



Retford Circular Economy Project

Statement of Community Involvement

Prepared by Counter Context Ltd

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1. Executive Summary

This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared by Counter Context Ltd. to support a full planning application by Hive Aggregates, hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant', for the Retford Circular Economy Project (RCEP), hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development', located on approximately 106 hectares of land, some 1.5 km north of Retford.

This SCI reports on the pre-application public consultation undertaken by the Applicant regarding the Proposed Development. This consultation included significant and ongoing communication with the local community and key stakeholders including near neighbours living in close proximity to the site, Lound and Sutton-cum-Lound Parish Councils, and 709 properties within approximately 2 km of the site.

To publicise the consultation, the Applicant sent an email to key political representatives and consultees in addition to a postcard sent to the properties within the consultation area (see figure 3). The Applicant has engaged actively with the local media to support significant media coverage of the Proposed Development. The Applicant hosted three public information events to answer questions and receive feedback from the community, in addition to undertaking several site visits to local properties. The Applicant also agreed to a request to attend an open public meeting of Sutton-cum-Lound Parish Council on 25 October 2022. The Applicant also responded to communications lines by email and phone over a 4-week consultation period, answering detailed questions and uploading a recording of the online webinar to the project website.

In total, 139 sources of feedback were received by either paper or online feedback forms and email. The key concerns raised were:

- Impact of traffic associated with the Proposed Development on local roads and settlements
- Impact of the Proposed Development on local ecology and wildlife
- The visual impact of the Proposed Development on the landscape

All of the comments received have been considered and helped inform the final design, which includes several significant changes to address the main concerns. These changes, or clarifications, to the scheme include, but are not limited to:

- The removal of the Temporary Optimisation Site (TOS), resulting in a commitment that operational traffic will use the former Bellmoor Quarry access onto the A638.
- Retention of former lagoon embankments until extraction behind them has been completed, to provide screening of extractive activities.
- No importation of waste to restore the site.

The Applicant developed a pre-application consultation period with varied opportunities for the local community to provide their feedback on the Proposed Development, which has had a meaningful impact on the final design of the scheme and planning application.

2. Introduction

2.1 Overview of the Proposed Development

The subject of this consultation was a proposed new Pulverised Fuel Ash (PFA) extraction project hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development'. The site is located on approximately 106 hectares of land, some 1.5 km north of Retford, approximately 500 m south of Lound and 400m east of Sutton-cum-Lound.

The site was selected due to several factors, including access to the landfilled PFA and the ability to process it on site and safely transport the material away from the site.

The Proposed Development would make a meaningful impact towards national and local climate change targets. Once operational, it would extract around 300,000 tonnes of PFA waste a year and save up to around 5.3 million tonnes of carbon over its lifetime. As a climate leader, the UK has committed to ambitious targets of being a net-zero carbon emitter by 2050. Nottinghamshire County Council has also declared a climate emergency and underlined its commitment to addressing this global issue at a local level.

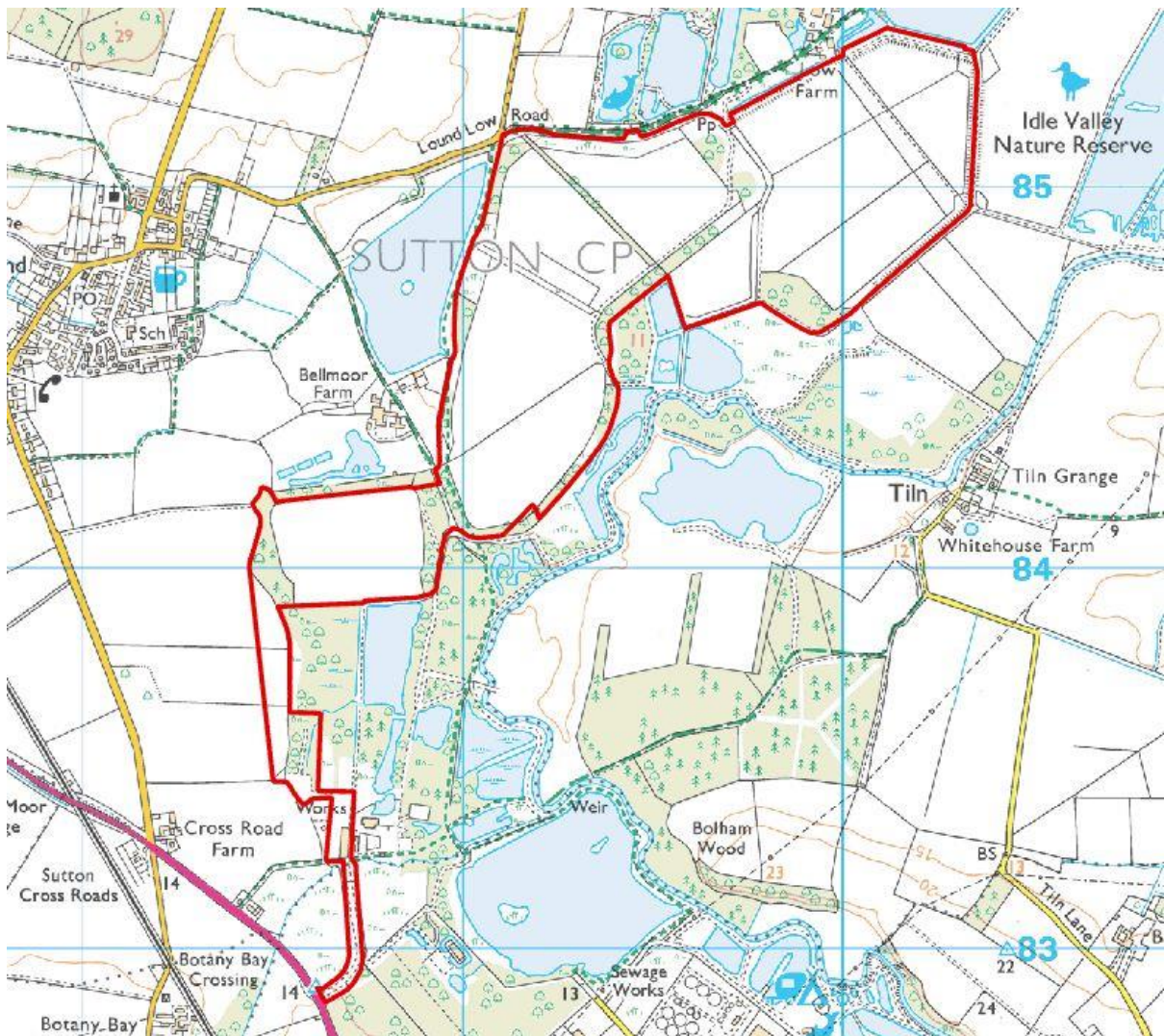


Figure 1. Red Line Boundary of Proposed Development

2.2 Purpose of this Statement of Community Involvement

This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been to provide a comprehensive record of the pre-application public consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development consistent with national and local guidance.

Conducting an early and transparent pre-application public consultation is consistent with the guidance within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2021) which 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 outcomes for the community.

[Local Authorities] should also, where they think this would be beneficial, encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community and, where relevant, with statutory and non-statutory consultees, before submitting their applications.¹

This SCI also fulfils a recommendation of Nottinghamshire County Council, as the planning authority, to provide people with an opportunity to feed into the design process of a scheme at an early stage. Nottinghamshire County Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement sets out how early community consultation should take place on planning issues. In giving pre-application advice to developers, it states that:

The Council advocates pre-application discussions with applicants at an early stage of the development process. We strongly encourage both applicants and developers to undertake their own consultation at an early pre-application stage to inform the application process and allow for areas of conflict or objection to be addressed before submitting a planning application to the Council.

On larger schemes, such as major applications, we strongly recommend developers consider additional measures and undertake wider public consultation to engage with the local community. Such measures could include:

- Consultation events with the local community and relevant Neighbourhood Forums (if established), including public meetings or exhibitions.*
- Consultation with elected members.*
- Making detailed plans available for public view, including online on a relevant website.*
- Press notices, development briefs, leaflets and / or letters to nearby residents.*

¹ Secretary of State for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, National Planning Policy Framework, July 2021, paragraphs 39 and 40

In addition to the requirement for pre-application public consultation set out by national and local authorities, the Applicant recognises that local people can make a valuable contribution to the Proposed Development by offering their local knowledge and raising issues that may not have been considered by the Applicant, in many cases resulting in a stronger set of proposals.

Consistent with advice in Nottinghamshire County Council's Statement of Community Involvement, this document forms a consultation supporting statement that summarises the consultation activities undertaken by the Applicant, a summary of comments received and issues raised, and how the Applicant has had regard to these comments.

3. Pre-Application Engagement

3.1 Consultation Approach

The approach to community consultation as presented in this SCI reflects Nottinghamshire County Council's and Bassetlaw District Council's advice for community consultation. Throughout the pre-application public consultation, the Applicant set out its approach to consultation. In the table below, it evidences how these approaches were undertaken throughout the period.

Table 1: Applicant approach and evidence of consultation

Applicant Approach to Consultation	Evidence of Approach
Invited comments at a time when they can inform the process	The Applicant undertook the consultation a few months prior to the planning application being submitted. Allowing sufficient time for feedback to be analysed and the Proposed Development to further mitigate any community issues if possible. See section 5.1 for examples.
Provided sufficient information to describe the subject matter of the consultation	The Applicant provided sufficient information in the briefing pack, community presentation and event information boards for the community to provide valuable feedback to the Proposed Development.
Provided sufficient notice of consultations	The Applicant distributed press releases to local publications a week prior to the start of the formal consultation period. The Applicant also distributed a postcard with consultation information to the consultation zone (figure 3) during the week prior to the start of the formal consultation period. Following feedback received during the end of the formal consultation period, the Applicant decided to extend the deadline of consultation to 28 October.
Clearly described the start and end dates of the consultation period	In the Applicants distributed press release, postcard and letters to key stakeholders. The dates to consultation were clearly outlined.
Clearly described how to submit comments	In the Applicants press release, letters to key stakeholders, and community information events the Applicant stated how community members could provide feedback via the online or hard copy feedback form or directly to the community inbox.
Considered the representations received prior to submitting the planning application and acknowledged representations	The Applicant evidences this in section 4 and 5.1 of this Statement of Community Involvement.

that have been received electronically and physically	
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The Applicant is committed to consulting openly with key stakeholders and local residents. Throughout the consultation, engagement activities have been guided by the following key principles:

- Being open with stakeholders and members of the local community when presenting all information about the Proposed Development
- Ensuring that all public engagement materials can be easily accessed by local stakeholders and the wider public
- Being clear and ‘plain speaking’, avoiding the use of jargon or technical terms where possible
- Identifying different stakeholders and developing appropriate communication techniques that effectively engage with each one
- Ensuring all communication materials are presented in formats easily accessible to the local community
- Responding effectively to enquiries received from stakeholders and members of the public

3.2 Consultation Overview

The public consultation period was initially a four-week from Thursday 29 September 2022 until Wednesday 26 October 2022. The Applicant determined this was a suitable time for a formal consultation period due to:

- Having sufficient project information for stakeholders to comment on,
- Providing enough time to analyse the feedback prior to the submission of the planning application,
- Undertaking the consultation events outside of a holiday period
- The Applicant was also aware of other developments taking place in the area.

Following the project teams’ attendance at a Lound Parish Council meeting during the consultation period, the deadline was extended to 28 October 2022 to allow those who attended longer to provide their feedback.

During the four-week period, there were many opportunities for the local community to learn about the Proposed Development, ask questions, and provide their feedback, including:

- A letter and briefing pack to key stakeholder and near neighbours
- A postcard announcing the consultation and events
- Two in-person and one online information events
- Site visits to local properties and residences, including before and after the 4 four-week period
- Engagement with local media
- Ongoing communications support through dedicated email and phone lines
- A continuously updated dedicated website with feedback form
- An additional meeting with Sutton-cum-Lound Parish Council (at Lound Village Hall)

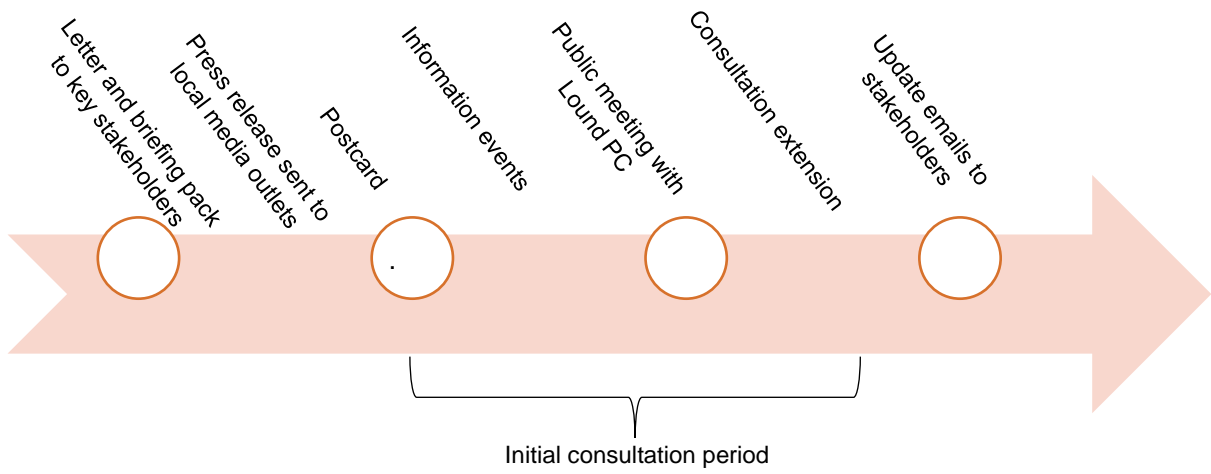


Figure 2. Timeline of Pre-Application Consultation Activities

3.3 Identification of Consultees

3.3.1 Near neighbours to the site

A key priority of the pre-application public consultation was to actively engage with residents and businesses closest to the site. The Applicant held a number of meetings before and after the four week period.

3.3.2 Regional and locally elected political representatives

The Applicant recognises the importance of ensuring that political representatives are aware that their constituents are being actively engaged and involved in the Proposed Development. The below list of political representatives were contacted prior to the start of the formal consultation period with a briefing pack and an invitation to meet with the project team to discuss the Proposed Development.

- Brendan Clarke Smith, MP of Bassetlaw
- Cllr Ben Bradley MP, Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council / MP for Mansfield
- Cllr Mike Quigley, Chair of Nottinghamshire County Council
- Cllr Bruce Laughton, Deputy Leader for Nottinghamshire County Council
- Cllr Tracey Taylor, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Cllr Mike Introna, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Cllr John Ogle, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Cllr Samantha Deakin, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Cllr Tom Hollis, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Cllr Helen-Ann Smith, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Cllr Simon Greaves, Bassetlaw District Council
- Cllr Jo White, Bassetlaw District Council
- Cllr Jack Bowker, Bassetlaw District Council
- Cllr Madelaine Richardson, Bassetlaw District Council
- Cllr David Pidwell, Bassetlaw District Council
- Cllr Denise Depledge, Bassetlaw District Council
- Cllr Ben Sofflet, Bassetlaw District Council
- Cllr Garry Clarkson, Bassetlaw District Council
- Cllr Claire Plevin, Bassetlaw District Council
- Cllr Graham Oxby, Bassetlaw District Council

3.3.3 Consultation Zone

To identify the local community around the Proposed Development that should be consulted during this process, the Applicant used the zone of theoretical visibility to determine the potential visual impacts of the Proposed Development. An area approximately 2km from the border of the site was selected and then extended to include all of the villages of Lound, Sutton-cum-Lound, Barnby Moor, and Tiln. This area included 709 residential and business properties (see Figure 3).

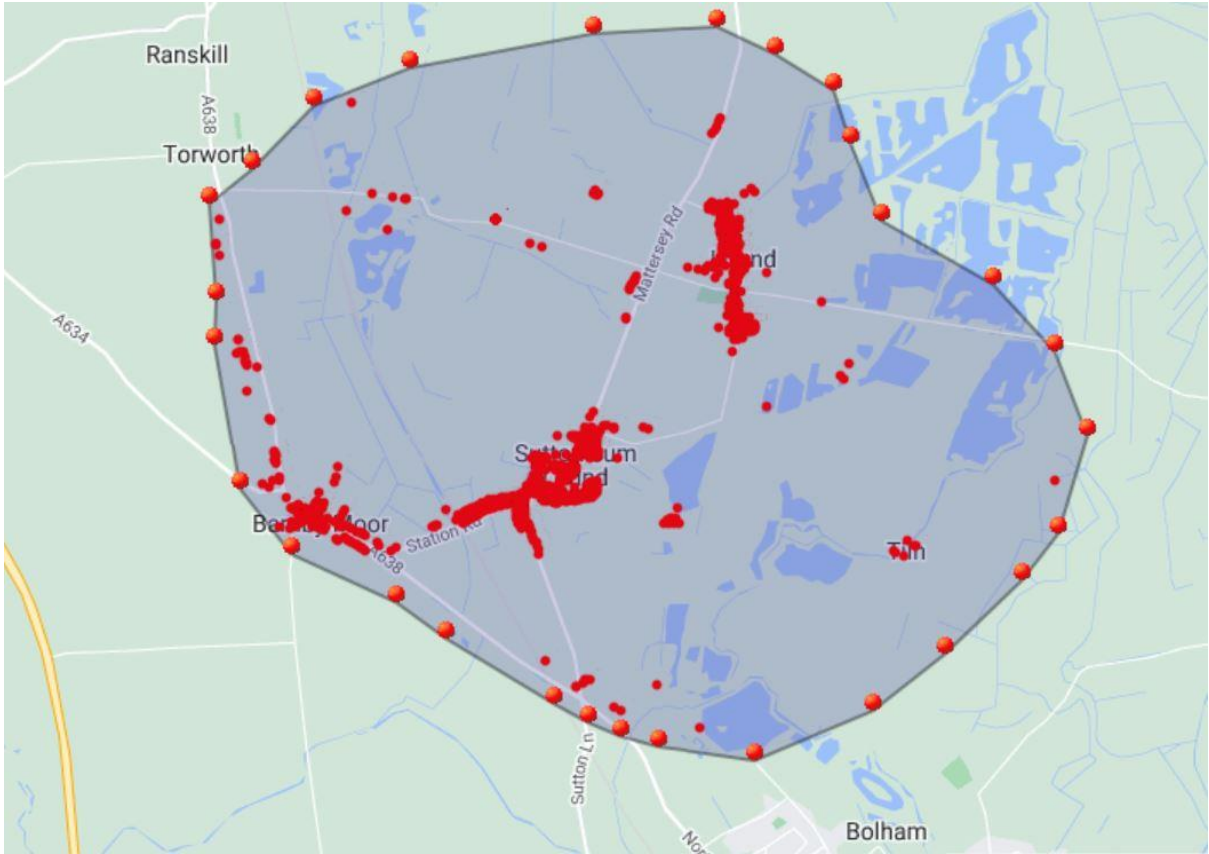


Figure 3. Consultation Zone

3.4 Publicising the Consultation

3.4.1 Email to Political Stakeholders

The relevant political representatives were contacted by email on 14 September 2022 with a briefing pack and an invitation for a meeting to discuss the Proposed Development and consultation strategy prior to the public consultation events. This email and briefing pack are included in Appendix 1.

3.4.2 Postcard to Consultation Zone

A postcard was designed to introduce the Proposed Development and provide details about the consultation. It included details about the consultation events as well as the contact information including website, email, phone, and freepost address for the community to contact the project team and provide their feedback. The postcard was sent via post to the 709 addresses in the consultation zone and arrived on 28 September 2022. It is included in Appendix 2.

3.4.3 Press Releases and Ongoing Media Engagement

In addition to the items described above, the Applicant actively engaged with local media to further publicise the consultation and ensure that everyone in the local area was aware of the Proposed Development.

An initial press release with details on the Proposed Development, consultation events and contact details was sent on 27 September 2022 to regional and local media outlets that cover the Lound area, including:

- Lincolnshire Live
- Nottinghamshire Live
- Retford Guardian

A further press release was sent on 21 October 2022, to remind members of the community of the upcoming end to the formal consultation period.

3.5 Meetings and Events

3.5.1 Webinar

On 4 October 2022 from 13:00 – 14:30, the Applicant hosted a webinar for the public about the Proposed Development. During the event, the project team presented slides about the Proposed Development, which included information on the developer, the timeline, existing assessments that had been conducted, and the details of the consultation process. Members of the audience were able to ask questions through the Q&A feature of the webinar, which the team then answered. The webinar was recorded and uploaded to the project website, where it continues to be available. The slides from the presentation can be found in Appendix 3.

3.5.2 In-person Event

On 6 October 2022 and 10 October 2022 from 2-6pm, the Applicant hosted in-person information sessions at Sutton-cum-Lound Village Hall and Lound Village Hall where members of the community could learn about the Proposed Development and ask questions. 134 members of the public attended, including many near neighbours, and the Parish Council. Throughout the events, the attendees were able to ask detailed questions of the project team and provide their feedback. The presentation materials can be found in Appendix 4.

The Applicant also agreed, upon request, to attend an open public meeting of Sutton-cum-Lound Parish Council at Lound Village Hall on 25 October 2022. Members of the project team presented slides on the details of the Proposed Development and answered questions from the local community.

3.5.3 Meetings with stakeholders

During the public consultation period the Applicant and members of the project team made themselves available, where necessary, to meet directly with elected officials and near neighbours for discussions about the Proposed Development.

3.6 Methods of Receiving Feedback

To accommodate a diverse community with varying technical abilities and time constraints, the Applicant established several different methods for communicating with the public. These were used to both answer questions and receive feedback about the Proposed Development. In total, 139 individuals submitted their feedback.

Table 2. Feedback Received by Various Methods

Feedback Method	Number of Responses
Emails	7
Online Feedback Form	113
Paper Feedback Form	7
Total	139

3.6.1 Telephone Information Line

A dedicated Freephone information line (0808 169 5659) was established for this consultation from 29 September 2022. This line was in operation between 9am and 5pm (Monday to Friday) with a voicemail option to take calls outside working hours. Members of the consultation team managing the information line were able to answer questions about the Proposed Development and the consultation process or ensure a prompt follow up from another team member for technical questions. The Freephone number was on all consultation materials including the website, briefing pack, correspondence, press releases, and feedback form. It will continue in operation until the forthcoming planning application is determined. The telephone was used often to answer questions and arrange meetings, no feedback was submitted via this method.

3.6.2 Email Address

The dedicated project email address (info@retfordcep.co.uk) was launched on 18 July and publicised on all consultation materials, including correspondence, briefing pack, website, press releases and feedback form. The email address was monitored between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday by a member of the project team who was able to answer basic questions about the Proposed Development and consultation process or forward to a different member of the project team for detailed or technical questions to ensure a prompt response. 7 emails were received with direct feedback about the Proposed Development, which have all been included and considered in section 4 of this document. The email address has remained in operation since the pre-application period closed on 28 October 2022 and will continue in operation until the forthcoming planning application is submitted.

3.6.3 Paper Feedback Form

At the in-person events on 6 October and 10 October 2022, the Applicant provided a physical copy of a feedback form to attendees. Some members of the public chose to stay and fill out the form during the event, whilst others chose to take the form with them and submit it by a dedicated freepost address, free of charge. The questions were in split into sections, including optional contact information for those members who wanted to stay in touch with future project information. The Applicant also asked for feedback about the Proposed Development and environmental issues. 19 paper feedback forms were submitted. The feedback form is included in Appendix 5.

3.6.4 Project Website

A dedicated project website was launched on Thursday 29 September to coincide with the start of the pre-application public consultation period (www.retfordcep.co.uk). The website provided detailed information on the Proposed Development and consultation. During the consultation period, a recorded video of the public webinar was uploaded to the website. Following the close of consultation, a summary of feedback document was uploaded on to the website, this can be viewed in Appendix 6. Although the pre-application consultation period closed on Friday 28 October, the website remains in operation and will continue until the planning application is determined. As of 29 November 2022, the site had 3,705 page views from 2,234 visits, peaking around the time of the community consultation events (see Figure 4).

Figure 5 shows that the most common location of visitors to the project website was Nottinghamshire.

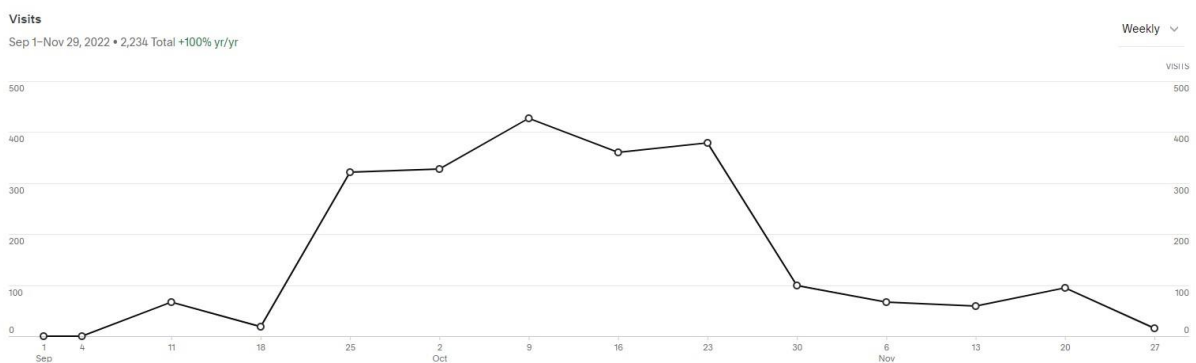


Figure 4. Visits to Project Website



Figure 5. Location of visitors to the project website

3.6.5 Online Feedback Form

On the dedicated project website, members of the community had the option of completing an online feedback form, hosted by Survey Monkey. The questions mirrored the paper feedback form. 113 online feedback forms were completed, with most forms submitted just after the consultation events.

4. Feedback

4.1 Summary of feedback received

The online and paper feedback forms were structured in three sections: demographic questions about the respondent, questions asking for feedback directly relating to the Proposed Development and questions regarding the consultation process. Including submissions received via email, a total of 139 pieces of feedback were received.

4.2 Demographic Questions

The first set of questions asked the respondents about their interaction with the Proposed Development and based on the early-stage proposals, what are their views on the Proposed Development. Most respondents described themselves as “local residents” (83%), learned about the consultation from the postcard (48%) or local community group (22%), and found the consultation materials either very or quite informative (44%). (See Table 3 and Figure 6).

Table 3: Stakeholder interest in proposals

How would you describe your interest in the proposals?	
Local Resident	83%
Regular Visitor	7%
Local interest group member	3%
Landowner	2%
Other	2%
Local Representative	1%
Local Business Owner	1%
Statutory Organisation	1%

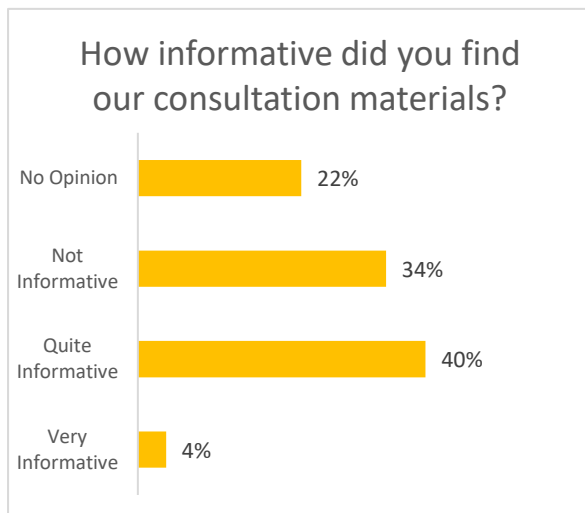


Figure 6: Results of initial demographic questions

4.3. Feedback about the Proposed Development

The next set of questions on the feedback form asked respondents for project-specific feedback, under various headings. Additional feedback received by email has also been collated and grouped by theme.

Please note that the tables below include a number of references to technical documents submitted with the planning application, forming part of the Environmental Statement. It should be noted that a Non-Technical Summary has also been submitted as part of the Environmental Statement, which also provides information and conclusions on all environmental topics. The Planning Statement also provides useful information about the Proposed Development, including a description of proposed operations, management and mitigation measures, and compliance with planning policy.

Table 4: Local Ecology and Wildlife

Feedback Received	Applicant Response
Respondents stated that the Proposed Development will generally have a negative impact on local wildlife, particularly due to its proximity to an SSSI and would like to see further information on how this will be addressed	<p>None of the PFA proposed for extraction by the Proposed Development is located within the nature reserve. The Proposed Development actually been designed to avoid the nature reserve as far as is possible. It follows that only a very small section of the Site of Special Scientific Interest ('SSSI'), the nationally protected part of the nature reserve, falls within the Proposed Development site boundary. This area includes a small section of embankment where no PFA is located, accounting for only 0.5% of the site area.</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken a full suite of ecological surveys for the site and has engaged with the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England. An ecology chapter is included in the Environmental Statement submitted with the planning application, which includes an impact assessment and mitigation measures to protect wildlife. A biodiversity led restoration scheme is proposed once the PFA has been extracted in each area, which has been produced following consultation with Natural England and the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.</p>
Respondents questioned what is proposed on the site following the completion of the Proposed Development	The Applicant is proposing a biodiversity led restoration scheme and reinstatement of some of the existing farming activities, including grazing of the site and habitat management using sheep. The Applicant is committed to ensuring that the Proposed Development delivers biodiversity improvements and show compliance with ecological policies in the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan 2021. The proposed habitats include wet grassland, reed beds, woodland and water bodies. There will be a significant improvement on the current habitats at the site, with a long-term scheme of aftercare.

Table 5: Carbon Impact

Feedback Received	Applicant Response
Respondents would like to see renewable energy generation used in the processing of the PFA	The main energy usage associated with the Proposed Development is the requirement to dry the PFA following its extraction. The Applicant is proposing to use an innovative low carbon drying technology that uses around 75% less energy than a conventional drying technology. This is because air rather than heat is used to remove moisture, which results in significantly reduced carbon emissions. Fuller details are provided in the planning application.
Respondents have questioned if the quantity of material will require a significant amount of heat to be used in the drying process	The drying technology mentioned above uses only around 80 degrees centigrade of heat to carry moisture away, after air is used to remove moisture from the PFA particles. The alternative technology is a conventional thermal dryer, which uses around 600 degrees centigrade of heat.
Respondents have stated that if the biogas generation opportunities are not possible, what is the alternative	It is proposed to use a small amount of conventional natural gas if biogas is not possible.
Respondents have questioned what the carbon impact of using HGV vehicles to transport the material would be.	A climate change chapter including Carbon Assessment is included as part of the Environmental Statement submitted with the planning application. It should also be noted that there is a certain demand for building products in the UK, which will remain whether the Proposed Development goes forward or not. This demand will be met by quarries and extraction sites of a similar nature to the Proposed Development, where raw materials can be supplied from. It follows that if the Proposed Development does not go ahead it is reasonable to assume that the same/similar HGV movements will just happen elsewhere.

Table 6: Visual Impact

Feedback Received	Applicant Response
Respondents have questioned how the site will look, and that this will impact the local SSSI and users of public rights of way	The site will be extracted in phases, with progressive restoration happening as phases are worked out. This means that early phases of the site would be fully restored to important habitats like reedbed and wet grassland when later phases are subject to extraction, bringing benefits forward by many years. It is estimated that restored habitats could be present within the site in as little as four or five years. The proposed extraction method, phasing scheme and restoration concept will be included in the planning application.

	<p>It is also proposed to use the existing lagoon embankment to screen operations. The embankments would be retained until extraction has been completed behind them.</p> <p>A full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment with viewpoints agreed with the Local Authority has been undertaken. Appropriate mitigation has been put in place and embedded into the landscape design to minimise impacts. The planning application includes a full set of plans setting out all the details.</p>
<p>Respondents would like to know further information over the lighting of the site and how this will impact the local area</p>	<p>The extraction and export of material from the site is limited by the operating hours for these activities, proposed to be 07:00 and 19:00 Monday to Friday and 07:00 to 13:00 Saturday, with no HGV movements on Sundays or Bank Holiday. The main extraction area would be closed down outside of these hours, with no requirement for lighting. The only overnight working during operation would take place at the Main Processing Site, where operations would be limited to drying activities. This area is an existing industrial estate that already has existing lighting. Any additional lighting would be kept to a minimum and angled downwards/within the site. It is also proposed to secure submission of a lighting management plan by condition attached to any planning permission.</p>

Table 7: Traffic and Transport

Feedback Received	Applicant Response
<p>Respondents have stated that the initial 2-year traffic going through Lound village is still too long</p>	<p>Following the decision to not use the Temporary Optimisation Site (TOS), the Applicant will be using the A638 to access the site during operation.</p>
<p>Respondents are concerned with the level of HGV traffic that is proposed, particularly travelling on the A638.</p> <p>Some respondents have also questioned if the road is wide enough to accommodate the HGVs.</p>	<p>The A638 is a major A road, designated as a traffic distributor road which connects Retford and other towns to the A1(M) and beyond to Doncaster. It is primarily a rural wide single-carriageway road with a width in excess of 6m.</p> <p>This route is entirely capable of supporting HGV traffic, there is an existing average daily traffic flow circa 350 per HGVs as measured by the Department for Transportation. A route of this type and size has a capacity of over 20,000 vehicles per day.</p> <p>The Applicant has also carried out extensive assessments of the capacity for the roads that it is proposed to use and is confident that they are suitable for the traffic movements associated with the Proposed Development.</p> <p>A Transport Statement forms part of the planning application and a Traffic and Transport Chapter is included in the Environmental Statement.</p>

	The Applicant has produced detailed generic traffic control measures in the Construction Environment Management Plan. An Operational Travel Management Plan (OTMP) will be developed prior to the plant going into operation setting out robust and deliverable measures to ensure that the HGVs adhere to all agreed routes and their weight limits.
Respondents have raised that HGV drivers will not always adhere to planned routes	The Applicant is committed to placing robust measures to ensure that drivers and operators are aware of the proposed routes and are expected to adhere to them at all times. An operational travel plan will be a condition of any planning permission, setting out robust and deliverable measures to ensure that the HGVs adhere to all agreed routes and their weight limits.
Respondents are concerned with the safety of other road users and pedestrians as a result of increased HGV traffic	<p>The Transport Statement will review all recorded Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) on routes which will be used by construction and operational traffic. Combined with the assessment of the anticipated increase in traffic this will be used to identify any areas where road safety both for vehicular and pedestrian users is of concern. If any such areas are identified robust mitigation measures will be put in place to ensure that road safety is not compromised by the Development.</p> <p>The site entrance junction will be assessed using the relevant design guidance to ensure that it is safe for its intended use.</p> <p>It should be noted that HGV drivers accessing the site are highly trained professionals. HGVs are involved in less than half the number of collisions (per mile driven) as cars according to official government statistics.</p>

Table 8: Access

Feedback Received	Applicant Response
Respondents have questioned the impact on pedestrians as a result of construction and operational activities	The intention is to keep all public rights of way open during construction and operation (albeit with short term closures or diversions). The one footpath that interacts with the extraction area has a managed crossing. Further details are included on the plans submitted with the planning application.

Table 9: Community & Recreation

Feedback Received	Applicant Response
Respondents have questioned whether the extraction of PFA will bring any benefits to the local community	The Proposed development would save many millions of tonnes of carbon over its lifetime. The Proposed Development will also generate jobs locally and increase biodiversity once the PFA is extracted and the site is restored. The full list of benefits are set out in the Planning Statement submitted with the planning application.
Respondents have stated that activities should not	The extraction and export of material from the site is limited by the operating hours for these activities, proposed to be 07:00 and 19:00 Monday to Friday and 07:00 to 13:00 Saturday, with no

take place outside of typical working hours	HGV movements on Sundays or Bank Holiday. The main extraction area would be closed down outside of these hours, with no requirement for lighting. The only working outside of these hours would take place at the Main Processing Site, where operations would be limited to drying activities. This area is an existing industrial estate.
Respondents are concerned that the Proposed Development will impact the local populations' quality of life	As part of the EIA process, impacts of noise, air quality etc and resultant impacts on health have been assessed and mitigation measures proposed where necessary. Please review the Planning Statement and Environmental Statement submitted as part of the planning application for more detail.
Respondents have raised that their may possibly be damage to property and vehicles due to the acid content in the material being extracted	The Environmental Statement submitted as part of the planning application considers soils, geology and land contamination, hydrology, hydrogeology and flood Risk. This includes an examination of the risks of any contaminants dispersing/leaching into the surrounding environment and how this shall be managed. The Proposed Development includes a comprehensive drainage scheme and number of other measures to manage this risk. The Proposed Development would also require an Environmental Permit, including strict management by the Environment Agency.
Respondents accept the benefit that the Proposed Development will create employment opportunities	The Applicant notes this comment and agrees that any job creation opportunities is a benefit for the area.

Table 10: Noise

Feedback Received	Applicant Response
Respondents would like to know further information regarding noise produced by the proposed HGV movements.	The Environmental Statement submitted with the planning application includes detailed assessment relating to noise and traffic. Please refer to these and the Non-Technical Summary for more information.
Respondents are concerned with increased noise coming from the site itself	The Applicant confirms that a noise assessment has been undertaken and a noise chapter is included within the Environmental Statement. Baseline noise monitoring has been undertaken with monitoring locations at the edges of the site boundary and also at settlements at Lound, Sutton-cum-Lound, and properties at/around Bellmoor Farm. Operational noise has been predicted using specialist noise prediction software and these noise predictions compared with baseline levels to allow impact assessment to be undertaken and mitigations put in place where required.

Table 11: Health

Feedback Received	Applicant Response
Respondents have raised the issue of impacts to air quality as a result of HGV traffic	An air quality assessment has been undertaken for the Proposed Development and a chapter included within the Environmental Statement.
Respondents would like further information on whether the production of dust will impact the local community.	The Applicant does not anticipate that there will be any significant dust impact upon local receptors from the extraction of the PFA. An operational dust impact assessment and dust management plan form part of the planning application. These identify suitable dust control measures, including prevention, suppression, and containment. The assessment considers impacts on receptor locations and proposes mitigation measures as necessary. It should be noted that the PFA is wet/contains moisture when excavated and measures will be put in place to ensure dust generation during construction and operation is minimised.
Respondents have questioned whether there will be an impact on local aquifers as a source of drinking water	The Environmental Statement contains specific chapters on land contamination, hydrology and hydrogeology. These examine the risks of any contaminants dispersing/leaching in the surrounding environment and how this would be managed.
Respondents have questioned if there is any asbestos contamination of the site	No asbestos contamination has been identified when undertaking to significant amount of site investigation work carried out by the Applicant, including a programme of drilling across the site. If any asbestos was identified during operation, it would be dealt with in accordance with relevant legislation/regulation.

Table 12: Pulverised Fuel Ash

Feedback Received	Applicant Response
There are questions over the quality of the PFA being extracted, as it possible could have combined with other coal by-products and therefore interfere with cement hydration.	The Applicant has extensively drilled the site and tested the material. It is of high quality and is not mixed with other coal combustion products. The Applicant would not have brought the Proposed Development forward to planning application stage if it was thought that the material was not of adequate quality.
Respondents wanted to know if the PFA will be processed to its final product on site	The Applicant confirms that the PFA will be processed on site.
Respondents have questioned the new technology being used on the site and would like to see further information on the processing and material itself.	The use of PFA as a building product is proven and established in the UK, including in the cement industry. There is much literature on this topic and the use of PFA is supported by planning policy. Further detail of the proposed drying technology is included in the planning application. The Applicant can confirm that PFA has already been tested using the technology and the results were excellent. It is proposed to develop a single drying line in the first

	instance, to optimise the process, before developing nine further lines to produce around 300k tonnes of product per annum.
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Table 13: Consultation Process

Feedback Received	Applicant Response
Some respondents have raised that their questions were not answered in full at the consultation events and would have like to have seen more project team members available.	<p>The Applicant acknowledges that due to the early stage that the Proposed Development was in, it was not possible to answer all technical based questions during the consultation period. This is generally the case when undertaking early-stage consultation when the scheme is not finalised.</p> <p>Members of the public were encouraged to provide their feedback via the hard copy or online feedback form or ask questions via the project communication lines. It was also made clear that following submission of the planning application a further stage of formal consultation would be carried out by the planning authority.</p> <p>Further information for the Proposed Development is available in the planning application, including this Statement of Community Involvement, the Planning Statement and the Environmental Statement submitted.</p>
Respondents would have liked to have increased notice of the events and an extended consultation period	<p>An extensive round of engagement was carried out by the Applicant, as detailed in this report.</p> <p>The Applicant distributed press releases to local publications a week prior to the start of the formal consultation period.</p> <p>The Applicant also distributed a postcard with consultation information to the consultation zone (figure 3) during the week prior to the start of the formal consultation period.</p> <p>Following feedback received during the end of the formal consultation period, the Applicant decided to extend the deadline of consultation to 28 October.</p>
Respondents have stated that results and details of Environmental Impact Assessment should have been available prior to the start of the consultation	<p>The Applicant wanted to carry out an early consultation prior to submitted the planning application. This meant it was necessary to consult prior to finalising the scheme and the accompanying Environmental Statement. One of the mains reasons for this was so comments could be taken into consideration in designing the scheme.</p> <p>Members of the public were encouraged to provide their feedback via the hard copy or online feedback form or ask questions via the project communication lines. It was also made clear that following submission of the planning application, with the Environmental Statement available, a further stage of formal consultation would be carried out by the planning authority.</p>

<p>Respondents would like to know how Hive will remain in contact with the local community throughout the operation of the facility, whether this will be through the creation of a community working group or a community liaison officer</p>	<p>It is expected that a liaison group or similar would be formed, to be secured by planning condition.</p>
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Table 14: Other Comments

Feedback Received	Applicant Response
<p>Respondents have stated that there are more suitable locations to extract PFA</p>	<p>PFA is a finite resource protected in planning policy as a sustainable building product. It is not a case of this site or another site, as multiple sites will need to be developed over the coming decades to decarbonise cement production. The site is suitable and has good road access. A need case for the Proposed Development is set out in the Planning Statement.</p>
<p>Respondents would like to see further detailed information on the site, including the phasing of extraction that will take place</p>	<p>A detailed phased working scheme and a restoration plan compliant with planning policy are included in the planning application.</p>
<p>Respondents have raised that the site could be at risk to flooding which will impact the local community</p>	<p>The Applicant confirms that a Flood Risk Assessment has been undertaken and is included in the Environmental Statement submitted with the planning application. The working scheme has been designed to mitigate flood risk, with detailed consideration given to potential flood paths, climate change and site levels.</p>
<p>Respondents are concerned with how long the Proposed Development's life span is</p>	<p>The Proposed Development has a life span that is similar to many quarries. A balance needs to be struck between the amount of material available, potential impacts from extraction, and market demand.</p>

5. Impact of Consultation and Resulting Changes to Design

5.1. Changes to the Design and Consultation Process

Throughout the consultation period, the Applicant actively engaged with members of the community and responded to their feedback.

Once the consultation period closed, the Applicant analysed and reviewed the comments that had been received, which led to several significant changes to the project design, including removal of the TOS.

5.2. Ongoing Communication with Community

The Applicant is committed to engaging with the community and keeping them informed of significant developments to the Proposed Development. The phone line and email address will continue to be monitored until the application is submitted.