

# Frodsham Solar: Addendum to Statement of Community Consultation

## Introduction

On 25 May 2023, Frodsham Solar Ltd. published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for Frodsham Solar. This document remains available to view and download from the project website: [www.frodshamsolar.co.uk](http://www.frodshamsolar.co.uk).

The published SoCC describes how consultation will be undertaken during the ‘pre-application stage, prior to the submission of a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) application for the project.

The approach to consultation set out in this document was consulted upon with Cheshire West and Chester Council and Halton Borough Council in accordance with Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008.

The SoCC sets out an iterative approach to pre-application consultation, comprising:

- A Phase One consultation introducing early-stage proposals for Frodsham Solar and inviting feedback on a concept plan. This first phase of consultation was undertaken between 1 June 2023 and 13 July 2023 consistent with the details set out in the SoCC.
- A Phase Two consultation on more developed proposals for Frodsham Solar together with the results from environmental and technical surveys. The indicative timeline presented in the SoCC had anticipated this phase of consultation to take place in Winter 2023. However, various factors in developing the proposals following the close of Phase One consultation meant an appropriate level of detail was not available to consult upon in Winter 2023.

Instead, Phase Two consultation will be undertaken between **7 November 2024 and 19 December 2024**.

This addendum sets out the details of the upcoming Phase Two consultation, consistent with the principles established in the published SoCC.

## The Applicant

The applicant for this project will be Frodsham Solar Ltd., which was introduced last year as part of a joint venture known as Peel Cubico Renewables.

In January 2024, Cubico Sustainable Investments (Cubico) acquired Peel NRE's 50% stake in Peel Cubico Renewables Ltd. This includes the joint venture's solar development pipeline, meaning that Frodsham Solar is now a Cubico only project and Frodsham Solar Ltd. is wholly owned by Cubico.

The acquisition also includes the transfer of the North-West based Peel NRE renewables development team into the Cubico business, ensuring that those that know and have the experience of developing renewable energy in this area remain on the project.

It represents a significant step in Cubico's aspiration to establish itself as a prominent developer, owner, and operator of renewable energy assets within the country, aligning with the UK's pursuit of its own ambitious net zero targets.

## The Project

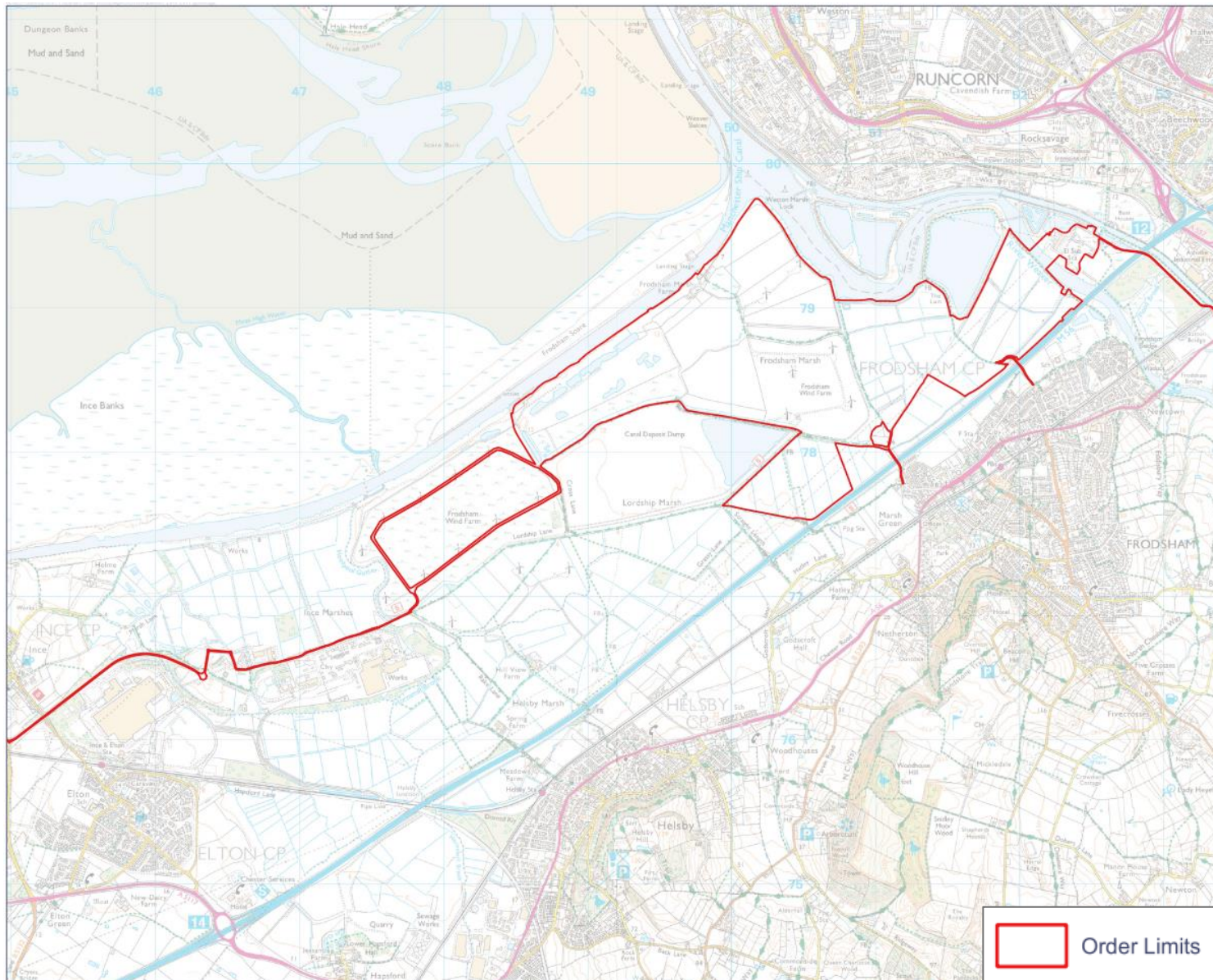
The proposal for Frodsham Solar remains consistent with Section 3 of the SoCC.

The proposal is situated on land to the north of the M56, including an area of land beneath the eastern cluster of turbines of Frodsham Wind Farm, and includes:

- A ground-mounted solar array (solar panels).
- An anticipated potential output from the solar array of over 50 MW.
- Built infrastructure such as substations, transformers and inverters.
- Electrical connection infrastructure into the existing Frodsham Substation, adjacent to the River Weaver, and to local industrial installations.
- An on-site battery energy storage system (BESS).
- Landscape and ecological Mitigation and enhancement measures, including consideration of new permissive paths during the lifetime of the scheme.
- Other ancillary works including access, fencing, and drainage

The proposed site boundary has evolved since the publication of the SoCC, in response to further assessment, feedback received and ongoing design development. The updated proposed site boundary is presented as Figure 1 overleaf.

Figure 1: Proposed Site Boundary



## **Our Phase Two Consultation**

Our Phase Two consultation will take place over six weeks between Thursday 7 November and Thursday 19 December 2024.

This section includes details of our upcoming Phase Two consultation and explains how this will be undertaken consistently with the principles and commitments set out in the published SoCC.

### **Our public consultation process**

As described in Section 4 of the SoCC, our Phase Two consultation will allow us to update the local community and stakeholders on our proposal for Frodsham Solar. Consultation will be undertaken in parallel with the local community, land interests we have identified through the land referencing process, and technical and prescribed consultees.

We will consult on our more developed proposals together with the results from the ongoing environmental and technical surveys that have been carried out to date, which will be published in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”).

Our Phase Two consultation will build on our Phase One consultation to seek feedback on potential issues such as, but not limited to management and mitigation of temporary impacts during construction, operational impacts, our environmental masterplan proposals and benefits.

Details to inform responses on these topic areas – such as visual plans, descriptions of design parameters and principles, and proposed mitigation measures – will be presented through consultation materials including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and a Community Consultation Leaflet.

Our Phase Two consultation will be held over a six week period, consistent with the commitment in the SoCC to exceed the statutory minimum of 28 days.

### **Who Will We Consult?**

As described in Section 5 of the SoCC, our Phase Two consultation is open to anyone who may be interested in, or in any way feels impacted by, our proposal for Frodsham Solar.

We will proactively notify the local community in writing of our Phase Two consultation and their opportunities to take part. This will be done by issuing a consultation postcard to all properties within the Consultation Zone pictured as Figure 3 in the published SoCC, and as Figure 2 below. This comprises over 11,000 addresses within the Cheshire West and Chester and Halton Borough authority areas, including every address within the civil parish of Frodsham.

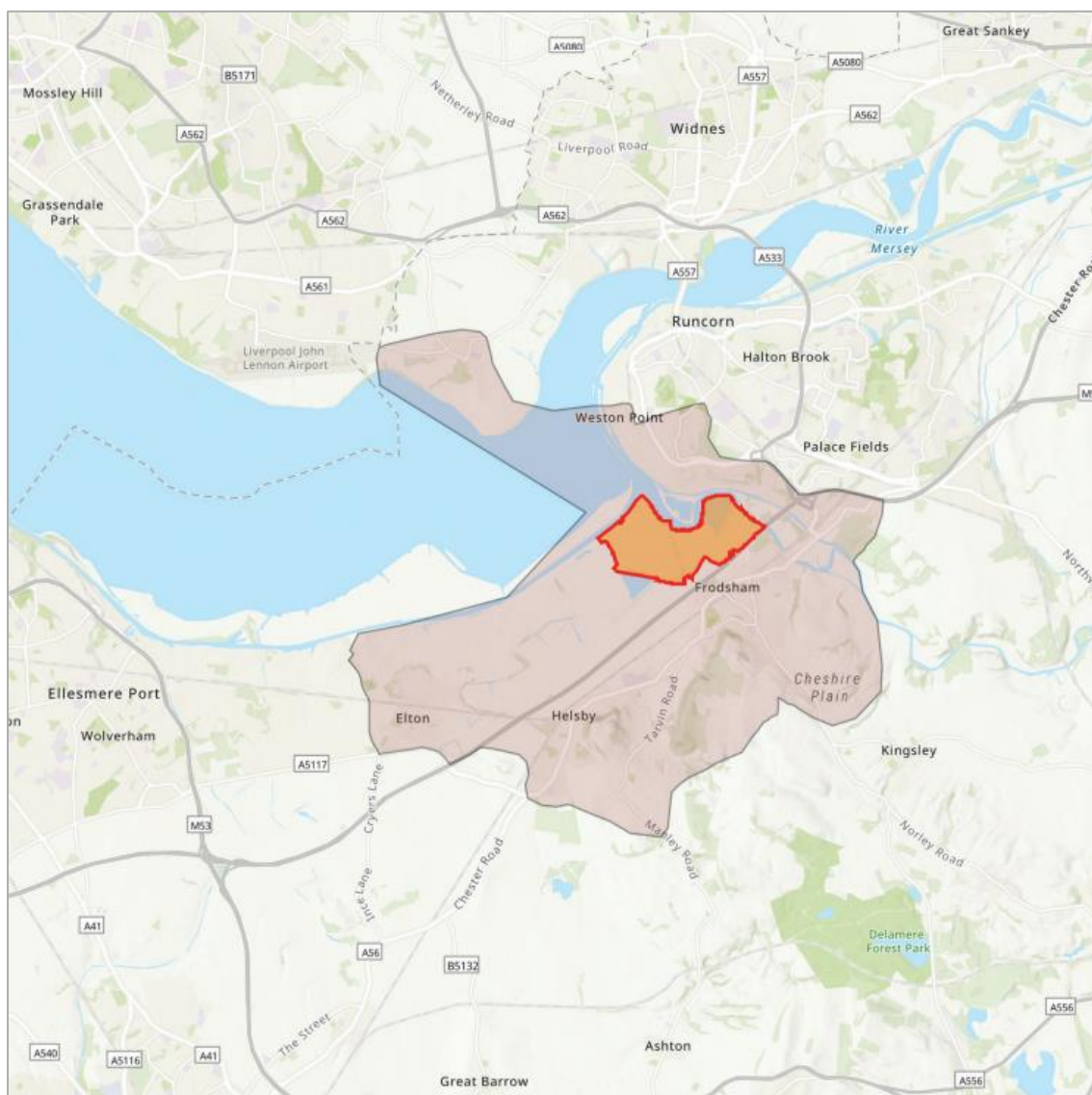
Relevant organisations and representative stakeholders within the Consultation Zone, such as host town and parish councils, host local authority councillors, the

Member of Parliament for Runcorn and Helsby, and identified community groups, will be notified of the upcoming Phase Two consultation opportunities by email.

Consultation opportunities will be publicised to communities and interested parties beyond the Consultation Zone by advertising in local media and contacting our register of interested individuals<sup>1</sup>.

The identified 'gateway organisations' representing potentially seldom heard groups in the Consultation Zone listed in Table 1 of the SoCC will be contacted ahead of our Phase Two consultation to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of their members and those they represent.

**Figure 2: Frodsham Solar Consultation Zone (as presented in SoCC)**



<sup>1</sup> Respondents to the Phase One consultation were provided an option to sign up to receive updates by email or post. Anyone interested in the proposals has also had opportunities to register for updates by contacting our range of free-to-use communications channels.

## How Will We Consult?

As described in Section 6 of the SoCC, our Phase Two consultation will include a range of methods to ensure the consultation is accessible.

### Information events

In-person information events will be held at locations within the Consultation Zone. A webinar event will also be held for any member of the public to join via internet or telephone. These events will be advertised in consultation materials, across local media, and by issuing publicity materials to identified public venues (referred to as local information points) as well as at Community Access Points. We have arranged the following schedule of information events across a range of locations, days and times. This approach is consistent with the Phase One consultation event details provided in the SoCC.

Location	Date & Time
<b>Christchurch Hall</b> Sandy Lane, Weston Point, Runcorn, WA7 4EU	Monday 25 November 2024 3pm - 7pm
<b>Helsby Community Centre</b> Lower Robin Hood Lane, Frodsham, WA6 0BW	Tuesday 26 November 2024 2pm – 6.30pm
<b>Elton Community Centre</b> School Lane, Elton, Chester, CH2 4PU	Friday 29 November 2024 3pm - 7pm
<b>Frodsham Community Centre</b> Fluin Ln, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Saturday 30 November 2024 1.30pm – 5.30pm
<b>Frodsham Community Centre</b> Fluin Ln, Frodsham, WA6 7QN	Monday 2 December 2024 2.30pm – 6.30pm
<b>Online Community Webinar</b> via Zoom (please visit our website or contact us for joining instructions)	Wednesday 4 December 2024 6pm – 7.30pm

### Literature

As described in Section 6 of the SoCC, a range of materials will be published to promote consultation opportunities and facilitate responses.

A Consultation Postcard will be sent to properties within the Consultation Zone. This will include details of the Phase Two consultation and how to take part.

A Community Consultation Leaflet will be available free-of-charge to view and download online, collect from information events and Community Access Points, and by request from our contact channels. The Community Consultation Leaflet will provide a summary of our updated proposal for Frodsham Solar and how to take part in the consultation.

The PEIR will be published and available to view online and at information events. A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the PEIR will be available to view at Community

Access Points. A full copy of the PEIR will be available free-of-charge by USB, but a reasonable charge up to £500 may apply to providing printed copies of the PEIR.

The PEIR will include details of the proposal for Frodsham Solar, including the results of environmental assessments undertaken to date and associated mitigation measures.

Feedback forms will be made available free-of-charge for community members to respond to the consultation. These forms will be available online and in hard copy at Community Access Points, information events, and by request to the contact details below. Feedback forms will be able to be returned free of charge using the Frodsham Solar FREEPOST address (FREEPOST FRODSHAM SOLAR).

Consultation materials can also be made available by request in alternative formats, such as large print, translated language, audio or braille, by contacting us using the details below.

### **Communication channels**

Feedback Forms and any other written feedback can be made to the following project communication channels during the Phase Two consultation period:

- Email: [info@frodshamsolar.co.uk](mailto:info@frodshamsolar.co.uk)
- Freepost Address: FREEPOST FRODSHAM SOLAR

Questions and requests for more information can be made to the communication channels above, as well as through calling the project freephone information line on 0808 175 4004 (open 09:00-17:00, Monday-Friday. A voicemail service will operate for out of office hours).

### **Project website and online information**

The dedicated project website ([www.frodshamsolar.co.uk](http://www.frodshamsolar.co.uk)) remains live. The website will be updated for the start of the Phase Two consultation to include relevant information on the proposal. This will involve hosting Phase Two consultation materials within the Document Library section of the website. Consultation material will be presented digitally, providing information consistent with that available at events and through hard copy materials.

The website will also host an online version of the feedback form, for comments to be submitted online.

### **Advertising, notices and media**

As described in Section 6 of the SoCC, Adverts will be placed in the Chester Chronicle and Chester Standard to publicise the Phase Two consultation opportunities to local communities.

Notices will also be placed in these local newspapers, as well as a national newspaper and the London Gazette, in compliance with Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

Local information points such as village halls, places of worship, shops and civic buildings will be provided with posters containing details of how to take part in the Phase Two consultation.

We will be promoting the Phase Two consultation opportunities through a press release issued to regional publications.

### Privacy and data protection

The responses and representations we receive will be considered and will form the basis of a Consultation Report, and therefore may become public. Personal details will be held securely and solely for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, DCO process and further development of the project.

Outside of these purposes we may be required to provide personal details if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. Otherwise, personal details will not be disclosed to any third parties. For further details please see our Privacy Notice at [www.frodshamsolar.co.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.frodshamsolar.co.uk/privacy-policy). A printed copy of the Privacy Notice can be provided upon request to our contact channels.

### Community Access Points

Hard copies of this document and Phase Two consultation materials will be available at the following locations:

Location	Date & Time
<b>Frodsham Library</b> Princeway, Frodsham, WA6 6RX	Monday to Friday: 9am – 6pm Saturday: 9:30am – 1pm
<b>Helsby Library</b> Lower Robin Hood Lane, Helsby, WA6 0BW	Monday and Friday: 9.30am – 5pm Tuesday and Wednesday: 9.30am – 7pm Saturday: 9.30am - 1pm
<b>Ellesmere Port Library</b> Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BG	Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9am – 7pm Tuesday and Wednesday: 9am – 5pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm

Phase Two consultation materials hosted at these locations will include:

- Copies of this document for reference and taking away.
- Copies of the Community Consultation Leaflet for reference and taking away.
- Copies of the Feedback Form for reference and taking away.
- A copy of the PEIR NTS for reference only.

All of these Community Access Points also host computers with internet access, should that support any interested individual to access the full PEIR.