



Statement of Community Consultation Boston Alternative Energy Facility

Client: Alternative Use Boston Projects Ltd.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 1.1.1 This document is the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for the proposed Boston Alternative Energy Facility, which is to be located within the Riverside Industrial Estate adjacent to the River Witham (the Haven) in Boston, Lincolnshire. The SoCC provides information about the proposed strategy for consultation with local communities in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act) in respect of the Boston Alternative Energy Facility.
- 1.1.2 It explains how we have identified who to consult (see section 8), the consultation methods proposed (see section 9), the timescales for consultation and how consultees can help shape the project.
- 1.1.3 Prior to finalisation, a draft version of this SoCC was issued to Lincolnshire County Council and Boston Borough Council in order to obtain their feedback prior to the formal consultation taking place.
- 1.1.4 The document was then issued formally to Lincolnshire County Council, Boston Borough Council, South Holland District Council, South Kesteven District Council, North Kesteven District Council and East Lindsey District Council in accordance with section 47(2) of the Act, to obtain their response within the 28-day period.
- 1.1.5 This SoCC has been updated to incorporate feedback received from the local authorities to ensure that an appropriate and adequate approach to consultation is taken.
- 1.1.6 The SoCC was advertised in the Boston Standard, Boston Target, Lincolnshire Free Press and the Spalding Guardian and is available on the Project website www.bostonaef.co.uk and at the information points listed in paragraph 9.8.2. Members of the local community are able to inspect and make feedback on the SoCC using the mechanisms listed in section 9.7 of this document. The deadline for responses from members of the local community is 18 January 2019.
- 1.1.7 As well as local community consultation, Alternative Use Boston Projects Ltd (AUBP; the Applicant) is consulting with statutory consultees in accordance with section 42 of the Act. Information on this consultation process is outside the scope of this document. Details from statutory consultation will be available in the Consultation Report submitted as part of our formal application for the Development Consent Order (DCO).

- 1.1.8 This SoCC has been prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (formerly the DCLG) pre-application process guidance note¹.

1.2 The Boston Alternative Energy Facility

- 1.2.1 The Boston Alternative Energy Facility is a state-of-the-art power generation plant that will generate 102 MW (gross) of renewable energy. It is proposed that it will deliver approximately 80 MW (net) to the National Grid. The energy recovery plant will be a gasification facility. The energy recovery plant will process one million tonnes of refuse derived fuel (RDF) as the feedstock (i.e. the fuel) to generate energy. This cutting-edge technology contributes to the UK Government's target of generating at least 15% of energy from renewable sources, including energy from waste², by 2020.
- 1.2.2 The RDF will be sourced from UK suppliers and will comprise residual waste (i.e. 'black bag waste') from householders that has not been segregated for recycling. Therefore, the facility will not use any source-segregated waste that can be recycled.
- 1.2.3 The proposed facility is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because it will have a generation capacity over 50 MW of energy. This means it requires a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008. The DCO application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), who will determine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. The Boston Alternative Energy Facility is currently in the pre-application stage of the DCO process.

1.3 The Consultation Process

- 1.3.1 The aim of the SoCC is to clarify the development programme, lines of communication and means of engagement with the local community. During the determination of the application, the Boston Alternative Energy Facility will be measured against the commitments made in the SoCC. It is therefore a critical document in the consenting process.
- 1.3.2 PINS' advice acknowledges that responding to a developer's proposals at the pre-application consultation stage is the best time to influence a proposal's final design or mitigate any perceived impacts.
- 1.3.3 This SoCC will detail the nature and extent of the consultation that AUBP intends to undertake with the communities potentially affected by the Boston Alternative Energy Facility before the DCO application is submitted.

1.3.4 The consultation process will focus on the details of the proposed DCO application. This will include:

- Details of the project proposals and parameters;
- Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) that has been gathered and how this has informed and affected the design;
- Proposals for maximising the positive effects of the Boston Alternative Energy Facility; and
- Minimising and mitigating any adverse effects on the local community or environment that could be caused by the project.

2 About the Promoter

2.1.1 The Boston Alternative Energy Facility will be developed and funded by AUBP. AUBP is a privately-owned project company.

2.1.2 The project team has been involved in industrial development at the site in Boston, Lincolnshire since 2004. In March 2005 planning consent was obtained for a Special & Clinical Waste Processing Plant, with conditions discharged and construction started. In 2010, Alternative Use Group plc gained planning permission for a 12MW Gasification Power Station (Boston 1) that would process waste wood. The business was sold to AVIVA Investors in November 2015 along with the right to develop the facility. The site of that facility is adjacent to the site of the Boston Alternative Energy Facility.

2.1.3 By September 2016 Boston 1 was transferred to Biomass UK No. 3 Ltd. The facility is currently undergoing commissioning (as at December 2018).

3 The Proposal

3.1 The Boston Alternative Energy Facility

3.1.1 The Boston Alternative Energy Facility is a proposed power-generation plant, with associated development, which will deliver approximately 80 MW of renewable energy to the National Grid. The development includes:

- A wharf with cranes and berthing points for up to three ships;
- A storage area to temporarily store the incoming RDF bales pending processing;
- A processing facility to prepare the feedstock to a consistent specification;

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-the-pre-application-process-for-major-infrastructure-projects>

² The Government defines technologies such as gasification as 'renewable' in policy EN-3.

- Conveyors for transferring the processed material;
- A gasification unit and steam turbine generator that will generate power, which will then be exported to the National Grid via a grid connection and substation;
- A lightweight aggregate manufacturing plant to process the residues from the gasification process;
- Infrastructure required for carbon capture, allowing a proportion of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the gasification facility to be captured and converted to high grade CO₂ for off-site industrial use; and
- A storage area for loading of the lightweight aggregate onto a ship for removal from the site.

3.1.2 The Boston Alternative Energy Facility will be designed to operate for an expected period of at least 25 years, after which ongoing operation will be reviewed. If it is not appropriate to continue operation the plant will be decommissioned.

3.1.3 The proposal comprises a range of buildings, silos, conveyors and structures, the tallest of which will be the gasification plant exhaust stack and the proposed lightweight aggregate plant stack. The height of these features will be confirmed by detailed modelling of the exhaust plumes to ensure that there is no unacceptable impact to human health and the environment.

3.2 What is Gasification?

3.2.1 Gasification is a process that converts organic material (the organic content of the feedstock for the facility) into carbon monoxide, hydrogen and carbon dioxide (see **Figure 3.1** for a schematic of this process). This is achieved by reacting the material at high temperatures (>900 °C), importantly without combustion, with a controlled (and limited) amount of oxygen. The resulting gas mixture is called 'syngas' (i.e. synthesis gas) and is itself a fuel.

3.2.2 This syngas is ignited and the hot flue gas (comprising water vapour, air, and carbon dioxide, plus non-hazardous ash residue) is routed to the boiler section of the plant for heat recovery which generates the energy. The power derived from gasification is considered to be a source of renewable energy in accordance with the definition in Government Policy³. The system employs technology to minimise and capture emissions. It uses an on-line Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS) to provide continual monitoring of the exhaust gasses to ensure the overall system is running well within the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) Emission limits. The residual ash is collected and routed to a lightweight aggregate plant,

³ National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)

where it is converted into a lightweight aggregate product.

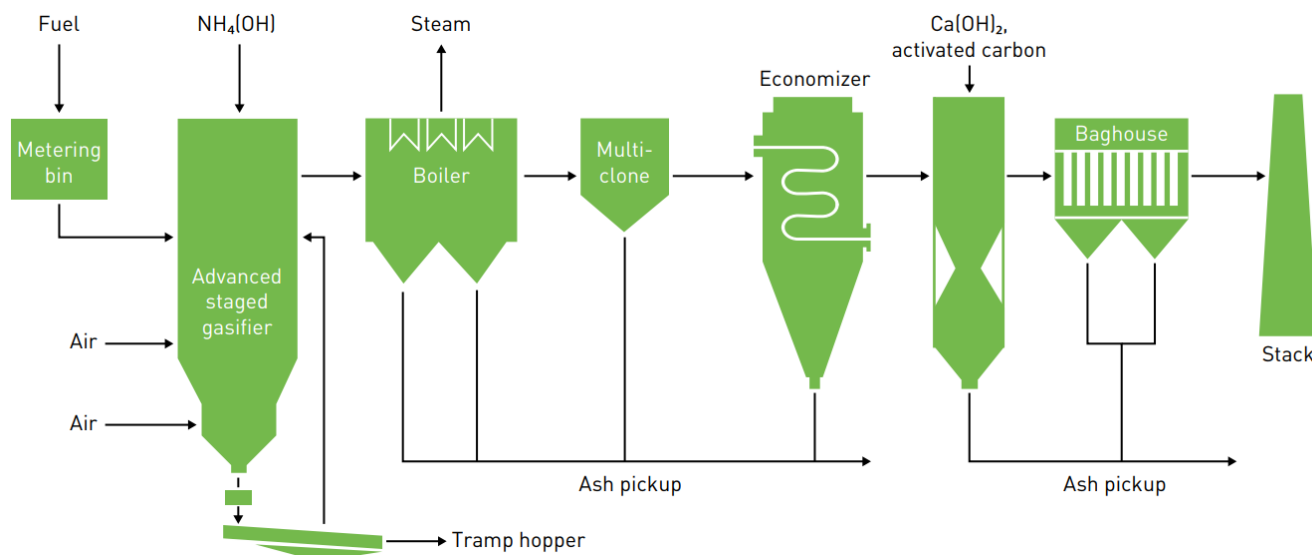


Figure 3.1 Schematic of the gasification process

3.2.3 When in operation, the Boston Alternative Energy Facility will generate energy equivalent to the power demand of more than 185,000 homes. This cutting-edge technology provides significant environmental benefits compared to landfill. The UK has a target of generating at least 15% of energy from renewable sources, by 2020. The facility will contribute to this target when built.

3.3 The Process

- 3.3.1 Household waste is separated at home by the householder into dry recyclables that are sent for recycling and residual 'black bag' waste, which contains material that cannot be recycled. This might either be because it is unsuitable, contaminated, or because there is no efficient recycling technology available for it. The RDF is made from this residual 'black bag waste' and will be sourced from UK suppliers only. The facility will not use any source-segregated recyclable waste.
- 3.3.2 Currently, around three million tonnes of RDF from the UK are sent abroad to generate energy in European facilities. The Boston Alternative Energy Facility will process approximately one million tonnes of RDF, allowing the UK to benefit from this resource through generating energy rather than lose it to continental Europe.
- 3.3.3 The RDF will be delivered to the facility by ship to a new dedicated wharf. The wharf will be able to receive two ships delivering the RDF at any one time. The RDF will be received in bales. The bales will be removed from the ships by crane and moved to a temporary storage area.

- 3.3.4 The bales will be removed from the storage area using a first-in first-out principle. The bales will be taken to a feedstock processing unit, where the RDF will be shredded. The shredded material will then be mechanically sorted to remove items that are not suitable for gasification. This will comprise inert material (such as stones or glass), large bulky items and metals (ferrous and non-ferrous materials). These will be separately collected and recycled.
- 3.3.5 The shredded material will be transferred to storage silos prior to being fed into the gasification plant. The material will be removed from the silos in metered quantities into the gasification process to generate energy.
- 3.3.6 The residues from the gasification process will be in the form of an ash. There will be two types of residue: a non-hazardous ash from the gasification process; and a hazardous residue from the air pollution control system. The different types of residues will be collected separately in silos. The non-hazardous ash will be removed from the silos and transferred to the lightweight aggregates facility. The hazardous air pollution control residues are also planned for transfer to a dedicated processing line in the lightweight aggregates facility. This step is being confirmed with the Environment Agency and the worst-case option for it represents removal from site and disposal in a hazardous waste facility.
- 3.3.7 The lightweight aggregates facility will process the residues into a lightweight aggregate by blending it with a binder (typically river sediment; or clay which will be delivered by ship). The mix is formed into pellets, with controllable variation in size between 4mm and 20mm. The pellets are dried before being fired in a kiln with a maximum temperature of 1,200°C. The aggregate is then cooled prior to storage. The heat from the cooling process is recovered and used within the plant. The aggregate is removed from the facility by ship via a dedicated berth.

The process is as follows:

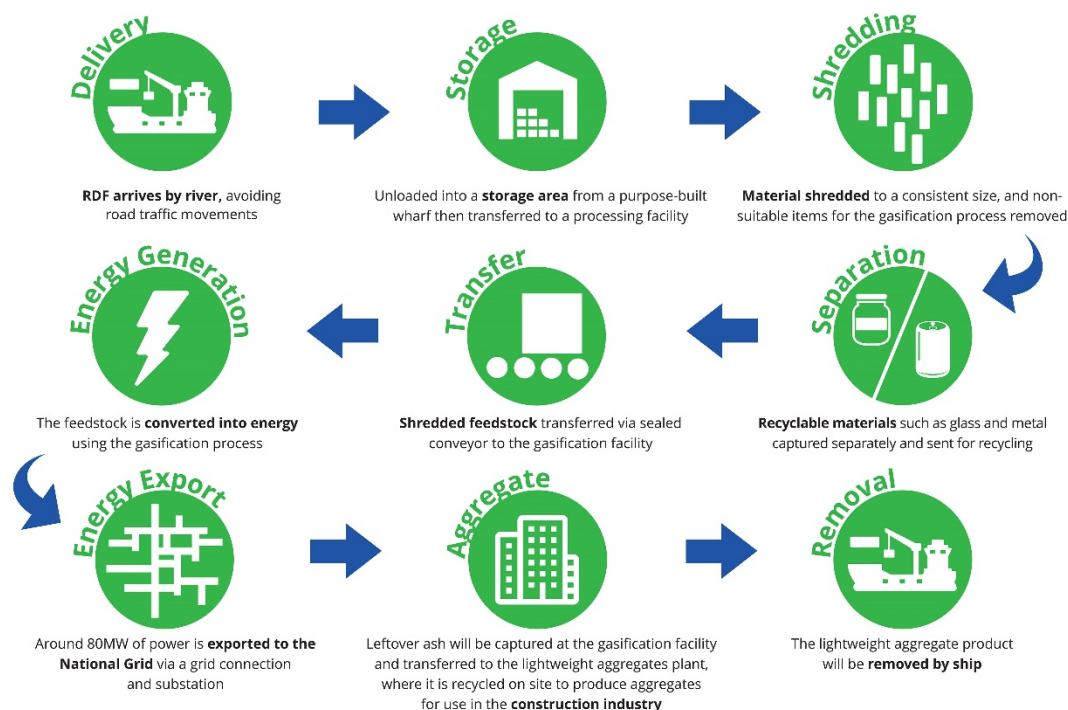


Figure 3.2 Boston Alternative Energy Facility process

3.3.8 The DCO application for the proposed Boston Alternative Energy Facility will include all of these features. In addition, temporary works and associated infrastructure necessary for the construction and operation of the project shall be included.

3.3.9 It is currently expected that the DCO application for the proposed project will be submitted in 2019.

3.4 Site Location

3.4.1 The site is located within the Riverside Industrial Estate to the south of Boston town centre (see **Figure 3.3** for indicative red line boundary and site location). The eastern site margins are defined in part by The Haven (the tidal waterway of the River Witham between The Wash to the east and Boston town). A mixture of large and small industrial and business units is located to the north, west and south of the site. An overhead powerline on pylons traverses the site from north to south and bisects the site. The site will be adjacent to the Biomass UK No 3 gasification facility, which is currently in commissioning (as at December 2018).

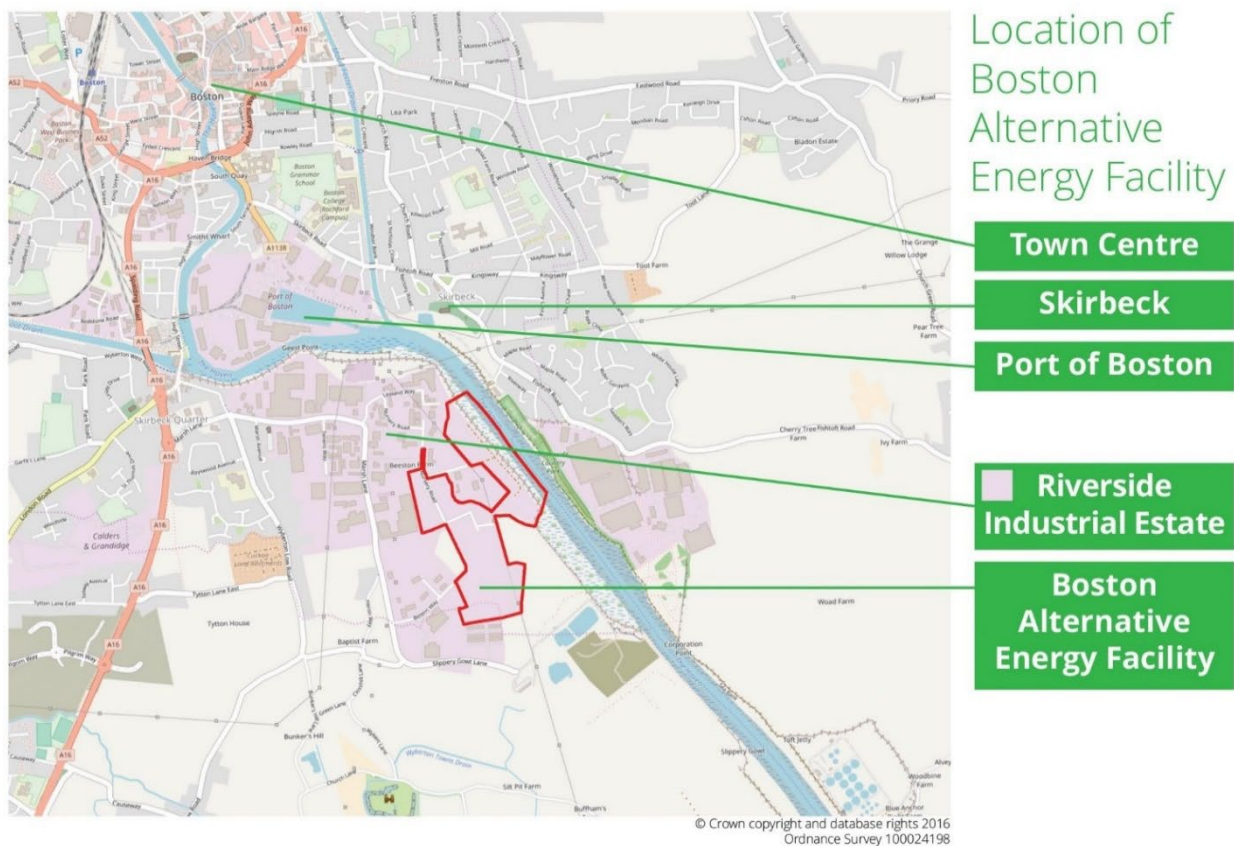


Figure 2.3 Indicative Red line boundary and site location

- 3.4.2 The site is in the parliamentary constituency of Boston and Skegness; the Lincolnshire County Council division of Boston South; and Boston Borough Council's St Thomas' ward. The site is not covered by a civil parish and falls under the remit of the Boston Town Area Committee.
- 3.4.3 The site comprises former agricultural fields bounded by drainage ditches and forms part of a wider emerging industrial/commercial area, as defined by local planning documents.
- 3.4.4 The area is significantly influenced by urban/industrial features including electricity pylons, industrial units, cranes and gantries at the Port of Boston.
- 3.4.5 Current access to the site is gained via the Riverside Industrial Estate's existing road network from Nursery Road. Access to the site is also intended to be gained from Bittern Way, from the newly-completed link road.
- 3.4.6 A waste management facility (operated by Mick George) that processes construction and demolition waste is located to the west of the proposed wharf elements of the proposed development. That facility processes waste wood that

will be used as feedstock for the Biomass UK No 3 gasification facility mentioned above.

- 3.4.7 A new household waste recycling centre has been built to the west of the site, with access off Nursery Road/Bittern Way. To the south of the Boston Alternative Energy Facility site there is a waste transfer station (operated by Lincolnshire County Council) that receives household waste from South Lincolnshire (Boston and South Holland) before being taken to the EfW at North Hykeham.

3.5 Public Rights of Way

- 3.5.1 There are existing public rights of way that cross the Boston Alternative Energy Facility site. A permanent diversion will be required in respect of the Macmillan Way public footpath, where it follows the line of the flood defence embankment within the site. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Environmental Statement (ES) will identify the precise extent of the affected footpaths and the proposed diversion strategies.

3.6 Allocation

- 3.6.1 The site is within a larger area of land that has been allocated for employment (industrial and commercial) development with reference to the saved policies of the adopted Boston Borough Local Plan 1999 and emerging South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (Draft 2016 – submitted to the Secretary of State in June 2017 and currently in Examination Phase).
- 3.6.2 Policy SL3, of the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Site Locations) December 2017, identifies the 119ha Riverside Industrial Estate as an allocated area, referenced as WA22-BO (see Figure 3.4). The allocated area has been identified as a suitable location for waste management related development, (Resource Recovery Park, Treatment Facility, Waste Transfer, Materials Recycling Facility, Household Waste Recycling Centre, Metal Recycling/End of Life Vehicles, Re-Use Facility, C&D Recycling, Energy Recovery). The Proposal site is located within the allocated area.

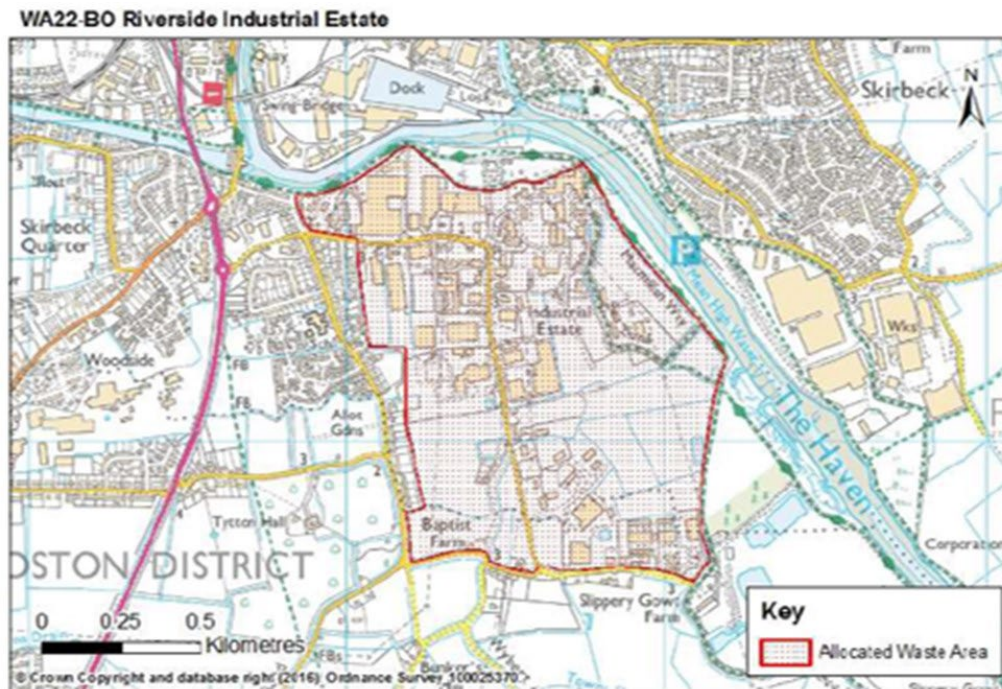


Figure 3.3 Allocation of Riverside Industrial Estate, Boston

4 Consenting Process

- 4.1.1 A diagram of the full DCO Consenting Process is shown in **Figure 4.1** below. This SoCC outlines the consultation required for the pre-application stage only to allow public stakeholders to influence the project before the DCO application is submitted.

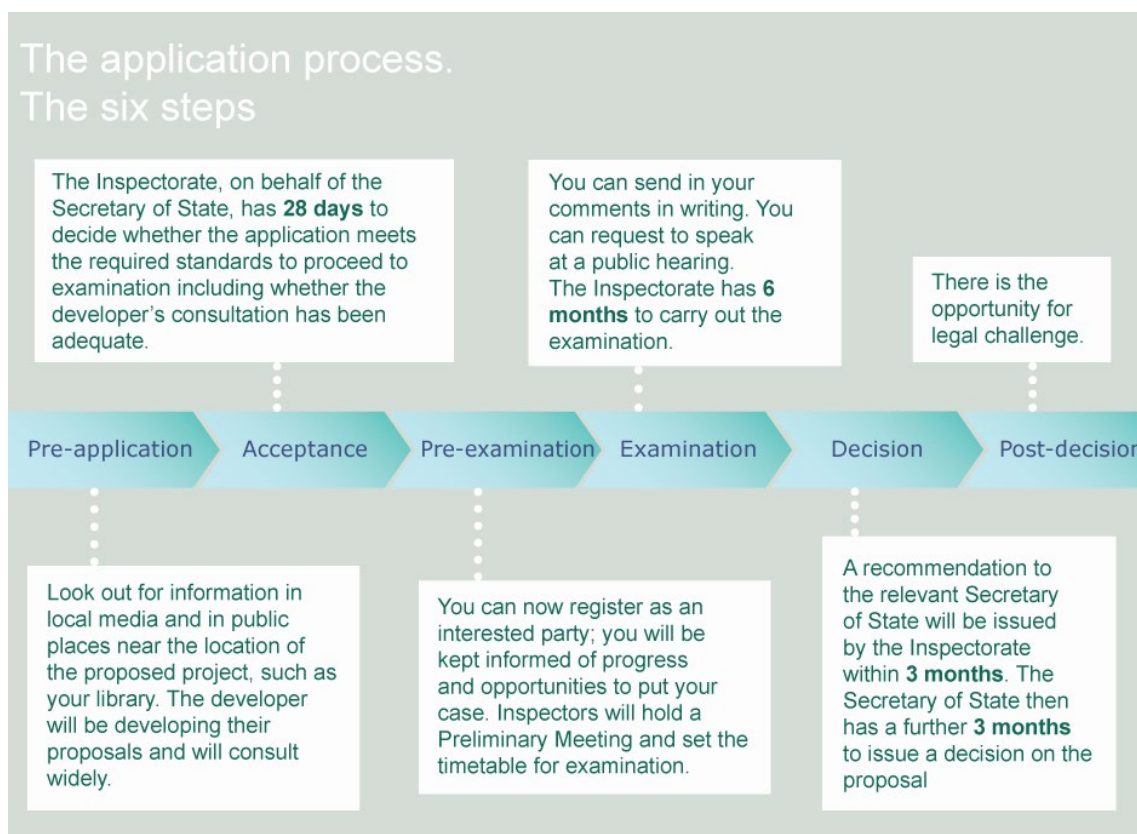


Figure 4.1 DCO Consenting process flow chart (Credit: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Application-process-diagram2.png>)

4.2 Pre-application Consultation

- 4.2.1 This document identifies below how local communities will be able to comment on the proposals and help shape the proposed DCO application for the project. The first informal, non-statutory events of community consultation were held in September 2018.
- 4.2.2 Formal, statutory consultation is anticipated to take place in the first quarter of 2019. This round will build on the first informal round in terms of scope, content and reach, subject to any incorporated consultee suggestions and comments.
- 4.2.3 As part of both the informal and formal consultation we will consult prescribed

consultees (statutory consultees, statutory undertakers, relevant local authorities and relevant land ownership interests) and this will take place alongside the community consultation.

4.3 Environmental Scoping

- 4.3.1 Our Scoping Report was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate at the end of May 2018 and accepted on the 7 June 2018. The Scoping Report contains our proposed approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project, including the scope of issues and the methodologies that will be considered in the EIA. The Scoping Opinion was published by PINS on 18 July 2018.

4.4 Supporting Environmental Information

- 4.4.1 The Project is considered 'EIA development' under Schedule 2 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The Boston Alternative Energy Facility is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location. Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Assessment must be carried out and an Environmental Statement, reporting on the likely significant environmental effects of the Project, must be prepared to accompany the DCO application.
- 4.4.2 A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) will be prepared before the final Environmental Statement. The PEIR will include details of preliminary assessment findings associated with the issues that were agreed at the Scoping stage. The PEIR is anticipated to be published for consultation in early 2019 and will be made available to the public to view free of charge at locations to be confirmed, as well as through publication on the Boston Alternative Energy Facility website and the PINS website. The PEIR will include a description of the proposals and baseline information (to date) and identify the potential impacts of the development, as well as possible mitigation measures to reduce, prevent or offset these. The responses from the Public Information Days+ held in September will help shape the PEIR.
- 4.4.3 There will be a formal round of Public Information Days after the PEIR is published. These are required by law as part of the consultation process for a DCO. This will allow the consultees to see how the first round of consultation influenced the PEIR; and will also allow further comments to be raised to help shape the final Environmental Statement.

5 Environmental Effects and Benefits of the Project

5.1 Potential Benefits and Effects

- 5.1.1 The Environmental Statement will identify likely significant environmental effects of the Boston Alternative Energy Facility and will set out the mitigation proposed to reduce any significant adverse effects; and will identify proposed benefits.

5.2 Delivering on National Policies and Targets

- 5.2.1 The UK is committed to generate at least 15% of energy demand from renewable energy sources by 2020. The proposed facility would provide a sustainable and renewable form of energy recovery, to contribute towards meeting renewable targets and carbon emissions and in accordance with the requirements of National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3.
- 5.2.2 In particular, EN-1 sets out the Government's conclusion that there is a significant need for new major energy infrastructure. EN-1 includes assessments of the need for new major renewable energy infrastructure. In the light of this, the need for infrastructure covered by EN-3 has been demonstrated and the Boston Alternative Energy Facility can help meet this need.
- 5.2.3 EN-3 identifies that the recovery of energy from waste, where in accordance with the waste hierarchy, will play an increasingly important role in meeting the UK's energy needs and can also contribute to meeting the UK's renewable energy targets. Further, the recovery of energy from waste forms an important element of waste management strategies in both England and Wales.
- 5.2.4 The EU action plan for the Circular Economy sets a target to reduce landfill to a maximum of 10% of municipal waste by 2030; and will also provide concrete measures to promote re-use and stimulate industrial symbiosis - turning one industry's by-product into another industry's raw material.

5.3 Delivering Regional and Local Economic Benefits

- 5.3.1 The Boston Alternative Energy Facility signifies a multi-million-pound investment in the economy of Boston, Lincolnshire and the UK during its development and operation.
- 5.3.2 The project will bring investment to the region's economy and improve its economic resilience by increasing the diversity of employment sectors.
- 5.3.3 During construction, it is anticipated that approximately 300 jobs will be created as well as contractual opportunities for local and UK companies.

- 5.3.4 During operation, it is anticipated that the project will require a workforce of around 80, including some highly skilled roles.
- 5.3.5 It will also provide additional revenue to the Port of Boston as the RDF will arrive via ship; and the aggregate will depart on ships.

5.4 Environmental Effects

- 5.4.1 Our consultation materials will include information on the potential community impacts and likely environmental topics and will identify the topics which have the potential to give rise to significant effects during construction and/or operation. These are dictated by the Scoping Opinion from PINS and include topics such as socio-economics, health, cultural heritage and archaeology, traffic and transport, noise, air quality, soils, hydrology, ecology, the marine environment, landscape and visual impacts.
- 5.4.2 Our second round of consultation will outline proposed environmental mitigation to avoid or reduce any adverse impacts on local communities; and will also highlight the significant potential benefits to the local and regional community, for example in relation to employment and training opportunities.

6 The Consultation Process

6.1 Consultation Objectives

- 6.1.1 The project team is committed to consulting widely, honestly and comprehensively – to allow representations to be incorporated into the project and influence it, where practicable and appropriate.
- 6.1.2 PINS' guidance on the pre-application process advocates early involvement of local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees, bringing about significant benefits for all parties by:
- Helping the applicant identify and resolve issues at the earliest stage, which can reduce the overall risk to the project further down the line; as it becomes more difficult to make changes once an application has been submitted;
 - Enabling members of the public to influence proposed projects, feedback on potential options, and encouraging the community to help shape the proposal to maximise local benefits and minimise any downsides;
 - Helping local people understand the potential nature and local impact of the proposed project, with the potential to dispel misapprehensions at an early stage;
 - Enabling applicants to obtain important information about the economic, social and environmental impacts of a scheme from consultees, which can help rule out unsuitable options;
 - Enabling potential mitigating measures to be considered and, if appropriate, built into the project before an application is submitted; and
 - Identifying ways in which the project could without significant costs to promoters; support wider strategic or local objectives.

6.2 Consultation Strategy

- 6.2.1 The consultation strategy for Boston Alternative Energy Facility has been split into two phases as described below.

6.3 Phase One Consultation

- 6.3.1 We have completed a phase of early engagement to introduce the project to statutory bodies and key stakeholders, allowing them an opportunity to be aware of (and comment on if necessary) our initial proposals. An inception meeting was held with PINS in January 2018; with introductory meetings then held with Port of Boston in February 2018; Lincolnshire County Council in March 2018, and Boston Borough Council and the Environment Agency in April 2018.

- 6.3.2 We have published a project brochure giving high level details of the proposed project that provides contact details for consultee engagement. Additionally, a website has been created showing details of the project and frequently asked questions; this went live at the start of the non-statutory consultation (September 2018). The website will be updated as the consultation process progresses www.bostonaef.co.uk.
- 6.3.3 We also met with the Local Communities Development Officer from Boston Borough Council to seek her expertise of the local area and advice when communicating with stakeholders.
- 6.3.4 A series of informal Public Information Days were held in September 2018 (see section 9.3) as part of Phase One consultation.
- 6.3.5 Phase One comprises a ‘non-statutory’ consultation, in that it is not formally subject to the statutory consultation requirements. As the proposed development is at an early stage, AUBP has taken the decision to undertake an initial informal consultation, which is not materially different to a statutory consultation in scope, reach and content. The consultees are those required to be consulted in statutory consultation, and AUBP has published newspaper advertisements and displayed posters at key locations across Boston to promote the Public Information Days.
- 6.3.6 The events provided further information on our proposals, including details of potential local environmental and economic impacts, and gave those interested in the project an opportunity to provide feedback.
- 6.3.7 Prior to the Public Information Days, letters were sent to key stakeholders including the MP, county and borough councillors and parish councils, with the offer of a meeting. In September 2018, meetings were held with Councillor Alison Austin, Boston Borough Council ward councillor for St Thomas Ward; Councillor Richard Austin, Boston Borough Council ward councillor for Wyberton; Councillor Michael Cooper, Leader of Boston Borough Council; Clive Gibbon, Economic Development Manager for Boston Borough Council; Neil McBride, Planning Manager at Lincolnshire County Council; Councillor Peter Bedford, Boston Borough Council ward councillor for Boston Coastal, and Councillor Daniel McNally.
- 6.3.8 The project team are also continuing to engage with key stakeholders as part of the process required to compile the Preliminary Environmental Information report.

6.4 Hard to Reach Groups

- 6.4.1 For the purpose of our consultation and following advice from the Local Communities Development Officer from Boston Borough Council, we have defined ‘Hard to Reach’ groups as including those where English is not their first language

and those living in rural areas.

- 6.4.2 In order to secure the attention of the 'Hard to Reach' audiences, we will offer the opportunity for materials to be translated to other appropriate languages on request. The languages that were suggested by Boston Borough Council were Polish, Lithuanian, Portuguese and Russian, however we will consider other languages on request. For the Phase One Public Information Days, the poster for the events included a sentence in each of these four languages which offered a translated version on request. Employers close to the site were also contacted, and asked which languages were most commonly spoken by their employees. As a result, the posters were translated into Polish, Latvian and Lithuanian and sent to these businesses.
- 6.4.3 This approach has been reviewed ahead of the Phase Two Public Information Days, and we will continue to liaise with the Local Communities Development Officer from Boston Borough Council regarding appropriate engagement with those where English is not their first language.
- 6.4.4 Within the Boston Borough Council area, there is a sizeable element of the population who live rurally. In some of these areas, public transport is infrequent and internet capability is poor. For this reason, we are holding Public Information Days in a range of locations to ensure as many people as possible can attend, and will ensure both offline and online channels are used for communication. We will arrange a maildrop via Royal Mail to homes within the Boston Borough Council area with notification of the events.

6.5 Advertising

- 6.5.1 We have discussed the best channels to engage with the local Boston audience with a Community Engagement representative from Boston Borough Council. These channels will include:
- Attending and presenting at relevant group meetings, including parish councils, schools and community groups to provide information directly to them to facilitate their participation in the consultation process;
 - Information to be distributed by Royal mail maildrop to every home within the Boston Borough Council area;
 - Newspaper adverts;
 - Use of Boston Borough Council communication channels;
 - Use of parish council newsletters and communication channels;
 - Posters to be displayed on noticeboards and in shops in the local area, as well as

at major local employers;

- Press releases to local media; and
- Posts on social media pages ahead of the Phase Two consultation period.

6.6 Phase Two Consultation

- 6.6.1 The second phase of consultation will be in early 2019 after the PEIR is published. The PEIR will inform the Environmental Statement (to that point) to support the DCO application.
- 6.6.2 As required by law as part of the consultation process for a DCO, a round of formal Public Information Days (as part of the formal statutory consultation phase) will be held following the publication of the PEIR. During these events, we will update attendees on how the proposals have changed since the previous consultation earlier in the year, demonstrating how we have listened to feedback. We will capture any remaining questions and will document how these have influenced the development of the final Environmental Statement. These will be advertised in the same way as phase one consultation events, considering any lessons learnt during the phase.

7 What We Will Consult On

- 7.1.1 The purpose of pre-application consultation is to gather views whilst the proposal is being developed to allow people the opportunity to influence the design of the project.
- 7.1.2 It is important that it is clear what is being consulted upon during both the informal (non-statutory) and formal (statutory) phases of consultation. This will include:
- Environmental factors (such as landscape and visual amenity, historic and archaeological features and local habitats and species);
 - Economic factors (commercial activities, employment opportunities and investment in the community); and
 - Social factors (such as public rights of way, noise during construction and educational opportunities).
- 7.1.3 The Boston Alternative Energy Facility will be a source of renewable energy and the need for this is supported by the Government's National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3. For this reason, AUBP is not required to seek feedback on the need for the proposed facility.

8 Identifying Our Consultees

8.1 The Local Community

- 8.1.1 In defining the consultation area for the local community, we have identified an inner consultation area and a wider consultation area, shown in **Figure 8.1**.
- 8.1.2 The inner area, shown in green, includes the community which has the potential to be most impacted by the proposals and this has been defined at a five-kilometre radius of the site. The wider area, within the red line, has been determined by the Boston Borough Council boundary. Residents in the wider area could experience some impact from the facility. This approach has been taken from good practice applied in consultations for other similar proposals.



Figure 8.1 Map showing inner (5km radius to site) and outer (Boston Borough Council area) consultation areas

- 8.1.3 We have focused on residents of the town of Boston itself and communities in the surrounding local area. However, the consultation events will be advertised on a regional basis using the Boston Standard (part of the Lincolnshire Series), Lincolnshire Free Press and Spalding Guardian, and we would encourage those

from the wider area with comments and opinions to engage.

8.2 Statutory Consultees

8.2.1 We are required by section 42 of the Act to consult with certain organisations and people on our proposed application. We will also notify these parties if the application is accepted by PINS. Information on this consultation process is outside the scope of this document. Details from statutory consultation will be available in the Consultation Report submitted as part of our formal DCO application.

8.3 Other Non-Statutory Consultees

8.3.1 The other non-statutory consultees are those agencies and organisations with whom we consult with as best practice and these include:

- Local communities, i.e. Residents' Associations
- Local interest and amenity groups
- Local businesses
- Local MPs; and
- Local councillors.

8.3.2 Please note that these lists are not exhaustive.

8.3.3 Briefings will be offered for Boston Borough and Lincolnshire County Councillors at key stages of the DCO application process.

9 Communication Tools

9.1.1 We want to create opportunities for as many people as possible to get involved with the consultation. To do so, we will ensure the following documents are prepared and are made available on the project website, with hard copies available on request:

- Slide pack – to enable us to offer presentations to local groups who are interested in hosting a session.
- Exhibition materials – we will run open drop-in Public Information Days. Information boards and materials exhibited will provide context to and summarise the proposals. Staff will be on hand to answer questions, talk to participants and aid their understanding of the project with the aim of assisting them to contribute their views.
- Document library – key documents relating to the proposals will be uploaded to the project website, along with copies of the project brochure and of this SoCC. The documents will be uploaded to coincide with their release into the public domain.
- This SoCC will be displayed at local authority offices and in other locations (see section 9.7); and will be available online through the project website.

9.2 Communication Methods

9.2.1 The Boston Alternative Energy Facility project team recognises that one method of consultation will not meet the requirements of every stakeholder group. For this reason, it is proposed to use a variety of communication methods as shown below.

Consultation Events

- Drop in Public Information Days
- Stakeholder Events/Briefings

Written Communication

- Project website updates (including responses to 'Frequently Asked Questions')
- Email updates
- Maildrop to residential and business addresses in the Boston Borough Council area
- Responses to letters/emails
- The PEIR, consultation packs and consultation booklet/leaflet

Verbal Communication

- Presentations to Local Authorities, Parish Councils, specific interest groups, hard to reach groups etc., by invite

9.3 Consultation Events

9.3.1 As part of Phase One of consultation a series of drop-in Public Information Days were held at the following venues and on the dates below:

Ward	Venue and Address	Date
Station	White Hart Hotel, 1-5 High Street, Boston, PE21 8SH	Friday 14 th September 2018 from 2pm to 8pm
Skirbeck	St Nicholas Church Hall, Fishtoft Road, Boston	Saturday 15 th September 2018 from 2pm to 8pm
St Thomas	Black Sluice Lock Cottages, Holme Bay, South Forty Foot Bank, Boston, PE21 7RA	Wednesday 19 th September 2018 from 2pm to 8pm
Fishtoft	Fishtoft Pavilion, Playing Fields, Church Green Road, PE21 0RP	Thursday 20 th September 2018 from 2pm to 8pm
Kirton and Frampton	Frampton Village Hall, Middlegate Road, Frampton PE20 1AW	Friday 21 st September 2018 from 2pm to 8pm

9.3.2 In addition to these informal consultation events, we issued an invite to all parish councils within the consultation zone to attend a meeting, if required.

9.3.3 For Phase Two of consultation we are proposing to hold a series of drop-in Public Information Days February 2019.

9.3.4 Venues in the same wards as the Phase One Public Information Days have been selected. Feedback from the Phase One events has influenced the locations and

number of Public Information Days that will be held. For example, it was observed that the White Hart venue was restrictive for disabled access. Therefore, this venue has not been selected for Phase Two. Furthermore, it was observed that the residents of the Wyberton ward should also have a venue provided that is close to them. As a result, the number of Public Information Days has been extended to six.

Ward	Venue and Address	Date
Wyberton	Wyberton Parish Hall, London Road, Boston PE21 7DE	Friday 15 th February 2019 from 12pm to 4pm
St Thomas	St Thomas' Church, London Road, Boston PE21 7EJ	Saturday 16 th February 2018 from 12pm to 4pm
Station	The Ridlington Centre, Sibsey Lane, Boston, PE21 6HB	Wednesday 20 th February 2019 from 3pm to 7pm
Fishtoft	Fishtoft Pavilion, Playing Fields, Church Green Road, Fishtoft, PE21 0RP	Thursday 21 st February 2019 from 3pm to 7pm
Kirton and Frampton	Frampton Village Hall, Middlegate Road, Frampton PE20 1AW	Friday 22 nd February 2019 from 3pm to 7pm
Skirbeck	St Nicholas Church Hall, Fishtoft Road, Boston PE21 0DJ	Saturday 23 rd February 2019 from 1pm to 5pm

9.3.5 In addition to these informal consultation events, we will issue an invite to all parish councils within the Boston Borough Council area to attend a meeting, if required.

9.4 Methods to provide consultation feedback

9.4.1 Seeking feedback is key to the principles of consultation. This will be sought using a variety of mechanisms, including:

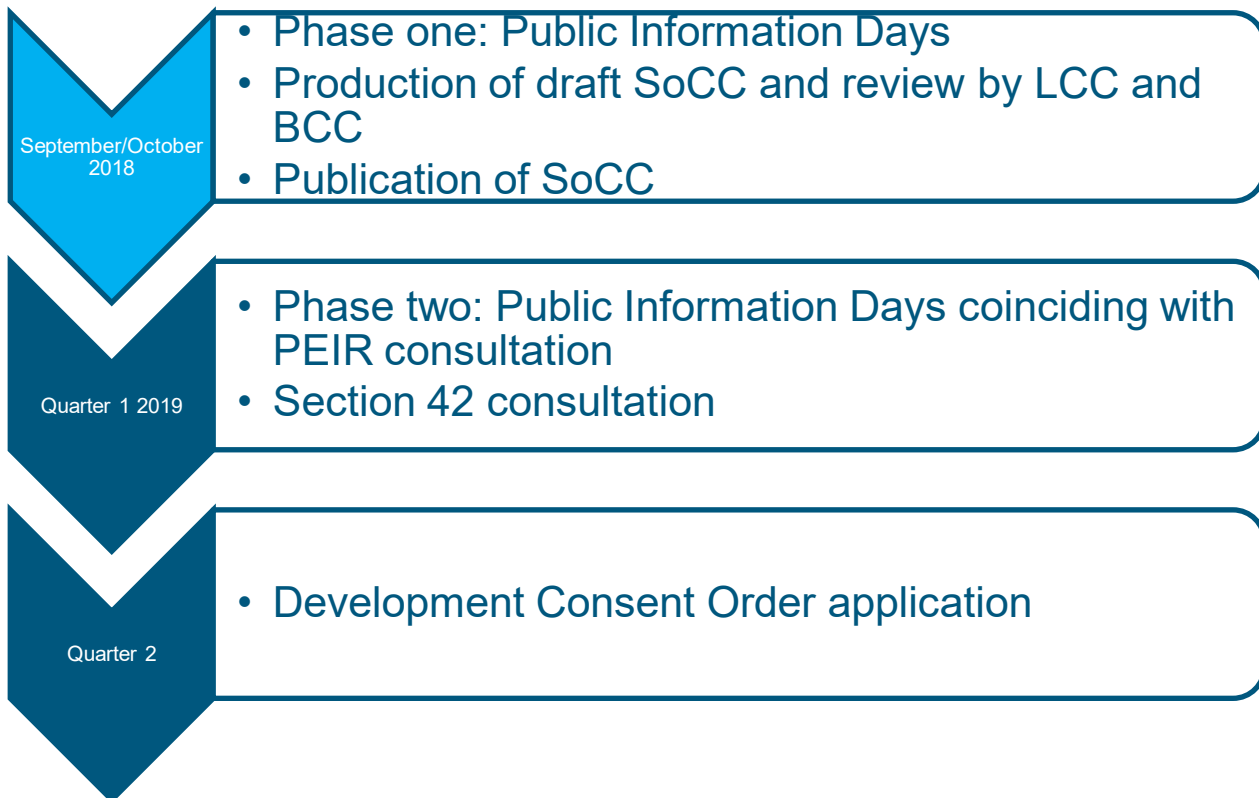
- Feedback forms provided at the Public Information Days to provide detailed comments in response to specific questions;
- An online version of the feedback form to be made available for 28 days after the Public Information Days.
- A dedicated email and Freepost address to allow comments, questions and feedback to be made directly to the project team; and
- A Freephone number will be available to contact the project team with comments and questions.

9.4.2 Where consultees approach the Boston Alternative Energy Facility project team by email or mail, the communication will be acknowledged within three working days following receipt of the enquiry. The team will endeavour to respond to the consultee within 20 working days, or up to a maximum of one month for complex queries. We will advise the enquirer if the enquiry is considered to be complex.

9.5 How we will respond to consultee comments

- 9.5.1 Following each phase of consultation, we will have a period to consider feedback and review our proposals. We will collate and review the findings of each phase and publish a report on the Boston Alternative Energy Facility website, and discuss updates with key stakeholders.
- 9.5.2 This will set out consultee responses and how we have addressed those responses in formulating the DCO application. Following this, we may carry out additional targeted consultation with members of the local community, as feedback is received, and the project is refined.
- 9.5.3 All comments and information we receive will be recorded in a consultation database and be considered by Boston Alternative Energy Facility. As part of our DCO application, we will provide a Consultation Report to explain how the views received have been incorporated into the project design process and EIA. If an issue has not resulted in a change to the proposed development, the Consultation Report will explain this. As there may be a large number of responses, the Consultation Report may group comments into broad issues of concern. Please note that all communications will be publicly available; however, no personal details will be published.
- 9.5.4 Names and personal contact details (including email addresses, telephone number and home address) may be collected for the purpose of contacting and corresponding with consultees. Appropriate technical and organisational security measures are in place to protect any personal information we receive against unauthorised or unlawful use, and against accidental loss, damage or destruction in line with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) requirements. More information about these measures is available on request.

9.6 Timeline



9.6.1 When the DCO application has been submitted, we are required to publicise this via an advert in the London Gazette, a national newspaper and local newspapers for two consecutive weeks. We will also inform the local community via a newsletter to be circulated via Royal Mail, and updates via our website www.bostonaef.co.uk

9.7 General consultation enquiries

9.7.1 All project information will be available on our website at the following address <https://www.bostonaef.co.uk>

9.7.2 We also have a dedicated email address for you to communicate with us: consultation@bostonaef.co.uk

9.7.3 You can also write to us at the following Freepost address:

Boston Alternative Energy Facility
 RTLY-RLGH-GKSE
 FREEPOST
 25 Priestgate
 Peterborough PE1 1JL

9.7.4 Should you wish to follow the project on the PINS website, the Boston Alternative

Energy Facility website is at the following address
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/boston-alternative-energy-facility-baef/>

9.8 Local information points

9.8.1 We want to make sure information is accessible locally.

9.8.2 Electronic and hard copies of key project documents will be available to view free of charge for inspection at the locations listed below throughout the pre-application period. These will include the SoCC, consultation documents and the PEIR during the relevant stages of the period.

Venue and Address	Opening Times
Boston Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, PE21 8QR	Monday – Thursday 8.45am – 5.15pm Friday 8.45am – 4.45pm
Boston Library, County Hall, Boston, PE21 6DY	Monday – Wednesday 9.00am – 5.00pm Thursday 9.00am – 6.00pm Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm Saturday 9.00am – 4.00pm
Kirton Library, Wash Road, Kirton, Boston, PE20 1AN	Tuesday 10.00am – 1.00pm Thursday 2.00pm – 4.00pm Saturday 10.00am – 12.00pm
Kirton Town Hall, 19 Station Road, Kirton, Boston, PE20 1LD	Monday 9.00am – 9.00pm Tuesday 1.30pm – 3.30pm Wednesday 9.00am – 11.00am; 2.00pm – 4.00pm
Hubberts Bridge Community Centre, Hubberts Bridge, PE20 3SG	Sunday 8.00am – 12.00pm
Swineshead Pre School, North End, Swineshead, PE20 3LR	Monday – Friday 8.00am – 4.00pm

9.8.3 The opening times of these organisations are controlled by the venue operators and may be subject to change.

9.8.4 Hard and electronic copies of the SoCC will also be sent to all parish councils in the Boston Borough Council area.

9.8.5 Hard copies of the SoCC will also be sent to the Public Information Day venues.

10 Glossary of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term
AUBP	Alternative Use Boston Projects Ltd.
CEMS	Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
DCO	Development Consent Order
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
IED	Industrial Emissions Directive
MW	Megawatt
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
PID	Public Information Day
PEI	Preliminary Environmental Information
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
RDF	Refuse Derived Fuel
SoCC	Statement of Community Consultation