



Third
Revolution
Projects

Hatton Solar Farm, Land adjacent to Sotby Woods, Sturton Road, Hatton

Appeal Statement of Community Involvement

Applicant: Hatton Solar Farm Ltd.

Date: August 2025

Planning Application Ref: S/079/01078/22

PINS ref: APP/X1234/W/25/3363157

Contents

Contents	2
1.0 Summary	3
2.0 Policy context.....	4
2.1 East Lindsey District Council Statement of Community Involvement (2020).....	4
2.2 Localism Act	4
3.0 Consultation approach and process	5
3.1 Engagement with East Lindsey Distrct Council.....	5
3.2 Statutory and non-statutory consultation.....	5
3.3 Consultation responses and scheme revisions.....	5
3.4 Wider community engagement.....	6
4.0 Conclusion	6

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Prepared by: Third Revolution Projects Ltd.

Third Revolution Reference: 1152

Applicant: Hatton Solar Farm Limited

1.0 Summary

This Statement of Community Involvement (“SCI”) has been prepared on behalf of the appellant in relation to proposed minor amendments to the original solar farm planning application at Land adjacent to Sotby Woods, Hatton (Ref: S/079/1078/22). The amendments have been developed in response to issues raised during the consideration of the initial application and seek to reduce any identified harm while maintaining the overall benefits of the development.

The amended appeal scheme includes a revised site layout with a reduced number of solar panels, alterations to the proposed landscaping, particularly the addition of landscaped areas where panels were previously proposed near Corner Farm, and a revised Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. These changes have been informed by feedback from statutory consultees and other stakeholders involved in the original application.

Although not a statutory requirement, the appellant has engaged proactively with East Lindsey District Council (“ELDC” or “the LPA”) to undertake a targeted consultation process. This involved a 21-day consultation period using the LPA’s online planning portal, enabling all statutory consultees and those who previously responded to the application to review and comment on the amendments. This approach has ensured a proportionate and transparent engagement process focused on the limited nature of the scheme changes.

The consultation responses received from key statutory consultees, including the Environment Agency, Heritage Officer, Highways and Lead Local Flood Authority, and Natural England, have been carefully considered and have helped shape the final amended proposals. This SCI sets out the consultation approach, documents the engagement undertaken, and explains how stakeholder feedback has been addressed.

The appellant remains committed to delivering a high-quality renewable energy development that respects the environmental and heritage context of the site and welcomes the opportunity to engage meaningfully with all stakeholders throughout the planning process.

2.0 Policy context

Local and national planning guidance recognises the importance of community engagement. The 2011 Localism Act and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2023) seek to make the planning system more accessible to the public. Paragraph 40 of the NPPF states:

“Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community.”

In line with this guidance, the appellant has engaged constructively and proactively with East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) and other key stakeholders prior to and during the preparation of amendments to the original planning application. This has included targeted consultation with statutory consultees and all parties who responded to the initial application to ensure they have an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed changes. Policy and legislation

2.1 East Lindsey District Council Statement of Community Involvement (2020)

The consultation process has been informed by East Lindsey District Council’s Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), adopted in 2020. The SCI highlights the importance of effective engagement between applicants, the local community, and statutory consultees to promote transparency, early identification of concerns, and improved planning outcomes.

The ELDC SCI sets out that consultation should be proportionate to the scale and nature of development and that applicants should:

- Clearly communicate the timetable and methods of consultation.
- Engage with statutory consultees, parish councils, ward members, and other relevant local stakeholders.
- Provide accessible means for submitting comments;
- Explain how consultation feedback will be considered and incorporated into proposals.

While consultation on the proposed minor amendments is not a statutory requirement, the appellant has voluntarily adopted these principles to facilitate a meaningful and robust consultation process.

2.2 Localism Act

In addition to the ELDC SCI, the consultation has been guided by the Localism Act 2011 (Section 122) which requires developers of major schemes to consult with local communities before submitting applications. Although the proposed amendments relate to a previously refused scheme and are not classified as major development, the appellant has reflected the spirit of the legislation by:

- Publicising the amended proposals to all previous consultees and interested parties;
- Providing clear instructions for submitting comments during a 21-day consultation period;
- Considering and responding to all feedback received as part of the scheme revision process.

3.0 Consultation approach and process

3.1 Engagement with East Lindsey District Council

Prior to submitting the amended proposals, the appellant engaged with East Lindsey District Council to discuss the scope of the changes and agree an appropriate consultation approach. Given the minor nature of the amendments, it was agreed that a targeted consultation via the LPA's online planning portal would be sufficient.

3.2 Statutory and non-statutory consultation

A 21-day consultation period was held, during which all statutory consultees involved in the original planning application, as well as previous respondents, were invited to review and comment on the amendments. The consultation package included:

- Revised site layout plans
- Updated landscaping plans showing new buffer zones.
- Revised Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.
- A consultation statement explaining the nature of the amendments.

Consultation invitations were sent by ELDC to:

- Environment Agency.
- ELDC's Heritage Officer
- Lincolnshire County Council Highways and Lead Local Flood Authority.
- Natural England
- Parish Councils and Ward Members
- The Hatton Action Group.

3.3 Consultation responses and scheme revisions

The consultation closed on 24th April 2025. Key responses included:

- **Environment Agency:** No objection to the amendments, subject to the inclusion of a Flood Risk Assessment due to the site's proximity to Flood Zones 2 and 3.
- **Heritage Officer:** Welcomed the removal of solar farms near Corner Farm noting this reduces harm to the setting of nearby listed buildings.
- **Highways and Lead Local Flood Authority:** No objections; confirmed no adverse impacts on highway safety or flood risk.
- **Natural England:** No significant concerns; recommended discretionary advice service for further environmental considerations if needed.

The appellant has taken these comments into account, presenting a revised scheme accordingly and providing supporting technical assessments as required.

3.4 Wider community engagement

In addition to the targeted consultation with statutory consultees, the appellant undertook a proactive approach to engage the wider local community who had previously expressed an interest in or responded to the original planning application.

Planning consultants, Third Revolution Projects, collaborated closely with Jane Baker, Senior Planning Officer at East Lindsey District Council, to facilitate a 21-day consultation period using the ELDC online planning portal. This portal was used to publish all relevant information about the proposed minor amendments to ensure accessible and transparent engagement.

To ensure that the wider community was informed about the consultation and the forthcoming appeal submission, a letter dated 1st April 2025 (Appendix 1) was issued to all 267 individuals and organisations who had previously registered their views, comprising 154 objectors and 113 supporters of the original application. The letter included the following key points:

- The appeal for the Hatton Solar Farm planning application has been submitted following ELDC's refusal on 31st October 2024.
- The appeal was lodged with the Planning Inspectorate on 27th March 2025 and assigned reference number APP/X1234/W/25/3363157
- Recipients who previously commented on the application are invited to submit any further comments regarding the appeal.
- Appeal documents are available for review on the East Lindsey District Council online portal, and later on the Planning Inspectorate's portal
- Comments on the appeal can be submitted via the ELDC portal by Wednesday 24th April 2025
- Contact details are provided for anyone seeking further information.

4.0 Conclusion

This SCI demonstrates the appellant's commitment to engaging transparently, proportionately, and constructively with statutory consultees, local stakeholders, and the wider community throughout the proposed amendment and appeal process for the Hatton Solar Farm scheme.

Although the amendments represent minor changes to a previously refused application, the appellant has exceeded the minimum statutory requirements to provide an accessible and meaningful consultation process. This has included a 21-day targeted consultation via the East Lindsey District Council's online planning portal, alongside direct correspondence to all previous respondents, ensuring that all interested parties had the opportunity to review the amended proposals and provide comments.

Feedback received through this consultation process has been instrumental in confirming the suitability of the proposed scheme, particularly regarding heritage and landscape considerations, as well as flood risk mitigation. Although the amendments made are minor and do not substantially alter the original

proposals, the appellant has carefully reviewed and considered the input from statutory consultees and local stakeholders to ensure the scheme remains appropriate and sensitive to its context.

The appellant remains fully committed to delivering a high-quality renewable energy development that respects the local environment and heritage assets, while also contributing positively to the wider community and supporting national energy transition objectives.

Appendix 1: Consultation notification letter



Hatton Solar Farm - Inquiry

23 June 2025

Planning Consultants, Third Revolution Projects, worked with Jane Baker, Senior Planner Officer from East Lindsey District Council to engage with statutory consultees to complete a 21 day consultation using the East Lindsey District Council portal to provide information.

To inform the local community of the consultation and forthcoming submission of an appeal, a letter dated 1st April 2025 was sent to the 154 objectors and 113 supporters of the planning application.

The letter noted the following:-

Dear,

Hatton Solar Farm Appeal
Land adjacent to Sotby Woods, Sturton Road, Hatton

We are writing to you on behalf of Hatton Solar Farm Limited to inform you that, following the East Lindsey District Council's refusal of planning application S/079/01078/22 on 31st October 2024, we have submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate on 27th March 2025. The appeal has been assigned the reference number APP/X1234/W/25/3363157 by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

As you previously commented on this application, we would like to provide you with an opportunity to submit any further comments regarding the appeal.

The relevant appeal documents and information will be available on the East Lindsey District Council online portal and then subsequently on the PINS portal. You may review the materials and submit your comments through the ELDC portal by Wednesday 24th April 2025.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.
Yours faithfully

Push Generation and Supply Limited

Appendix 2: Public consultation summary



Hatton Solar Farm - Inquiry

7 August 2025

I can confirm that we received no comments or responses via either letter, email or telephone call in respect of our consultation letter dated 1st April 2025.