



Application by INGR Solar (Little Crow) Limited for Little Crow Solar Park
The Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ3)
Issued on 16 August 2021

The following table sets out the Examining Authority's (ExA's) written questions and requests for information – ExQ3. If necessary, the examination timetable enables the ExA to issue a further round of written questions in due course. If this is done, the further round of questions will be referred to as ExQ3. Questions are set out using an issues-based framework derived from the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues provided as Annexe B to the Rule 6 letter of 23 March 2021. Questions have been added to the framework of issues set out there as they have arisen from representations and to address the assessment of the application against relevant policies.

Column 2 of the table indicates which Interested Parties (IPs) and other persons each question is directed to. The ExA would be grateful if all persons named could answer all questions directed to them, providing a substantive response, or indicating that the question is not relevant to them for a reason. This does not prevent an answer being provided to a question by a person to whom it is not directed, should the question be relevant to their interests.

Each question has a unique reference number which starts with 3 (indicating that it is from ExQ3) and then has an issue number and a question number. For example, the first question on air quality and emissions issues is identified as Q3.3.1. When you are answering a question, please start your answer by quoting the unique reference number.

If you are responding to a small number of questions, answers in a letter will suffice. If you are answering a larger number of questions, it will assist the ExA if you use a table based on this one to set out your responses. An editable version of this table in Microsoft Word is available on request from the case team: please contact littlecrowssolarpark@planninginspectorate.gov.uk and include 'Little Crow Solar Park' in the subject line of your email.

The ExA wishes to draw attention to questions 3.1.1 and 3.5.1, which are directed respectively to Northern Powergrid and Natural England; these questions were initially asked at the second written questions (PD-010) but no answer from either party was received. The ExA asks that a response is provided to these questions from the relevant party.

Responses are due by Deadline D6: 31 August 2021.

Abbreviations used:

PA2008	The Planning Act 2008	LIR	Local Impact Report
BNG	Biodiversity net gain	LPA	Local planning authority
DCO	Development Consent Order	MW	Megawatt
dDCO	Draft Development Consent Order	MWp	Megawatt peak
EIA Regulations	The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017	NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
EM	Explanatory Memorandum	PM₁₀	Particulate Matter – 10 microns or less
ES	Environmental Statement	SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
ExA	Examining Authority	SoS	Secretary of State
		Wp	Watt peak

The Examination Library

References in these questions set out in square brackets (eg [APP-010]) are to documents catalogued in the Examination Library. The Examination Library can be obtained from the following link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010101/EN010101-000374-Little%20Crow%20Solar%20Park%20-%20Examination%20Library.pdf>

It will be updated as the examination progresses.

Citation of Questions

Questions in this table should be cited as follows:

Question reference: issue reference: question number, eg ExQ3 3.1.1 – refers to question 1 in this table.

ExQ3: 16 August 2021**Responses due by Deadline 6: 31 August 2021**

ExQ3	Question to:	Question:
1.	General and Cross-topic Questions, including general matters relating to the Environmental Statement	
3.1.1	Northern Powergrid Limited	<p>Please advise whether grid connections have been sought and/or agreed for the operation of the following proposed solar farms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Sweeting Thorns, Holme, Scunthorpe, subject to North Lincolnshire Council planning application reference PA/2015/0114 and granted planning permission on appeal on 5 December 2016 [REP1-021].b) 40 Megawatts at Conesby House Farm, Normandy Road, Scunthorpe DN15 8QZ, subject to North Lincolnshire Council planning application reference PA/2018/2140 and granted planning permission on 22 February 2019 [REP1-014]. <p>(This question was previously asked by the ExA as second written question 2.1.11 in PD-010)</p>
3.1.2	The Applicant	<p>Further to the submission of the projected hourly electricity output in a calendar year for the candidate design for the Proposed Development [REP4-019], please show on a graph or graphs the average hourly predictions for megawatt hour exportation to the grid for the months of May and December.</p>
3.1.3	The Applicant	<p>As part of the consideration of agenda item 4 (National and Development Plan policy) during Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2 held on 29 June 2021), in the context of the need case that has been made by the Applicant there was some discussion concerning the 'background' documents that have been relied on as providing the context for the decarbonisation and expansion of electricity generation within the United Kingdom. That discussion focusing on how up to date some of the assumptions and statistical data set out in the background documents are, given their age, and solar energy generation not being within the scope/coverage of National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3.</p> <p>Further to the discussion held during ISH2 the Applicant is requested to undertake a review of the background documents and to submit an updating note that draws upon the</p>

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ExQ3	Question to:	Question:
		<p>most up to date statistical data and emerging policy relating to the decarbonisation and expansion of electricity generation in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>In responding to this question the Applicant should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Submit as an Examination document the Government's Energy White Paper 'Powering our Net Zero Future' of December 2020 and comment on what implications, if any, it considers the White Paper's publication has for solar electricity generation in the United Kingdom.b) Submit as Examination documents any other documents that it considers constitute the Government's most up to date emerging policy for the decarbonisation and expansion of electricity generation in the United Kingdom.
3.1.4	The Applicant	<p>With respect to the outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP)[REP4-007]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Is paragraph 6.9 (waste management) complete as the inclusion of '<i>following</i>' in the second bullet point suggests some further items were intended for inclusion in this paragraph?b) In paragraph 6.10 is the sentence referring to the Mayor of London's guidance relevant, given the location for the Proposed Development?c) Is there a need for some consolidation of the matters covered within section 6 (Dust and Emission Mitigation) of the oCEMP to address duplication and/or inconsistency? Matters concerning communications (paragraphs 6.4 and 6.10), monitoring (paragraphs 6.6 and 6.11), preparing and maintaining the site (paragraphs 6.7 and 6.12) and operations (paragraphs 6.8 and 6.13) have each been listed twice within section 6 of the oCEMP.
3.1.5	The Applicant	<p>With respect to the outline Decommissioning Strategy (oDS) [REP3-009], for section 2 (Decommissioning Principles) under the sub-heading 'e) schedule':</p>

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ExQ3	Question to:	Question:
		<p>a) What are decommissioning and restoration Zones 3, 5, 6 and 7? Are those zones equivalent to Work Numbers 3, 5, 6 and 7 or something different as there is no plan within the oDS that identifies the previously mentioned zones?</p> <p>b) Should the text be expanded to identify the anticipated timescales and number of vehicle movements for the decommissioning of all elements of the decommissioning and restoration activities for the Proposed Development and therefore, amongst other things, refer to the solar array (Work Number 1) and the substation (Work Number 4) under the circumstance of it being decommissioned?</p>
3.1.6	The Applicant	<p>With respect to the predicted calculation of carbon savings for the first year of operation stated in the Air Quality and Carbon Assessment [REP4-009], please clarify:</p> <p>a) Whether the figure of '31,364,324kg CO₂ (31,364 tonnes per year)' in paragraph 6.3 is accurate when 0.233kg is multiplied by 134,530,000kWh.</p> <p>b) How the offset figure of '... at least 34,5784 tonnes of CO₂ in the first year' referred to in paragraph 7.11 has been derived, as that figure (disregarding what appears to be a typographic error relating to the quoted figure having six digits) does not appear to accord with the figure quoted in paragraph 6.3.</p>
3.1.7	The Applicant	<p>With respect to the predictions for carbon dioxide produced during the construction phase for the Proposed Development, please explain why the totals quoted in the 'totals' columns in Tables 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 of the versions of the Air Quality and Carbon Assessment submitted at Examination deadlines 2 [REP2-012] and 4 [REP4-009] differ from one another, given that the quoted inputs in columns 2, 3 and 4 in both sets of Tables 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 are the same.</p>
3.1.8	The Applicant	<p>How should the predicted annual 'carbon savings' quoted in section 6 of Air Quality and Carbon Assessment [REP4-009] be looked upon, ie optimistic, what could reasonably be expected or pessimistic, given that the level of carbon savings achieved would be dependent on how much electricity was generated by the Proposed Development, which</p>

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ExQ3	Question to:	Question:
		would be affected by weather conditions and the resulting amount of sunlight received by the Proposed Development?
3.1.9	The Applicant	<p>With respect to predicted CO₂ displacement for the candidate design for the Proposed Development, which, for example, has been stated as being between 64,500 and 86,000 tonnes per annum in paragraph 4.15.1 of Chapter 4 of the Environmental Statement [REP5-006], please comment on:</p> <p>a) What allowances have or have not been made for the variability in generation that might arise as a consequence of the effect of weather conditions on the levels of sunlight received by the Proposed Development?</p> <p>b) How the above mentioned CO₂ displacement figures relate to the around 50,000 tonnes following one year of generation quoted in paragraph 6.1 of the Applicant's planning statement [REP5-017] and the 31,364 tonnes per year quoted in paragraph 6.3 of the Air Quality and Carbon Assessment [REP4-009]?</p>
3.1.10	North Lincolnshire Council	Does the Council have any observations to make on the Applicant's cumulative effects assessment for the proposed Keadby 3 Low Carbon Gas Power Station Project and the proposed Able Marine Energy Park Material Change 2 stated in REP5-021?
3.1.11	North Lincolnshire Council	Further to the Deadline 4 submission of copies of the Planning for Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document of November 2011 [REP4-024] and Planning for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Development Supplementary Planning Document of January 2016 [REP4-025], please confirm the status of these documents, ie whether one or other or both remain extant.
3.1.12	The Applicant, North Lincolnshire Council and all other Interested Parties	Further to the Government's publication of the updated National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) and the making of revisions to the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on 20 July 2021, please advise whether you consider any of the revisions to the Framework and/or the PPG that have been made are important and relevant to the determination of the submitted application. In responding to this question there is no need

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ExQ3	Question to:	Question:
		to highlight instances where there has simply been a change in paragraphing numbering in either the Framework or the PPG.
2. Agriculture and Soils		
The ExA has no questions relating to this issue at this time.		
3. Air Quality		
The ExA has no questions relating to this issue at this time.		
4. Amenity and Recreation		
The ExA has no questions relating to this issue at this time.		
5. Biodiversity, Ecology and the Natural Environment		
3.5.1	Natural England	<p>The Applicant in its response to ExA's first written question 1.5.9 [page 17 in REP2-022] has submitted that the site for the Proposed Development '... is highly unlikely to represent important functionally-linked land ...' for the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA), including effects for Lapwing which are identified in the citation for the SPA as being an 'Assemblage qualification' species. With Lapwing having been found by the Applicant to be present within the Order Limits, please:</p> <p>a) Advise whether Natural England agrees or disagrees with the Applicant's view that the Proposed Development would be unlikely to have a significant effect on the interest features of the SPA either alone or in-combination with other plans and/or projects?</p> <p>b) Advise on how species identified as being subject to an assemblage qualification for the SPA should be considered for the purposes of undertaking a Habitat Regulations</p>

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ExQ3	Question to:	Question:
		<p>Assessment under the provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).</p> <p>(This question was previously asked by the ExA as second written question 2.5.2 in PD-010)</p>
6. Draft Development Consent Order (DCO)		
3.6.1	The Applicant	<p>With respect to the generating capacity for the Proposed Development the ExA notes the Applicant's response to second written question 2.6.5 [REP4-018], most particularly the Applicant's view '<i>... that it is not possible to specify a maximum capacity ...</i>' in any made DCO and that if a generating capacity was to be set the Applicant considers this should '<i>... relate to the combined capacity of both the solar and battery ...</i>' and be a '<i>... combined capacity of 500MW as this would allow some flexibility for reasonably foreseeable technological advances</i>'.</p> <p>If a maximum generating capacity was to be stated in any made DCO, could that reasonably be set at 500 megawatts (MW) as a combined capacity for the solar array and the battery electrical storage system (BESS), given that: 500 MW would significantly exceed the candidate designs of 150 to 200 MW peak for the solar array and 90 MW for the BESS used for the purposes of undertaking the environmental impact assessment for the Proposed Development (as reported in the submitted Environmental Statement); and the available grid connection limit of 99.9 MW?</p>
7. Landscape and Visual Effects		
The ExA has no questions relating to this issue at this time.		
8. Noise		
The ExA has no questions relating to this issue at this time.		

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ExQ3	Question to:	Question:
9.	Transportation and Traffic	
The ExA has no questions relating to this issue at this time.		
10.	Water and Flooding	
The ExA has no questions relating to this issue at this time.		