

Agenda item PH24/06/013

Dear Parish Clerk,

We are grateful to have received a significant volume of feedback on our early-stage proposals for Great North Road Solar Park, and are pleased to be able to share with you some early visual amenity changes we have made to the proposals. You can find the changes with the fresh designs in the **orange** boxes attached, in most cases where panels have been removed, in one case where a substation has been relocated. We are also still engaging with stakeholders to develop a footpath strategy. The extra planting we propose (some of which helps better screen the solar farm following your feedback) contributes to the overall biodiversity net gain of circa 50,000 trees and 25km of hedgerow planting.

Due to measures such as the above, well-designed and managed solar farms create significant wildlife habitats. Please see below 2023 survey data from 37 UK solar farms from the study conducted by Solar Energy UK, Wychwood Biodiversity, Clarkson & Woods & Lancaster University.

[Solar farms can be wildlife havens \(solarenergyuk.org\)](https://solarenergyuk.org)

In terms of the consultation results in general, during our stage one consultation, we notified over 5,800 properties and businesses in the vicinity of the project area on the consultation. We held two community webinars and six in-person events, which were attended by over 550 people. Our consultation was advertised in the local media, and we engaged with parish, district and county councillors, local interest groups and seldom heard groups across the site area. Our project website was visited by over 4,000 people during the first stage of consultation. Finally, over 200 people provided their feedback, with 16% supporting the scheme, 26.5% wanting changes to the scheme in order to support it, and 54.5% opposed.

Please note, we are still working through the feedback we received during our stage one consultation to refine our proposals ahead of stage two consultation. You can continue to contact the project team directly by emailing us at info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk, writing to FREEPOST GNR SOLAR, or calling 0808 175 4054. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the details provided.

Finally, we have had a tremendous response to consultation on our £1m per annum community benefit scheme also. If you have any further ideas for things you would like to see NG+ funding used for or if you would like to meet us to discuss the fund, please contact <https://ngplus.uk>

Thank you again for your participation in our stage one consultation for Great North Road Solar Park, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

The Great North Road Solar Park Project Team

Stakeholder Correspondence



Email: info@gnrsolarpark.co.uk

Call Freephone: [0808 175 4054](tel:08081754054)
(open 0900-1700 Monday to Friday)

Write to: FREEPOST GNR SOLAR

Website: www.gnrsolarpark.co.uk