

# Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project

Phase Two Consultation Summary Report  
September 2022



## Introduction

**Cottam Solar Project Limited and West Burton Solar Project Limited are developing proposals for new solar and energy storage projects that would cross the county border between Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.**

Our phase two statutory consultation on these proposals opened on 15 June 2022, and initially ran for 6 weeks until 27 July 2022. During this time, new results from further soil sampling became available (specific to the West Burton 4 site) and an extension was provided to accept feedback on this topic up to 23 August 2022.

We would like to thank the hundreds of local residents who took the time to provide us with feedback during this phase of consultation. The feedback we received is helping to inform the refinement of our proposals.

While this work is ongoing, we wanted to share some of the results from our consultation, including a number of key design updates that these are informing. These updates include:

- West Burton 4 will now be removed from the proposals in its entirety. To read further about this change, please see page 9 of this leaflet.
- Due to the removal of West Burton 4, the proposed West Burton substation site will also be removed. This infrastructure can now be accommodated within West Burton 3. To read further about this change, please see page 9 of this leaflet.
- The 'green lane' off Ingham Road will no longer be used for construction vehicles to access Cottam 1. To read further about this change, please see page 10 of this leaflet.
- Approximately 2.5 acres of land has been identified within the southwest area of West Burton 2 for landscaping and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures which we are designing in collaboration with Saxilby Nature Project. To read further about this update, please see page 10 of this leaflet.

## Our phase two Consultation

**During our phase two consultation we received:**



Close to **700** pieces of feedback



Close to **300** attendees to our information events



Over **1,600** visits to our digital engagement platform

**We undertook our Consultation by:**



**Publishing** Preliminary Environmental Information Reports (PEIRs) for each project



Distributing community consultation leaflets and feedback forms to over **9,000 addresses** in the vicinity of our proposals



**Advertising our consultation**, including by publishing statutory notices in local and national newspapers and issuing posters to local venues



Publishing information on our dedicated project websites and inviting comments online through our **digital engagement** platform

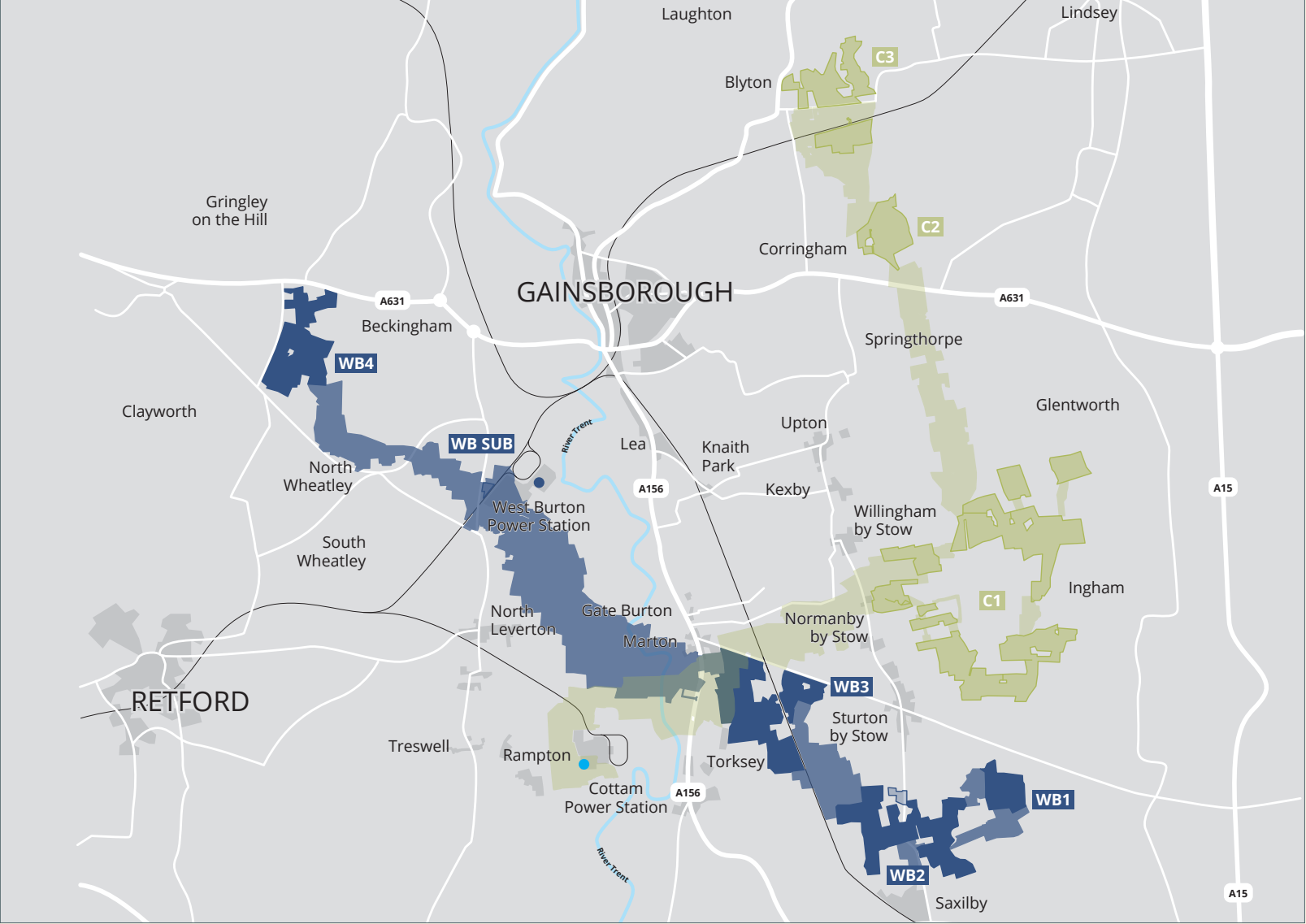


Holding two **community webinar** events



Holding **six in-person community information events** across our consultation area

# Site Locations



- Island Green Power:**
- Cottam Solar Project
  - Cottam Solar Project connection corridors
  - West Burton Solar Project
  - West Burton Solar Project connection corridors

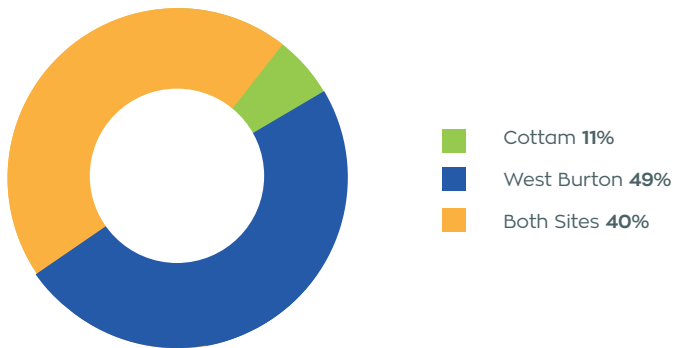
Cottam and West Burton site areas and cable route search corridors, as presented at our phase two consultation.

# Consultation feedback:

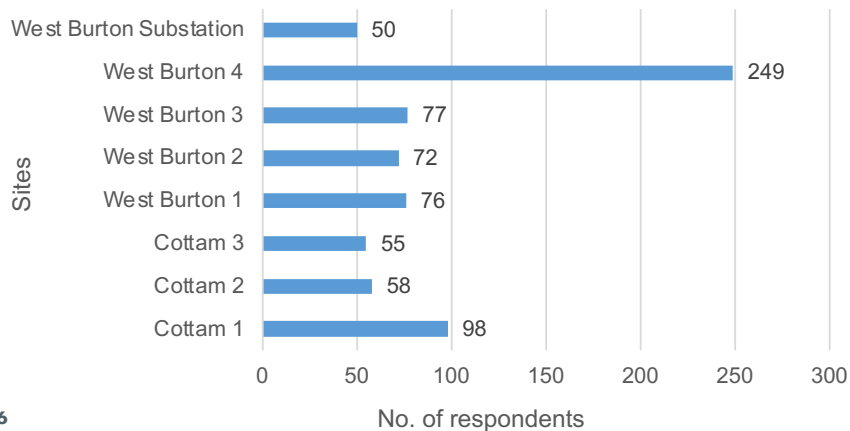
## Project-wide statistics

We asked multiple-choice questions as part of our phase two consultation through our feedback form (via a paper copy and online). The response to these questions provides a high-level indication of the feedback received.

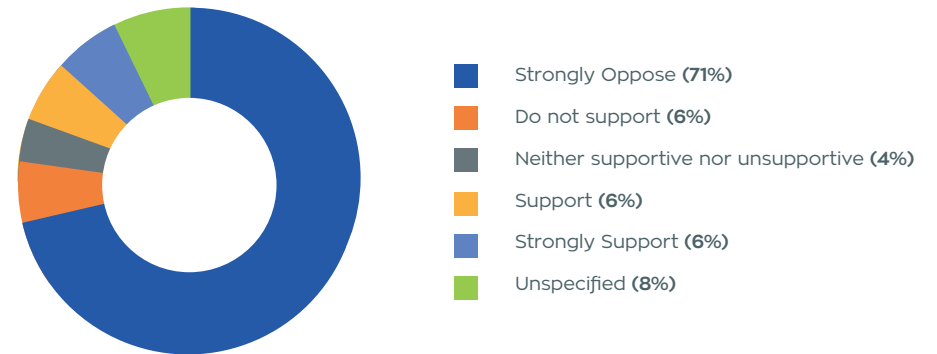
### Are you providing your feedback on only one of the solar projects, or both?



### We have shared with you our detailed designs for the site layout at all of the 8 sites we have proposed, do you have specific comments on our design for any of the sites?



### Based on the information presented as part of our phase two consultation, how supportive are you of our emerging solar project proposals, which would generate clean, affordable, and reliable renewable energy for the national grid, with energy storage for when it is needed most?



We recognise that a clear majority of respondents indicated opposition to the proposals. We also recognise that this question aggregates all responses across the Cottam and West Burton Solar Project and that levels of opposition and support differ across site areas.

For example, over 60% of respondents who selected 'Strongly oppose' or 'Do not support' also indicated that their feedback was relevant to the West Burton 4 site.

By considering location-specific feedback, our team is working to identify refinements that can be made across the projects, including in response to key issues at each site area.

Some of these key themes and updates are presented in the following pages.

## Key feedback themes

What you told us	How we're listening
<p><b>Land quality and use</b></p> <p>There are concerns regarding the use of agricultural land, in particular land considered to be Best and Most Versatile (BMV). We understand there are concerns regarding food security.</p>	<p>We recognise the need to achieve a balance between food security and energy security. Much of this feedback focused on the West Burton 4 site area, which has now been removed from the proposals. Our final Environmental Statement will set out our site selection process and how we have considered and mitigated the impact to agricultural land.</p>
<p><b>Landscape and views</b></p> <p>There are concerns regarding the potential visual impact of the proposals.</p>	<p>The feedback received is informing the development and location of further visual mitigation measures, such as through planting and landscaping. This will be demonstrated by photomontages presented in our application.</p>
<p><b>Local ecology and biodiversity</b></p> <p>There are concerns regarding the potential impact to local wildlife.</p>	<p>Our team is developing ecological mitigation measures across the site areas, and we are committed to delivering a netgain in biodiversity. Feedback received on specific species and areas has been taken into account to ensure our assessments and mitigation measures are robust. These will be presented in our Environmental Statement.</p>
<p><b>Traffic, Access and Construction</b></p> <p>There are concerns regarding the suitability of local roads for use during construction.</p>	<p>We are reviewing the proposed routes for construction vehicles, including working with other developers to manage the impact of cumulative traffic during construction. An updated Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan is being prepared as part of the application and will consider the feedback received.</p>

## Key design updates

While the work to refine our proposals is still ongoing, we can confirm a number of design updates following the close of our phase two consultation.

### West Burton 4 – Removal of the site area

West Burton 4 and the associated cabling infrastructure will be removed from the project in its entirety.

We have reached this decision through considering the extensive consultation feedback we have received alongside a range of factors as part of our ongoing design refinement process. These factors include the advancement of the technical design for the solar project and the results from a range of environmental assessments.

On balance, we have concluded that the West Burton Solar Project can be delivered without West Burton 4, and the removal of this site presents opportunities to improve the overall project

### West Burton Substation – Removal of the site

The West Burton Substation site area will also be removed from the project. This is due to the removal of the West Burton 4 site changing the requirements for the substation infrastructure in this location. Our team is now exploring how best to incorporate the energy storage and electrical infrastructure within the already identified West Burton 3 site area.

## Cottam 1 – Vehicle access to the site

The feedback we received indicated significant concern with the proposed use of the 'green lane' (off Ingham Road) by construction vehicles for accessing the Cottam 1 site area.

In response to this, we have amended our plans and will not be using the green lane as a construction access route to the site. Instead, we are proposing to use a field to the east of the 'green lane', as seen below.



## West Burton 2 – Working with Saxilby Nature Project

We have been consulting with Saxilby Nature Project on their use of Hardwick Scrub and their wider aspirations in this area.

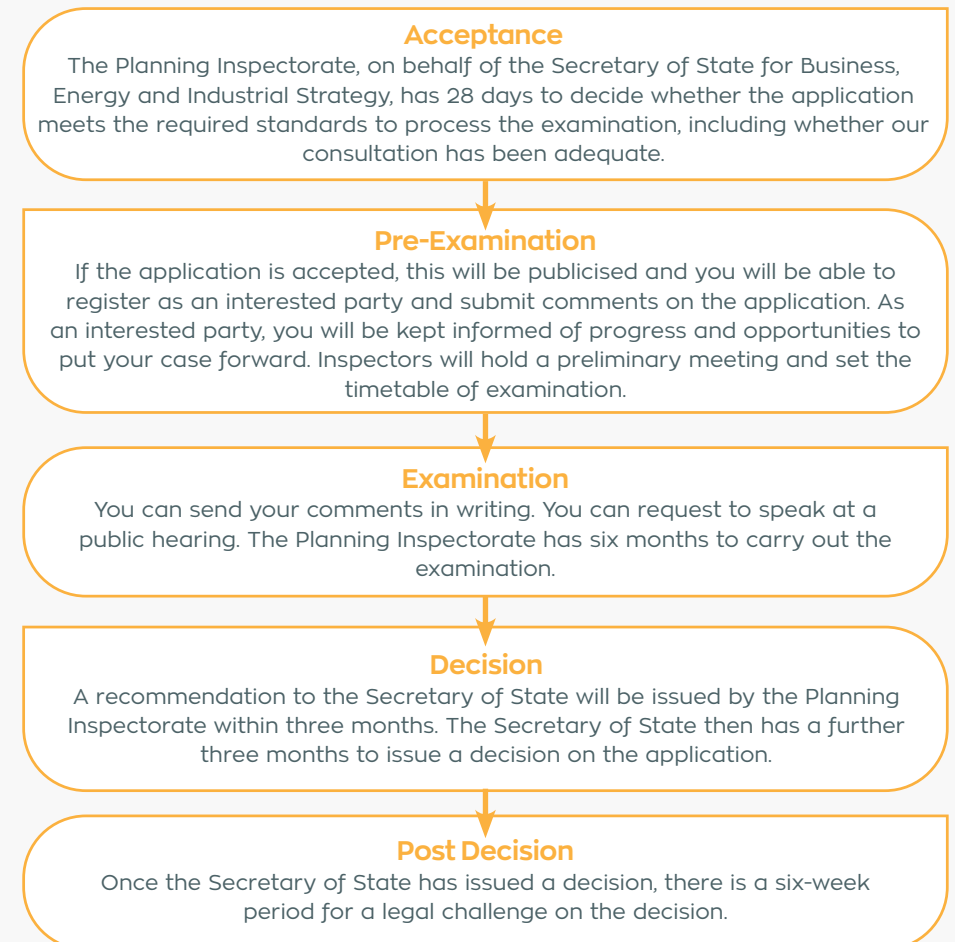
In addition to the permissive path already proposed through the site area, we have worked with Saxilby Nature Project to identify an area of around 2.5 acres in the south-western part of West Burton 2, opposite Hardwick Scrub. Instead of hosting solar panels, this area will be used for landscaping and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures post construction of West Burton 2. We are exploring ways in which Saxilby Nature Project may be able to use this area in the future for community activities.

**As our design work continues, some updates may require further targeted consultation ahead of us submitting our application. In this case, we will be in touch with relevant stakeholders and residents to notify you of this information.**

## Submitting our application

Having undertaken two rounds of community consultation and an extensive series of environmental assessment, we are refining our proposals as we prepare to submit our Development Consent Order applications (one for the Cottam Solar Project and another for the West Burton Solar Project). We anticipate submitting our applications over the winter.

The graphic below explains the process once we have applied to the Planning Inspectorate.



# Get in Touch

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about the Cottam and West Burton Solar Projects.

You can get in touch with members of our communications team using any of our communications channels listed below.

## Cottam Solar Project



**Visit our website:** [www.cottamsolar.co.uk](http://www.cottamsolar.co.uk)



**Email:** [info@cottamsolar.co.uk](mailto:info@cottamsolar.co.uk)



**Call:** 0808 1691848



**Write to:** FREEPOST: CAWB Solar Projects



## West Burton Solar Project



**Visit our website:** [www.westburtonsolar.co.uk](http://www.westburtonsolar.co.uk)



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**Call:** 0808 1691858



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