be published on the project website to view and download.
  - **A consultation booklet:** an accessible summary of our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps. This will be available in hard copy at deposit points and the public events, posted on request, and published on the project website to view and download.
  - **A questionnaire:** the main way we will collect feedback from the community. It will include easy to understand questions on our proposals, the answers to which will be considered as we refine our plans. This will be available in hard copy at deposit points and the public events, posted on request and published on the project website to view and download.
  - **A 3D model:** a virtual model of the proposed Springwell Solar Farm site available at the public events.
  - **A website:** the project website ([www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk)) will host all of the consultation documents, including the PEIR, as well as links to the virtual exhibition and online questionnaire. It will also include details of the deposit points and public events as well as hosting contact information for people to get in touch with the team.
  - **A virtual exhibition:** containing the exhibition banners on display at the public events and a link to the online questionnaire and project website. It will host contact information for people to get in touch with the team.
  - **Exhibition banners:** an accessible summary of our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps which will be displayed at the public



events. The exhibition banners will also be available in the virtual exhibition and as PDFs to download from the project website.

- **The Preliminary Environment Information Report (PEIR):** containing the initial results of our ongoing environmental assessments as well as preliminary information on measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any likely significant adverse effects.
- 4.6.2. Printed copies of the SoCC and consultation documents – including the PEIR - will be available in local libraries and community venues ('deposit points') close to the proposed site for Springwell Solar Farm and maintained throughout the consultation period. USBs containing all of these documents will also be available to take away. All materials will be published on the project website ([www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk)).
- 4.6.3. Deposit points have been selected to ensure they are close to or within the inner zone, are accessible and have opening times to accommodate people with different time commitments.
- 4.6.4. The locations of the deposit points, which are listed in Table 2 below, will be publicised in the consultation material, including the newsletter, consultation booklet and on the project website.
- 4.6.5. We will provide hard copies of the consultation booklet, questionnaire and SoCC free of charge on request – as well as USBs containing all of the consultation materials (including the PEIR). We will review requests for hard copies of the PEIR on a case-by-case basis. A fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.
- 4.6.6. Requests for consultation information in alternative formats (e.g., in different languages, large print or easy access) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.

**Table 2: Deposit points**

Location	Opening hours*
<b>Sleaford Library, 13 - 16 Market Place, Sleaford NG34 7SR</b>	Monday: 9 am–5 pm Tuesday: 9 am–5 pm Wednesday: 9 am–5 pm Thursday: 9 am–6 pm Friday: 9 am–5 pm Saturday: 9 am–1 pm Sunday: Closed
<b>The Venue, Grantham Road, Navenby LN5 0JJ</b>	Opening times may vary, please contact venue ( <a href="mailto:venueavenby@gmail.com">venueavenby@gmail.com</a> ) / 07505 145061) to arrange access. Monday: 9am – 6pm Tuesday: 9am – 6pm

Wednesday: 9am – 6pm  
Thursday: 9am – 6pm  
Friday: opening times may vary.  
Saturday: opening times may vary.  
Sunday: opening times may vary.

*\*please check opening times before travelling*

#### 4.7. Website and virtual exhibition

- 4.7.1. From the start of consultation, the project website ([www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk)) will host all of the consultation documents, including the PEIR, as well as links to the virtual exhibition and online questionnaire. It will also include details of the deposit points and public events as well as hosting contact information for people to get in touch with the team.
- 4.7.2. The interactive virtual exhibition will be accessed through the website and will provide an alternative format for people to learn about the proposals. It will include information boards which will be on display at the public events, links to documents and the online questionnaire.

#### 4.8. Public events

- 4.8.1. We will hold in-person public events during the consultation period to enable anyone with an interest in the proposals to find out more about them and ask questions to members of the team. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire will be available at these events for members of the public to take away. Completed questionnaires will be able to be returned at the events.
- 4.8.2. The dates and times of these events are listed in Table 3 below. The events are being held in accessible venues around the proposed Springwell site and have been organised at a range of dates and times to ensure that people with different schedules are able to attend. This includes events after normal working hours as well as weekend events.
- 4.8.3. Details about the dates and times of the public events will be published on the project website and in the consultation newsletter and booklet. The schedule will also be included on supporting publicity such as newspaper and social media adverts. We will consider requests for additional events throughout the consultation period on a case-by-case basis. Any further events would be publicised on the project website, using social media adverts and if possible, at the venue.

**Table 3: Public events**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date and time</b>
<b>Scopwick Village Hall, Brookside, Scopwick, LN4 3PA</b>	Wednesday 24 January 4pm-8pm
<b>Ashby de la Launde Village Hall, Church Avenue, Ashby de la Launde, LN4 3JQ</b>	Thursday 25 January 3pm-7pm
<b>The Venue, Grantham Road, Navenby, LN5 0JJ</b>	Friday 26 January 12pm-4pm
<b>Metheringham Village Hall, Fen Road, Metheringham, LN4 3AA</b>	Saturday 27 January 11am-3pm
<b>Blankney Old School, Drury St, Blankney, LN4 3AZ</b>	Tuesday 20 February 3pm-7pm

#### 4.9. Presentations and stakeholder meetings

- 4.9.1. We will seek to accommodate reasonable requests for presentations and briefings from stakeholder groups, for example: local authorities, parish councils, and local community groups, during the consultation period.
- 4.9.2. Other activities will be carried out, if considered necessary and appropriate, to engage specific interests or seldom heard groups. This could include, for example, further meetings with residents who are closest to the proposed site.
- 4.9.3. Details of all our consultation activity will be included in a Consultation Report which we will submit as part of our DCO application.

#### 4.10. Publicity and advertising

- 4.10.1. We will publicise the consultation and associated activities in local media ahead of the start of the consultation period and will update local broadcast and print media channels on our activity during the consultation.
- 4.10.2. Where publication timings allow, we will seek to use local newsletters to further engage with local communities.
- 4.10.3. Statutory notices will be published in line with Section 47 and Section 48 of the Planning Act.

#### 4.11. Social media

- 4.11.1. We will use social media to help publicise the consultation and encourage those with an interest in our proposals to get involved. We are unable to accept feedback via social media.



## 4.12. Consultation hotline and email address

- 4.12.1. To find out more information or request copies of the consultation materials, anyone can contact the consultation team by freephone (0800 038 3486) during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm). Outside of these hours, callers will be able to leave a message requesting a callback.
- 4.12.2. Alternatively, people can email [info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk) or write to the team via Freepost (no stamp required): Springwell Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL.

## 4.13. Collection of responses

- 4.13.1. We will produce a questionnaire inviting feedback on different elements of the proposed Springwell Solar Farm. The questionnaire will be available to download on the project website: [www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk), in hard-copy at public events, at deposit points around the local area and on request using the project contact details.
- 4.13.2. The completed hard-copy questionnaire can be returned using the Freepost address set out in this document during the consultation period, or at the public events.
- 4.13.3. Respondents will also be able to complete the questionnaire online, which will be made available through the project website: [www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk) as well as the virtual exhibition.
- 4.13.4. Alternatively, respondents can write to us via email or Freepost using the details set out in this document. All written feedback will be accepted.

## 4.14. Seldom heard audiences

- 4.14.1. It is important to ensure that everyone with an interest in the proposals has the opportunity to comment on our proposals as part of the consultation. We want our consultation to be inclusive and gather feedback from a wide range of audiences, including those who are seldom heard in public consultations such as people without internet access, seasonal workers, younger people and socially isolated people. We will do this by:
- Writing to local authorities and organisations representing seldom heard individuals and groups to ensure our consultation activity and materials are appropriate and remove barriers to engagement.
  - Choosing accessible venues for deposit points and public events.
  - Publicising the consultation in digital editions of local newspapers and on social media.
  - Holding public events at a variety of times, including evenings and weekends to enable participation by people with different time commitments.
  - Making provision for people without internet access through the consultation programme. This includes sending a consultation newsletter to every address within the inner zone, holding public events in the area, publicising the consultation in print editions of local newspapers and making hard copies of consultation materials available on-request and at deposit points.

- Providing materials in alternative formats on request (e.g. different languages, large-print or easy read). Contact details to request materials in alternative formats will be published on the project website and in our consultation booklet and newsletter.
- Writing to identified organisations representing seldom heard individuals and groups in both the inner and outer zone at the start of consultation to support them in promoting the consultation through their own existing communication channels, such as social media feeds.
- Contacting community and voluntary organisations including parish councils and schools within the inner zone to offer direct engagement.
- Providing a variety of communication channels including a freephone number, email address and Freepost for those seeking further information.

## 5. Consultation arrangements

### 5.1. How to take part in the consultation

5.1.1. Anyone can find out more by:

- Contacting us on 0800 038 3486 or [info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk) or by writing to the Freepost address (Springwell Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL).
- Attending a public event which we will hold in locations around the proposed Springwell site.
- Viewing the virtual exhibition on our website: [www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk/](http://www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk/)
- Reading the consultation booklet which will be available online or in hard copy on request, at deposit points around the area and at the public events.
- Reviewing the PEIR by going to [www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk) or visiting a deposit point.

### 5.2. Responding to the consultation

5.2.1. We welcome feedback on our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm. Anyone can share their views by:

- Completing the consultation questionnaire online at [www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](http://www.springwellsolarfarm.co.uk).
- Returning a questionnaire by Freepost (no stamp required) to the following address: Springwell Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL.
- Returning a questionnaire by email: [info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk).
- Submitting comments by email to [info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk) or in writing to the above Freepost address.

5.2.2. Responses must be received by the consultation deadline of 23:59 on Thursday 22 February 2024.

5.2.3. Responses must be individual. Petitions will be treated as a single response for the purpose of the Consultation Report.

### 5.3. How we will consider the responses

5.3.1. Following this consultation, we will consider all of the feedback we receive as we continue refining our proposals for Springwell Solar Farm before submitting a DCO application. The DCO application will include a Consultation Report, which will set out how we have consulted, summarise the responses received and explain how we have had regard to them.

5.3.2. Any comments received will be analysed by Springwell Energyfarm Ltd and any of its appointed agents. Copies may be made available to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered part of the DCO process. We will request that any personal details are not placed on the public record and will be held securely by Springwell Energyfarm Ltd and its agents in accordance with the data protection

law. Any personal details 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.

- 5.3.3. The Planning Inspectorate has also published details of how it manages comments received in a Privacy Notice available on its website:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notices/customer-privacy-notice>.

## 5.4. Further information

- 5.4.1. For further information, please contact us by:
- Calling 0800 038 3486 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
  - Emailing [info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@springwellsolarfarm.co.uk)
  - Writing to the team at Springwell Solar Farm FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK Local



[springwellsolarfarm.co.uk](http://springwellsolarfarm.co.uk)