



OAKLANDS FARM SOLAR PARK

Applicant: Oaklands Farm Solar Ltd

Environmental Statement

Appendix 2.3 – Summary of Consultation Responses

January 2024

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**Oaklands Farm Solar
Park - Environmental
Statement Volume 3**
**Appendix 2.3: Summary
of Consultation
Responses**

Final report
Prepared by LUC
January 2024

This appendix includes comments received during consultation on the Scoping Report (**Table 2.1**) and comments received during later consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (**Table 2.2**) and Targeted Consultation (**Table 2.3**). Direct communication between topic specialists and consultees is outlined in each chapter .

Table 2.1: Scoping Consultation Responses

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised at Scoping	Response
Planning Inspectorate	September 2021	Advised the ES should include a description of the location of the development and description of the physical characteristics of the whole development, including the land-use requirements during construction and operation phases	This is covered in Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design and Chapter 4: Project Description .
		Advised the ES should provide details of the locations for sections of cabling which will be underground. Information should be included regarding the techniques which will be used, i.e. open trenching or tunnelling. The routes for the underground cabling should be assessed for potential impacts on habitats, soils, watercourses etc and also for existing utilities in the area such as gas pipelines. Details should be included within the ES explaining how the associated cable corridor will be reinstated if trenching has been undertaken. Cross references should be made to relevant aspects such as ecology, historic environment, geology and soil and hydrology	All cabling is now underground. This is covered in Chapter 4: Project Description .
		PINS would expect the proposals relating to the management of land and vegetation under and around the solar PV modules to be described in the ES. Proposals for maintaining vegetation around the Public Right of Way (PRoW) within the application site, including any potential to enhance biodiversity should also be described. Details should be included of any proposal to divert the PRoW which runs through the site.	This has been addressed in Appendix 5.6: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan . There are no PRoW diversions required.
		Advised where relevant the Applicant should describe any production process, including energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources	Actioned as directed. The only confidential document in the ES is Appendix 6.7: Badger Survey .

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		Advised the ES should explain how any phased approach to construction will occur, including the likely duration and location of construction activities. Construction traffic routing and anticipated numbers/types of vehicle movements should be described. Land uses during construction including their locations should also be fully described.	This is covered in Chapter 4: Project Description .
		The drainage strategy should include details of how run-off will be managed and detail potential contribution to flood risk as a result of the changing pathway in which water would infiltrate into the surface.	Agree. This is covered in Chapter 8: Water Resources and Flood Risk .
		Advised the ES should detail the predicted length of the operational phase and where there is uncertainty a range should be provided.	This is covered in Chapter 4: Project Description .
		PINS would expect to see a discrete section in the ES that provides details of the reasonable alternatives studied and the reasoning for the selection of the chosen option(s), including a comparison of the environmental effects.	This is covered in Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design .
		The Applicant should make every attempt to narrow the range of options and explain clearly in the ES which elements of the Proposed Development have yet to be finalised and provide the reasons.	This is covered in Chapter 4: Project Description .
		Noted the ES should be based on the Scoping Opinion in so far as the Proposed Development remains materially the same as the Proposed Development described in the Applicant's Scoping Report	Noted.
		Noted in order to demonstrate that the aspects/ matters have been appropriately addressed, the ES should explain the reasoning for scoping them out and justify the approach taken.	This is covered in Chapter 2: The Environmental Impact Assessment .
		Advised the ES should provide reference to how the delivery of measures proposed to prevent/ minimise adverse effects is secured through DCO requirements (or other suitably robust methods) and whether relevant consultation bodies agree on the adequacy of the measures proposed	Mitigation is set out in the individual topic chapters and in Chapter 17: Summary of Significant Effects

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		<p>Recommended that in order to assist the decision-making process, the Applicant uses tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ to demonstrate how the assessment has taken account of this Opinion; ■ to identify and collate the residual effects after mitigation for each of the aspect chapters, including the relevant interrelationships and cumulative effects; ■ to set out the proposed mitigation and/ or monitoring measures including cross-reference to the means of securing such measures (e.g., a dDCO requirement); ■ to describe any remedial measures that are identified as being necessary following monitoring; and ■ to identify where details are contained in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA report) (where relevant), such as descriptions of National Site Network sites and their locations, together with any mitigation or compensation measures, that inform the findings of the ES. 	Noted.
		Noted the Scoping Report, presented in two columns, is difficult to read both on the paper and electronic copies and reminded the Applicant that the ES should be clear and accessible to readers	The presentation of the ES has been revised.
		Advised the ES should include a description of the baseline scenario with and without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge	This is covered in Chapter 2: The Environmental Impact Assessment.
		The Applicant should clearly state which developments will be assumed to be under construction or operational as part of the future baseline.	This is covered in Chapter 2: The Environmental Impact Assessment.
		Advised the ES should contain the timescales upon which the surveys which underpin the technical assessments have been based. For clarity, this	This is set out in the individual topic chapters, Chapters 5 to 16.

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		information should be provided either in the introductory chapters of the ES (with confirmation that these timescales apply to all chapters), or in each technical chapter.	
		PINS expects the ES to include a chapter setting out the overarching methodology for the assessment, which clearly distinguishes effects that are 'significant' from 'non-significant' effects. Any departure from that methodology should be described in individual aspect assessment chapters.	This is covered in Chapter 2: The Environmental Impact Assessment.
		Advised the ES should include details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.	This is set out in the individual topic chapters, Chapters 5 to 16.
		PINS note that matters relating to air quality and waste are proposed to be scoped out of the ES. Notwithstanding this, estimates of residues and emissions to air and waste produced (by type and quantity) must be provided in the ES.	This is covered in Chapter 16: Other Issues.
		Any mitigation relied upon for the purposes of the assessment should be explained in detail within the ES. The likely efficacy of the mitigation proposed should be explained with reference to residual effects. The ES should also address how any mitigation proposed is secured, with reference to specific DCO requirements or other legally binding agreements.	This is included in each topic chapter (Chapters 5 to 16) under the 'Proposed Mitigation' section.
		Advised the ES should identify and describe any proposed monitoring of significant adverse effects and how the results of such monitoring would be utilised to inform any necessary remedial actions.	This is included in each topic chapter (Chapter 5 to 16) in the 'Further Survey and Monitoring' section where required.
		Advised the ES should include a description and assessment (where relevant) of the likely significant effects resulting from accidents and disasters applicable to the Proposed Development, such as battery storage fire hazards. The Applicant should make use of appropriate guidance (e.g. that referenced in the Health and Safety Executives (HSE) Annex to the Inspectorate's Advice Note 11) to better understand the likelihood of an	This is provided in Chapter 16: Other Issues , from paragraph 16.7 . Fire risk to human health and the environment has been assessed. There are no heritage assets close enough to the Site that could be affected if a fire were to break out (see Figure 7.1.1 in Appendix 7.1 - Historic Environment Assessment which contains figures showing the location of heritage assets). As such this has been scoped out.

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		<p>occurrence and the Proposed Development's susceptibility to potential major accidents and hazards. The description and assessment should consider the vulnerability of the Proposed Development to a potential accident or disaster and also the Proposed Development's potential to cause an accident or disaster. The assessment should specifically assess significant effects resulting from the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment. Any measures that will be employed to prevent and control significant effects should be presented in the ES.</p>	
		<p>Advised the ES should include a description and assessment (where relevant) of the likely significant effects the Proposed Development has on climate and the vulnerability of the project to climate change. Where relevant, the ES should describe and assess the adaptive capacity that has been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>In Chapter 13: Climate Change, the 'Assessment of Potential Effects' section considers the likely significant effects the project has on climate and the 'Project Resilience' section identifies the vulnerability of the project to climate change.</p>
		<p>Noted the Scoping Report concludes that the Proposed Development is not likely to have significant effects on a European Economic Area (EEA) State and proposes that transboundary effects do not need to be considered within the ES. PINS is not aware that there are potential pathways of effect to any EEA states but recommends that, for the avoidance of doubt, the ES details any such consideration and assessment</p>	<p>This is discussed in Chapter 2: The Environmental Impact Assessment.</p>
		<p>Advised a reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments must be included in the ES.</p>	<p>Noted. All legislation, policy and guidance as well as the data sources used in the assessments are listed in each topic chapter (Chapter 5 to 16).</p>
		<p>Advised the ES should explain any such limitations and any assumptions made relating to the environmental information on which it relies, particularly in relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic.</p>	<p>All limitations and assumptions relevant to the assessments are listed under the 'Assumptions and Limitations' section of the relevant topic chapter (Chapters 5 to 16).</p>
		<p>Noted where documents are intended to remain confidential the Applicant should provide these as separate documents with their confidential nature clearly indicated in the title and watermarked as such on each page</p>	<p>Actioned as directed. The only confidential document in the ES is Appendix 6.7: Badger Survey.</p>

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		<p>PINS do not agreed with the scoping out of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Effects on landscape and visual receptors beyond 5km from the site. ■ Effects on receptors outside of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) ■ Effects on landscape character types/areas beyond 5km from the Site. 	<p>The ZTV shown on Figure 5.5b of Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual indicates that there will be limited visibility of the Proposed Development beyond 5km. In practice, visibility will be reduced from distances beyond 5km by the existing network of intervening field boundary vegetation (that the ZTV does not take into consideration).</p>
		<p>Agree with the scoping out of landscape and visual effects from decommissioning.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
		<p>Advised the ES should provide detailed regarding the layout of operational lighting and why significant effects will be unlikely and should assess effects from lighting which will be required during construction.</p>	<p>Consideration of the effects from lighting required during construction and operation is provided in Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual in paragraphs 5.140 - 5.141 and 5.187 - 5.188 respectively.</p> <p>Consideration of the effects from lighting required during construction is provided in Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual.</p>
		<p>Advised that a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment should not be scoped out.</p>	<p>A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment is provided in Appendix 5.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment..</p>
		<p>Noted that only one viewpoint represents views from a settlement and the viewpoints included in the assessment should ensure views from residential receptors are assessed. Advised that consultation with the relevant local planning authority should take place to discuss and agree final selection of viewpoints.</p>	<p>Viewpoint locations were agreed with DCC and SDDC. The following viewpoints are considered to represent views from around settlements (as informed by the ZTVs and field work):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Viewpoints 5a and 5b – represents views experienced by people at the north-western edge of Rosliston. ■ Viewpoint 8 - represents views experienced by motorists travelling along the local road network, travelling to/from Coton in the Elms. ■ Viewpoint 11 - represents views experienced by people at the western edge of Newhall (Swadlincote). <p>A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment is provided in Appendix 5.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment and considers views from the key properties around the Site.</p>

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		Requested that both winter and summer views are captured in order to demonstrate any seasonal changes to the landscape character.	Summer and winter photography is included from most of the viewpoints. Only winter photography has been included for Viewpoints 5b and 11, but this demonstrates the worst-case scenario in terms of potential views of the Proposed Development (i.e. when leaves are absent from vegetation and the extent of filtering is reduced relative to the summer).
		Advised the assessment should assess the landscape and visual impacts of the battery storage facility and substation based on the applicable design requirements in the DCO and (if necessary) the applicable worst-case parameters.	The LVIA considers the landscape and visual effects of the proposed effects of the proposed BESS and substation.
		Noted a copy of the Landscape Strategy should be provided with the ES and it should be clear how any mitigation measures will be secured.	A Landscape Strategy Plan is illustrated in Appendix 5.6: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan .
		Agrees with the scoping out dormouse form further assessment.	Noted
		The extent of the study area should be clearly defined in the ES and the assessments should reflect the extent of the Proposed Development site. The extent of the study area should be agreed with relevant consultees, where possible	Chapter 6: Ecology details the proposed study area applied for each ecological feature. These have been defined in line with best practice guidance and reflect the extent and distribution of potential effects.
		Advised the ES should include within its assessment, European sites within 20km where bats are a qualifying feature and those European sites which are hydrologically linked to the Proposed Development site.	LUC have prepared a draft Report to Inform HRA, (Appendix 6.2: Report to Inform HRA) which considered the potential for Adverse Effect on Integrity to European Sites. No ecological connectivity was identified between the habitats affected and any European sites designated for bats and impacts were scoped out of the assessment. Impacts scoped into the assessment of Likely Significant Effect were limited to those associated with the River Mease SAC.
		Advised the ES should include details of any fish surveys (including eels) and aquatic invertebrates or it should be demonstrated that the need for such surveys can be ruled out.	Fish and aquatic invertebrates are scoped out of this assessment on the basis that there is no potential for significant effects to occur to these species due to the low suitability of watercourses within and adjacent to this Site for these species and the

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			provision of embedded avoidance and mitigation measures, which provide certainty that any effects to these watercourses will be avoided.
		Advised the ES should confirm whether any European Protected Species licenses and/or mitigation licenses for other protected species licenses would be required and consider the relevant dates in which licensed activities can occur.	Noted. The Ecology Chapter outlines the requirements for European protected species licenses and/or mitigation licenses for other protected species. Design considerations have sought to protect and retain features used by protected species from the outset and as such will ensure that no badger setts are lost as part of the Proposed Development.
		Noted the ES makes no reference to veteran trees. The ES should identify the locations of any veteran trees which may be affected by the Proposed Development. Likewise, the ES should identify the location of trees or groups of trees on site and explain how the Proposed Development will affect them.	Design considerations have ensured the protection and retention of all ancient and veteran trees from the outset. Locations of these trees are presented in the Arboricultural Survey Report (see Appendix 6.14: Arboricultural Survey Report). The ES considers the impact of the Proposed Development on trees within and adjacent to the site.
		Advised the ES should take into account the objectives of this regeneration project and the potential impact it may have on the ability of the National Forest to achieve its objectives.	A design and consultation meeting was held between the National Forest working group and the Project Design team on 23 rd September 2021 to understand opportunities for supporting their objectives. It was agreed to seek to maximise opportunities for increased connectivity between woodland blocks. The scheme design has sought to complement and support the objectives of this project by increasing the extent, distribution and connectivity of key linear movement corridors including through provision of scrub, tree and woodland planting and enhancement.
		Agree with the scoping out direct physical effects during operation and that significant effects to assets beyond the Proposed Development from direct physical effects during construction or operation can be scoped out in relation to the Historic Environment.	The ES has been undertaken in line with this scope.
		Advised the ES should include an assessment on heritage assets beyond the study area where there is potential for significant effects as 2.5km study area is based upon the ZTV which is not yet finalised.	A core study area (2.5km from the Site boundary) has been used to assess potential for effects related to setting change in both designated and non-designated heritage assets. A wider study area (2.5km to 5km from the Site boundary) has been used to assess potential for effects related to setting change in designated heritage assets.

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			These study areas are in line with the likely zone over which visual effects may occur as established by the LVIA.
		The ES should confirm which areas of the Site have been subject to geophysical survey and justification should be provided as to why these locations were selected and should also justify why a 50m transect is considered appropriate for a site which is 177 hectares.	There appears to have been a misunderstanding on the geophysical survey within the site discussed in the Scoping Report. That survey was undertaken several years ago and is wholly unrelated to this scheme. It is not intended that it would provide supporting evidence for determination of this application and was mentioned as it forms part of the baseline information supplied by the local Historic Environment Record (hereafter 'HER'). Its findings have been used in the same way that other HER information has been used as part of desk-based assessment to develop understanding of the site. Discussion has been held with the DCC Archaeologist, as archaeological advisor to SDDC, regarding any further fieldwork (e.g. geophysical survey) required to support this application (see consultation entry for DCC Archaeologist, November 2021 in Chapter 7: Historic Environment).
		The ES should describe any trial trenching which has been undertaken.	Noted. No pre-submission trial trenching has been undertaken as agreed with DCC (see below within this table: DCC Archaeologist April 2023).
		The ES should contain photomontages to demonstrate the visual impact of the Proposed Development on the setting of all affected cultural heritage assets. Agreement should be sought in consultation with Historic England and the local authority on the locations for photomontages as visual representations of the Proposed Development.	Consultation with appropriate consultees (e.g. SDDC conservation officer, Historic England) was undertaken following the PEIR which established that no assets required visualisations due to the scaling back of the scheme following the PEIR.
		Mitigation measures should be considered where likely adverse significant effects could arise from pre-construction, construction or operation stages on non- designated assets. All identified mitigation measures should be fully described in the ES and demonstrably secured.	Outline considerations on mitigation are included in the ES and will be subject to further consultation with the relevant consultee (e.g. DCC Archaeologist). The scope of any archaeological works required, whether to be undertaken as advance works or during the construction period, will be laid out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved as part of the DCO process under advice from DCC's Archaeological officer and, if relevant (i.e. buried heritage assets of equivalent importance to scheduled monuments), Historic England. Measures covering any construction period mitigation are outlined within the CEMP.

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		<p>Agreed with the scoping out of operational effects but stated that the ES should set out details of operational maintenance activities, predicted traffic flows (including Heavy vehicles), and how the Public Right of Way (Pen No 9) which crosses the Site will operate once the Solar Park is operational. Also recommended that the Department for Transport document 'Guidance on Transport Assessment' is used in preparation of the ES.</p>	<p>No significant driver and pedestrian delay is anticipated. Matters addressed within the Assessment of Construction effects in Chapter 10: Transport and Access paragraphs 10.178, 10.205, 10.244, and 10.270, respectively.</p>
		<p>Advised the ES should specify the number of traffic movements which will be anticipated on a daily basis, including those by Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and consider the potential this has to create likely significant effects.</p>	<p>Noted, this is included within the transport assessment, presented in Chapter 10: Transport and Access.</p>
		<p>The Applicant proposes to scope out the assessment of noise and vibration impacts to other ES aspects chapters from the Noise and Vibration assessment. The assessments would instead be presented in the relevant ES aspect chapters.</p> <p>Confirmed they are content with the approach to the noise and vibration assessment but advises the Applicant to provided clear cross-referencing in the Noise and Vibration ES aspect chapter to where these assessments are located.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
		<p>Advised that the Inspectorate is content to scope out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of operational vibration, • Assessment of operational noise and vibration from maintenance and traffic, • Vibration from piling, • Assessment of construction vibration from vehicle movements on public roads and access tracks. 	<p>Noted</p>
		<p>Advised the ES should contain an assessment of construction vehicle noise unless otherwise justified with reference to relevant thresholds and guidance.</p>	<p>An assessment of construction vehicle noise has been undertaken for minor roads connecting the Site to main roads and are presented in Chapter 11: Noise. The</p>

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			findings of this assessment justify that further assessment of construction traffic on main roads is not required and has been scoped out.
		Advised the ES should either include evidence to confirm that noise generated by overhead cables below 350kV would not result in significant effects on sensitive receptors or provide an assessment of likely significant effects	No longer applicable as the Proposed Development does not include overhead cables.
		The ES should explain how the study area and sensitive receptors have been selected with reference to the extent of the likely impacts. Sensitive receptors should include community, leisure and ecological receptors as well as residential receptors	This information is included in Chapter 11: Noise (paragraphs 11.29 to 11.33 and 11.69 to 11.71).
		The ES should explain how the baseline noise monitoring locations were chosen with reference to relevant information including noise contour mapping.	This information is included in Chapter 11: Noise (paragraphs 11.29 to 11.33 and 11.69 to 11.71).
		Noted the criteria for assessing the significance of noise and vibration effects should be clearly set out in the ES with reference to established guidance.	This information is included in Chapter 11: Noise (paragraphs 11.38 to 11.63).
		Agree that operational employment and associated spending can be scoped out.	Noted
		The impact of loss of agricultural land for the duration of the Proposed Development should be assessed. Furthermore, the ES should quantify the agricultural land which would be temporarily and permanently lost as a result of the Proposed Development	This has been considered in Chapter 15: Agriculture and Soils in Table 15.7 and the text following.
		The ES should clearly set out what the economic benefits to the wider community are, given that the Scoping Report states that there will be minimal personnel onsite during operation.	This has been included in the assessment in Chapter 12 Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation (Predicted Operational Effects) and Chapter 15: Agriculture and Soils .
		The ES should assess the impacts during construction and operation of potential severance issues for farmers and other landowners. Measures	This has been considered in Chapter 15: Agriculture and Soils , see construction effects: farm business impacts.

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		should be included within the DCO to ensure farmers and other landowners ability to access and move their livestock and that ability to access their land is not hindered.	
		The ES should specify the calculation methods used to quantify the greenhouse gas emissions relating to the Proposed Development.	The 'Desk Based Research and Data Sources' section of the emissions reduction assessment provided in Chapter 13: Climate Change specifies the calculation methods.
		The ES should explain the term " <i>environmental receptors sensitive to climate change</i> " and set out what they are and how the Proposed Development may affect them in terms of climate change.	The 'Assessment of Potential Effects' Section provided in Chapter 13: Climate Change sets out the environmental receptors sensitive to climate change.
		The Scoping Report does not set out how a significant effect would be determined for the purposes of the Climate Change Impact Assessment. This should be clearly set out in the ES.	The 'Assessing Significance' section provided in Chapter 13: Climate Change discusses the IEMA guidelines in relation to significant effects for the emissions reduction and climate change adaptation assessments and sets out how significant effects would be determined.
		PINS consider that an assessment of glint and glare should be provided given the scale and nature of the project.	Noted. Chapter 14: Glint and Glare considers potential for glint and glare effects from the Proposed Development upon surrounding road users, dwellings, and aviation activity.
		Noted the Scoping Report does not discuss potential for impacts from the Proposed Development on aviation receptors. The ES should justify this study area and explain how elevated receptors which may overlook the site have been considered in the assessment. Receptors should include community uses, Public Rights of Ways (PRoW) and bridleways as well as residential and road users.	Chapter 14: Glint and Glare considers the potential effects on community uses, PRoW, bridleways, residential amenity, road safety, and surrounding aviation activity. Consideration is given to community uses, and for the reasons set out in paragraph 14.23 a full assessment is not required. Chapter 12 considers the potential effects of glint and glare on road safety.
		The Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study identifies a 1km buffer for glint and glare effects on ground-based receptors. The ES should justify this study area and explain how elevated receptors which may overlook the site have been considered in the assessment. Receptors should include community uses, Public Rights of Ways and bridleways as well as residential and road users.	The glint and glare assessment provided in Chapter 14: Glint and Glare has considered which receptors could most likely have views of the site and therefore experience effects from glint and glare. This has included residential dwellings and road users. The effects of glint and glare upon pedestrians on the surrounding Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and bridleways have been 'scoped out' of detailed assessment and justification is provided in Chapter 14: Glint and Glare .

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		<p>PINS do not agree to scope out major accidents and disasters. The ES should identify potential major events which are relevant to the Proposed Development such as severe weather events - storms, floods; accidents such as fire risk; and transport accidents – road and rail</p>	<p>Consideration of these issues is provided in Chapter 16: Other Issues from paragraph 16.7, and Chapter 10: Transport and Access.</p>
		<p>PINS do agree with the scoping out of human health on the basis that there is uncertainty with regards to the potential effects that may be experienced due to noise, transport and effects on residential amenity.</p>	<p>Human Health effects in relation to residential amenity, noise and transport have been considered in the following chapters of this Environmental Statement (ES)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual. ■ Chapter 10: Transport and Access. ■ Chapter 11: Noise ■ Chapter 16: Other issues.
		<p>PINS agree with the scoping out of electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields.</p>	<p>Noted. Guidelines published by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) in 1998 for both occupational and public exposure states that “overhead power lines at voltages up to and including 13 kV, underground cables at voltages up to and including 132kV and substations at and beyond the publicly accessible perimeter” are not capable of exceeding the ICNURP exposure guidelines. As such, no assessment is required for the proposed infrastructure or cables, which are under 132kV.</p>
		<p>Due to the absence of baseline information to inform the statement: "no significant effects are expected for ground conditions during construction, operation or decommissioning, subject to the implementation of a detailed Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP). As such, it is proposed that ground conditions is scoped out of the ES." Therefore, PINS do not agree with the scoping out of this topic.</p>	<p>This is presented in Chapter 9: Ground Conditions</p>
		<p>In the absence of more detailed information or evidence demonstrating clear agreement with relevant stakeholders, PINS is not in a position to agree to scope out telecommunication, television and reception from the assessment at this stage.</p>	<p>This is presented in Chapter 16: Other Issues from paragraph 16.142.</p>

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		<p>It should be clear how the results of the desk study and consultation have informed the layout of the Proposed Development. Should any diversions of utility or telecommunications infrastructure be required, these should be described in the ES and any resultant likely significant effects should be assessed.</p>	<p>This is presented in Chapter 16: Other Issues from paragraph 16.142.</p>
		<p>Advised the ES must include “<i>an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases.</i>” The ES must also assess how battery waste would be managed in the decommissioning phase.</p>	<p>This is presented in Chapter 16: Other Issues and within Appendix 4.3 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and 4.6 Battery Storage Safety Management Plan.</p>
		<p>Noted the majority of the site is located in Flood Zone 1, there are some areas which are located in Flood Zones 2 and 3. The development will introduce areas of impermeable surfaces, such as the battery storage facility and substation, however the dimensions and locations relative to the Flood Zones 2 and 3 of these structures is not included within the Scoping Report. Therefore due to a lack of information provided, PINS is not in a position to scope this matter out from the assessment. Accordingly the ES should include an assessment of these matters or the information referred to demonstrating agreement with the relevant consultation bodies and the absence of a LSE. The ES should explain how the sequential and exception test have been applied, where relevant.</p>	<p>Hydrology has been considered in Chapter 8: Water Resources and Flood Risk. A flood risk and outline drainage strategy is provided in Appendix 8.1: Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage Strategy</p>
		<p>PINS note the proposed use of mitigation measures, namely sustainable urban drainage. The design of such mitigation measures should be informed by relevant and up to date climate change allowances for the project’s lifespan</p>	<p>Source control SuDS features are proposed for the Site with surface water run-off discharged to ground. All necessary mitigation has been informed by relevant and up to date climate change allowances for the Proposed Development’s lifespan.</p>
		<p>The Environmental Statement (ES) should provide detailed information on the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on the River Mease Special Area of Conservation (SAC), such as the potential for sediment from the Proposed Development entering the watercourse. Agreement on the</p>	<p>This is included in the application in the form of a report to inform HRA (Appendix 6.2).</p>

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		impacts and conclusions of assessment should be sought from Natural England.	
		The Applicant should append a draft/outline Site Waste Management Plan to the ES and demonstrate how this document will be secured, through the DCO or other legally binding mechanism.	This has been incorporated into Appendix 4.3: Construction and Environmental Management Plan .
		Noted the Scoping Report provides little information regarding the number of vehicles which will access the Site during the construction phase and it is therefore uncertain whether the proposed development is likely to exceed relevant air quality assessment threshold criteria. On this basis, PINS is not able to scope out an assessment of emissions from construction traffic at this time.	An assessment of emissions from construction traffic is provided in Appendix 16.1: Air Quality Assessment , with a summary of the assessment in Chapter 16: Other Issues from paragraph 16.40 .
		The ES should provide information to explain the locations of AQMAs relative the Proposed Development and any potential impacts the Proposed Development may have on them, for example, proposed routes of construction traffic.	Details on the relevant AQMAs and any potential impacts caused by the Proposed Development are provided in Appendix 16.1: Air Quality Assessment . Further details on the proposed routes for construction traffic can be found in Chapter 10: Transport and Access .
		The ES should detail the specific measures proposed to manage dust and emissions during construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, particularly in relation to the control of dust on any adjacent sensitive receptors including designated ecological sites.	Mitigation measures to manage dust emissions during the construction phase are detailed in Appendix 16.1: Air Quality Assessment and set out in the outline CEMP in Appendix 4.3: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan .
Derbyshire County Council (DCC)	20 th September 2021	Noted as the DCO application progresses for the scheme, direct engagement by the Applicant or their consultants with Councillor Swan may be beneficial to address any questions or issues directly.	Noted
		Recommended engagement with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to allow them the opportunity to assess the ES Ecology Chapter and the approach to the assessment and mitigation of ecological impacts	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust were included in all stages of consultation for the Proposed Development but no responses have been received.

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		<p>DCC considers it to be essential to consult with the National Forest Company given the Proposed Development is located within the National Forest Area.</p>	<p>LUC have consulted with the National Forest Company in relation to the Proposed Development and sought to include design measures which complement the objectives of the project, including increasing native scrub and woodland connectivity across the Site.</p>
		<p>Recommended engagement with the Parish Council potentially impacted by the Proposed Development, particularly Walton-on-Trent Parish Council, and Rosliston Parish Council. SDDC will be able to provide contact details if required.</p>	<p>Consultation ongoing.</p>
		<p>DCC noted there are two major developments that need to be considered in the assessment of cumulative impacts. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ DMPA/2021/1014 Full planning application for the proposed development of a ground-mounted solar farm including associated infrastructure, comprising inverters, transformers, a substation and grid connection, which will cover an area of 70.18ha on land north of Lullington, Swadlincote ■ 9/2015/1030 and DMPA/2020/1460 Hybrid planning application with all matters reserved for up to 2,239 dwellings including a retirement village, an employment park, two local centres comprising retail services, leisure employment and community uses, public open spaces, a new primary school, associated landscape and infrastructure, including car parking, road and drainage measures, and the refurbishment of the listed stables and cottages, Drakelow Park, Walton Road, Drakelow. 	<p>These 2 developments were considered in the cumulative assessment. However the Lullington scheme was refused and therefore removed from the assessment. The development at Drakelow is being built out and is therefore being considered as part of the baseline.</p>
		<p>Noted consultation should be undertaken with East Staffordshire District Council and Lichfield District Council to determine if there are any other major development of relevance proposed that should be considered in the cumulative assessment.</p>	<p>Consultation has been undertaken.</p>
		<p>Reference to the South Derbyshire Local Plan (SDLP) Part 2 should be included in the ES and Planning Statement, particularly as SDLP Part 32</p>	<p>SDLP Part 2 has been considered in each of the topic chapters (Chapters 5 to 16) where relevant and Chapter 2: The Environmental Impact Assessment.</p>

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		identifies a hierarchy of settlement in the South Derbyshire District and defines settlement boundaries.	
		Consideration should be given in the ES and Planning Statement to the Derbyshire and Derbyshire Minerals Local Plan (Adopted April 2000). The northern part of the Propose Development are of the solar farm site falls within a Minerals Consultation Area for Sand and Gravel) defined on Map 3 of the plan). The Applicant is advised to contact the DCC Planning Services Development Plans Team for further details.	We have reviewed the relevant mineral plan and can confirm that the Site does not fall within Derbyshire Principal Mineral Resource zones for aggregate or coal. The map (Map 3) is of poor quality and scale but using this and the published BGS mapping, the mineral reserves appear to underlie the former Drakelow power station and northwards from here towards the River Trent.
		Reference should be made to the Derby and Derbyshire Waste Local Plan (Adopted March 2005) in the ES and Planning Statement and should consider any policies in the Plan that may be of relevance to the approach to impact of waste assessed in the ES and Planning Statement. .	Noted, this will be considered in the Planning Statement.
		Noted that the LVIA proposes to use guidance produced by other local authorities through England, therefore it will be important for the ES to explain to what extent these documents are relevant to the Derbyshire Landscape	The LVIA referred to generic design guidance for solar development used by other local authorities in order to develop the aims and objectives of the layout from a landscape and visual perspective. These aims are relevant to the landscape of the Site and wider study area.
		DCC support comments made by SDCC in that the assessment as part of the decommissioning of the proposed development should consider any permanent landscape change and long term landscape effects. It is noted the current character current character of the Village Estate Farmlands is distinctive comprising arable farmland with well-managed, low cut hedgerows and occasional trees so if visual mitigation proposes to thicken hedgerows or leave them to grow taller, then these effects need to be considered within the context of the established landscape characteristics of the area.	The LVIA provides commentary on anticipated permanent long term landscape effects (e.g. as a result of mitigation planting) .
		DCC's key concern on the scope of the Ecology Chapter is the approach to assessing the impacts of the Proposed Development on the River Mease Special Area of Conservation. They support SDDC comments and advise a	LUC has prepared a draft Report to Inform HRA (Appendix 6.2: Report to Inform HRA) to provide sufficient evidence for the Competent Authority to assess the

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		level 1 HRA (Screening Assessment) should be undertaken as soon as practicable during the pre-application stage. No substantive screening work has been undertaken to date and in the absence of properly considering the potential of the SAC to be affected by the Proposed Development there is a risk that issues that should be within the scope of the EIA could be inadequately considered.	Proposed Development under the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
		Noted DCC are content with the scope of the Historic Environment assessment.	The ES has been undertaken in line with this scope.
		A small area of the far north of the Site lies within a Mineral Consultation Area	While the red line boundary includes a large proportion of the former Drakelow Power Station, only a narrow corridor will be used for the grid connection once the point of connection is known, therefore possible sterilisation of resources is considered to be negligible. Nevertheless, mineral resources are considered in Chapter 9: Ground Conditions for completeness.
		DCC highlighted they do not see a need for a conventional transport assessment given from their experience these types of development generate little traffic once operational.	Noted.
		The traffic generated during the construction phase will need to be fully addressed as part of a Construction Management Plan (CMP).	A Construction Traffic Management Plan has been prepared. This is presented as Appendix 10.1: Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan .
		DCC generally agree with the assessment principles set out within the Scoping Report and have requested that ITP engage with DCC's Traffic Management Officers so they can input into the CTMP and have a degree of control to ensure construction vehicle routing is enforceable.	A Framework CTMP is provided at Appendix 10.1: Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan , and there has been ongoing contact with DCC's Traffic Management Officers to discuss the proposed construction vehicle routes. The principles set out in the Framework CTMP will be enforceable. The final CTMP will be secured by DCO requirement. Multiple meetings with DCC and SCC Highways Officers have been held leading up to the final application submission which included discussions regarding the measures included within the CTMP. These were held on the following dates:

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st February 2022 • 16th August 2022 • 24th April 2023 • 13th June 2023
		Disagreed with the scoping out of glint and glare on the basis some of the sites are located a distance away from the Highway. Therefore, the ES should include an assessment of potential glint and glare and its implications for road safety.	Chapter 14: Glint and Glare assesses the potential for glint and glare effects from the Proposed Development upon surrounding road users.
		The omission of traffic accidents will be required to be addressed in the ES. Traffic accident data can be provided b Derbyshire Constabulary.	Collision data has been obtained and used alongside the traffic flow data to confirm construction vehicle routing. Any further mitigation required can be incorporated into the CTMP.
		DCC welcome the approach to the site visits and traffic surveys to identify any survey anomalies and confirm the proposed vehicle routeing.	Traffic surveys were undertaken in October 2021, with further Site visits to be undertaken now the data has been received to identify any anomalies.
		Advised the CTMP should give the Highway Authority a degree of control to sure that the routeing of abnormal loads takes place as indicated in the Scoping Report and is enforceable if the agreed routeing is not adhered to by the contractors delivering to the site.	The CTMP provides details of the agreed routing and any other mitigation required. This can be conditioned and enforced as required.
		In context to comments made on other proposals for large solar farm developments, DCC has been keen to ensure that such proposal include provision of significant community benefits, for example a community fund for local community projects or provision of education opportunities for the local community related to renewable energy technology being provided. Details of any community or educational benefits that may be provided should be included in the ES.	This has been considered in Chapter 12: Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation .
		DCC consider that glint and glare is an important topic that should be included in the ES and do not agree with it being scoped out.	Glint and glare have been scoped into the EIA. Chapter 14: Glint and Glare considers the potential for glint and glare effects from the Proposed Development

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		DCC note that a Climate Change Strategy is being prepared and is due to be published in the next few months and may provide local context for consideration of the impacts on climate change by the Proposed Development.	Noted. The relevance of this strategy has been considered in the 'Local Policy' section of the emissions reduction assessment in Chapter 13: Climate Change .
		Welcomes the undertaking and submission of a 'Robust Report thoroughly assessing Flooding'. No further requirements.	Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage strategy provided in Appendix 8.1: Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage Strategy .
Coal Authority	02/09/21	Confirm that, whilst the site falls within the coalfield, it is located outside the defined Development High Risk Area; meaning that there are no recorded coal mining legacy hazards at shallow depth that could pose a risk to land stability. Accordingly, if you consider that the application is EIA development, there is no requirement for the applicant to consider coal mining legacy as part of their Environmental Impact Assessment. In addition, the determining authority will not need to consult us on any subsequent application for this site.	A Preliminary Coal Mining Risk Assessment is provided at Appendix 9.1: Land Quality Desk Study and Preliminary Coal Mining Risk Assessment .
Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority	31/08/21	No objections or comments to make on the proposal subject to a separate Building Regulation Consultation being submitted.	Building Regulation Consultation will be undertaken post-consent.
Drakelow Parish	25/08/21	Noted the Applicant requested that certain possible effects be scoped out and has stated as justification that these effects 'are not expected to occur'. DP consider this to be an insufficient reason for particular parameter to be removed, as if they do occur this can only be ascertained by this being scoped in.	Noted.
		Not in agreement with the scoping out of effects that relate to decommissioning as this is a different process from construction as the Site will be in a different condition from the condition it was in prior to construction	Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual has not assessed the effects of decommissioning (as agreed with the Planning Inspectorate) as these effects are anticipated to be the same as during construction. The LVIA does however provide commentary on

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			anticipated permanent long term landscape effects (e.g. as a result of mitigation planting) in paragraphs 5.189 – 5.190.
		Not in agreement with the scoping out of lighting effects during construction.	Consideration of the effects from lighting required during construction is provided in Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual paragraphs 5.140 – 5.141.
		Disagreed with the scoping out of effects on dormouse because no records of dormouse have been provided by the Derbyshire Biological Records Office. A survey should be undertaken to determine this and the results reported in the ES.	The Scoping Report has provided reasoned justification for scoping out of this species. The primary reason for scoping out of Dormouse is due to the low suitability, limited extent and poor connectivity of the habitats affected and the retention and protection of woodland and hedgerow habitats. This has been supported and agreed by The Planning Inspectorate.
		Do not agree with any parameters associated with the Historic Environment in which they live being scoped out of the ES.	The elements which have been scoped out are standard practice for this kind of development and reflect the fact that it will not generate the effects which have been scoped out. This has been accepted by the relevant consultees on this topic.
		Disagreed with any effects on drivers and pedestrians being scoped out because all effects, significant or not, need to be fully investigated and form part of the ES.	No significant driver and pedestrian delay is anticipated, in large part due to the likely requirements to limit construction trips to outside of peak hours, as is standard for similar developments. Any potential impact will be controlled through standard procedures secured through the accompanying Outline TMP without the need for extensive assessment to get to that same position. The Scoping Opinion confirms that the operational and decommissioning phases can be scoped out of the EIA.
		Effects of noise should not be scoped out of the ES since noise and vibration from construction can affect properties some distance from the site, particularly if piling operations are being undertaken.	Assessment of significant noise and vibration sources has been undertaken and is presented in Chapter 11: Noise .
		The use of land cannot be scoped out of the ES as during the operation of the Proposed Development the land can no longer be used for agricultural purposes.	This has been considered in Chapter 15: Agriculture and Soils , see operational phase effects.
		Recognised a modelling report on glint and glare will be provided and this should form part of the ES.	This has been included within the ES in Chapter 14: Glint and Glare and is presented in Appendix 14.1: Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study

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		Major accidents and disasters should not be scoped out of the ES because the Proposed Development will be designed and maintained to H&S Standards, this should be recorded in the ES and explain how this will be achieved.	Details of this are provided from paragraph 16.7 in Chapter 16: Other Issues .
		DP do not understand the reasoning for scoping out ground conditions from further assessment given the Applicant plans to implement a detailed CEMP with mitigation, together with Coal Mining Risk Assessments.	Ground conditions has been scoped in to the assessment. The results of the assessment are presented in Chapter 9: Ground Conditions .
		Do not agree with hydrology being scoped out as the Proposed Development is adjacent to various flood plains and may reduce the run-off time for rainfall entering the drainage systems, thus adding to the flooding events that have been experienced locally.	Hydrology has been scoped in to the EIA and is considered in Chapter 8: Water Resources and Flood Risk .
		Noted the Applicant proposed to avoid any effect on telecommunication through the design of the scheme. DP request the details of the design are included in the ES and telecommunications is not scoped out.	Consultation with relevant consultees has been undertaken with regards to telecommunications and this is presented in Chapter 16: Other Issues from paragraph 16.142 . Details of the design evolution of the Proposed Development are presented in Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy .
		Note there are other solar farms proposed in their locality and would advise that these proposals are considered in addition to the Proposed Development in relation to telecommunications.	None of the telecommunications companies being consulted have raised any cumulative issues with other solar farms in the area
East Staffordshire Borough Council	17/09/21	Noted they have no comments to make on the Proposed Development.	Noted.
Environment Agency	20/09/21	Agree with the topics to be scoped out of the ES because fluvial flood risk is limited to that shown on the Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) and there are no designated main rivers located within the red line boundary of the site	This topic is considered in Chapter 8: Water Resources and Flood Risk as PINS disagreed with the scoping out of this topic.

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		Advised the solar panel layout should be located with a minimum 8m easement between the top of bank of any watercourse and any solar panel.	This has been considered in the design of the Proposed Development, discussed in Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy .
		Noted it is best practice to watercourses at 90 degrees to the flow of the direction, however if it is necessary for the cable route to run parallel to any watercourse for any length, the cable duct should be located a minimum of 8m away from the top of the bank of the watercourse on either side of it.	Noted. This has been considered in Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design and Chapter 8: Water Resources and Flood Risk .
		Advised mitigation measures would need to be identified and considered to ensure sediment does not enter the tributary of the River Mease SAC especially during wet weather.	Mitigation measures are considered under the 'Proposed Mitigation' of Chapter 8: Water Resource and Flood Risk and Chapter 9: Ground Conditions in relation to sediment.
		Advised the entire Site needs to be assessed as part of the NSIP application to ensure all aspects of the ecological impact are understood. Appendix C of the Scoping Report appears to only assess the lower half of the Site and appear to use a different cable route identified in Figure 1.1 of the Scoping Report.	Chapter 6: Ecology takes into consideration impacts of the Proposed Development in relation to the Site.
		Noted the Applicant intends to consult with the local planning authority to discuss biodiversity net gain. EA would encourage biodiversity net gain to be implemented through the Site.	The ES Chapter is supported by a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (Appendix 6.12).
		Welcomes the undertaking and submission of a desk top study of ground conditions. No further requirements.	A desk top study is provided in Appendix 9.1: Land Quality Desk Study and Preliminary Coal Mining Risk Assessment
		Welcomes the undertaking and submission of a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA). Indicate the LLFA (Derbyshire Council) should be consulted for their views on hydrology. Requirements to follow additional advice regarding panel layout and watercourse easement.	<p>The author consulted the LLFA on hydrology on the June 27th 2023 and their response is outlined in this table</p> <p>Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage strategy provided in Appendix 8.1: Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage Strategy</p> <p>Desk top study provided in Appendix 9.1: Land Quality Desk Study and Preliminary Coal Mining Risk Assessment.</p>

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ESP Utilities Group Ltd	16/09/21	Confirmed ESP Utilities may be affected by the proposed works and have an intermediate pressure gas main serving the area at grid reference E423401, N317500. ESP should be kept informed and updated about the extent and nature of the proposed works to establish whether any additional or precautionary works are necessary to protect their network.	This is considered in Chapter 16: Other Issues
Forestry Commission (FC)	16/09/21	Noted the Proposed Development is located close to Rosliston Forestry Centre and the Site is within the area of the National Forest. FC are surprised that the impact on the National Forest and its objectives have not been included in the Scoping Report and would encourage the Applicant to do so as soon as possible	LUC have consulted with National Forest Company in relation to the Proposed Development and sought to include design measures which complement the objectives of the project, including increasing native scrub and woodland connectivity across the Site.
		Noted they would expect any trees on Site to be retained or compensated, and for the Applicant to protect all veteran trees onsite. Therefore, identification of these trees to enable a retention or likely compensation process needs to be scoped in.	Design considerations have sought to protect and retain trees, including veteran trees from the outset. A plan of trees and hedgerow that will be retained and removed is provided in Appendix 6.14: Arboricultural Survey Report . The ES has considered the impact of Proposed Development on trees within and adjacent to the site.
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	08/09/21	Advised the proposed application boundary is not within any consultation zones of any major accident hazard sites or major accident pipelines.	Noted
Historic England	14/09/21	Advised against a default fixed radius approach to the consideration of setting impacts in advance or more work to undertake the specific setting sensitivity of assets and should be reviewed in the context of initial results.	See response to points on study areas from PINS above. The extent of likely effects was kept under review during preparation of the ES and no further susceptible assets were identified beyond 5km.
		Recommended the inclusion of long views and any specific designed or historically relevant views and vistas within historic landscapes. inter-visibility or otherwise associated heritage assets in which both assets and the development can be seen should also be considered.	These aspects are included as part of the assessment of effects related to setting change, see 'Assessment of Operational Effects' section of Chapter 7: Historic Environment and Appendix 7.1 'Potential development impacts' section.

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		Advised that Levels of Importance is used rather than Levels of Significance.	This terminology has been adopted and reflects the relatively recently published (July 2021) PCHIA Guidance.
		Advised that the proposed effects levels are broken down into sub-categories as the proposed approach tends to a skewed distribution and does not allow for a sufficient range of impacts.	The terminology used has been reviewed. The adopted terminology allows for clear identification of the level of effects assets would experience both in NPS terms and in terms of whether or not this is significant effect in EIA terms.
		Desk based assessment including HER consultation, Lidar, cartographic sources, previous survey etc should inform extensive new geophysical survey; in respect of this work and further intrusive investigations we refer you to County archaeological advice.	Desk-based sources, including the sources cited by HE, and walkover field survey have been used in preparation of the ES. Discussions were held with the DCC Archaeologist on the scope of a geophysical survey required to support the application (see consultation entry for DCC Archaeologist November 2021 in Chapter 7: Historic Environment).
Lullington Parish	14/09/21	Noted they were not formally consulted but they have objected to a similar large scale solar farm to the north of the village (DMPN/2021/1014) and expect there will be an overlap of concerns in respect of the two proposals, for example construction traffic routeing.	This has been considered in the transport assessment presented in Chapter 10: Transport and Access . No significant cumulative effects were identified.
		Raised considerable concern regarding the increasing of industrialisation of the rural landscape and note there are 3 other large scale solar developments in the planning process, most of which use of productive agricultural land and are yet to see any significant solar installation on the roofs of distribution and other buildings being constructed locally.	This has been considered in Chapter 12: Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation .
		Requested to be added to the consultation list in light of the close proximity and similar issues associated with the Lullington and Oaklands applications.	Noted with Applicant.
National Grid	31/08/21	Advised there are several high voltage overhead transmission lines and high voltage substation with the scoping area. Statutory electrical safety clearances must be maintained at all times. Any proposed buildings must not be closer than 5.3m to the lowest conductor. National Grid recommends that no permanent structures are built directly beneath overhead lines.	This has been considered in the design of the Proposed Development. Details of which can be found in Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy .

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		<p>Advised if any changes in ground levels are proposed either beneath or in close proximity to their existing OHLs then this would serve to reduce the safety clearance. Safety clearance for existing OHLs must be maintained at all times.</p>	<p>No changes to ground levels are proposed with respect to existing OHLs. Safety clearance will be maintained at all times.</p>
		<p>If a landscaping scheme is proposed as part of the proposal, we request that only slow and low growing species of trees and shrubs are planted beneath and adjacent to the existing overhead line to reduce the risk of growth to a height which compromises statutory safety clearances.</p>	<p>This has been considered in the design of the Proposed Development. Details of which can be found in Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy.</p>
		<p>Drilling or excavation works should not be undertaken if they have the potential to disturb or adversely affect the foundations or “pillars of support” of any existing tower. These foundations always extend beyond the base area of the existing tower and foundation (“pillar of support”) drawings can be obtained using the contact details above.</p>	<p>This has been considered in the design of the Proposed Development. Details of which can be found in Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy.</p>
		<p>No permanent / temporary structures are to be built over high voltage underground cables or within the easement strip and any such proposals should be discussed and agreed with the National Grid prior to any works.</p>	<p>This has been considered in the design of the Proposed Development. Details of which can be found in Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy.</p>
		<p>Plant, machinery, equipment, buildings or scaffolding should not encroach within 5.3 metres of any of our high voltage conductors when those conductors are under their worse conditions of maximum “sag” and “swing” and overhead line profile (maximum “sag” and “swing”) drawings should be obtained using the contact details above.</p>	<p>This has been considered in the design of the Proposed Development. Details of which can be found in Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy.</p>
<p>National Highways (NH)</p>	<p>09/09/21</p>	<p>An assessment of transport related impacts of the proposal should be carried out and reported as described in the Department for Transport ‘Guidance on Transport Assessment (GTA)’ and in accordance with Circular 02/2013. It is noted that this guidance has been archived, however still provides a good practice guide in preparing a TA. In addition, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government also provide guidance on preparing TAs.</p>	<p>Circular 02/2013 has been referred to in the policy review of Chapter 10: Transport and Access (Paragraph 10.31).</p>

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		Environmental impacts arising from any disruption during construction, traffic volume, composition or routing change and transport infrastructure modification should be fully assessed and reported.	ITP does not anticipate a significant disruption, in large part due to the likely requirement to limit construction trips to outside of peak hours, as is standard for similar developments. Construction routing will be agreed and has already been consulted in draft with the local highway authority.
		Adverse change to noise and air quality should be particularly considered, including in relation to compliance with the European air quality limit values and/or in local authority designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).	Issues related to air quality are considered in Chapter 16: Other Issues from paragraph 16.40 and in Appendix 16.1: Air Quality Assessment . Whilst noise is considered in Chapter 11: Noise .
		Noted that no details have been provided to quantify the likely traffic impacts. However, the Scoping Report does suggest that the greatest levels of traffic generation would be during the construction phase and therefore advise that further details be provided through the submission of a CTMP.	A CTMP is provided in Appendix 10.1: Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan
		Although the Walton on Trent junction is the closest point of access to the SRN from the site, the Scoping Report states that access for construction vehicles shall be recommended via the A38 / A513 junction at Alrewas to the south, and from Burton on Trent to the north. Further details on the impacts at these locations and the approach to encouraging vehicles to take these routes should be detailed within the CTMP.	Construction route will seek to avoid significant highway constraints. Construction vehicle routing will be revisited where necessary. Due to the construction traffic being limited to outside peak hours, wider assessment of the strategic road network is not considered necessary.
		Details regarding site operation and decommissioning from a traffic impact perspective should also be provided for review.	The traffic impact during operation will be negligible but will be quantified. The decommissioning of the Site, given the modular nature of the solar panels, means that the impact will be equivalent to construction.
		Noted that vehicle trips carrying abnormal loads shall access the site via M42 J11, and that the implications of such trips shall be considered within the CTMP.	This comment is acknowledge and has been addressed in Appendix 10.1: Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan
		Requested they be consulted on the proposed scope of the traffic survey to ensure this meets the current requirements.	Due to the construction traffic being limited to outside peak hours, wider assessment of the strategic road network is not considered necessary.

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		Strongly recommended that further consultation is undertaken with NHE before any traffic modelling takes place, an noted junction capacity assessments should be carried out to comply with DfT Circular 02/2013.	Due to the construction traffic being limited to outside peak hours junction capacity assessment will not be required. The Site's rural location and distance from the strategic road network (over 5km) means that any impact is likely to be significantly diluted between the site and the SRN, further to control measures being put in place.
Natural England	20/09/21	Advised full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES and all supporting infrastructure should be included within the assessment.	This has been included in the assessment presented in Chapter 12: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation.
		Advised of the potential impact of the Proposed Development upon features of nature conservation interest. Opportunities for habitat creation/enhancement should be included within this assessment in accordance with appropriate guidance on such matters.	Noted. The ES considers the potential impacts on statutory and non-statutory designated sites, habitats and protected and notable species, supported by appropriate baseline survey. This is shown in Appendices 6.2-6.15.. The ES Chapter is supported by a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (Appendix 6.12).
		Advised the ES should thoroughly assess the potential for the proposal to affect designated sites and European sites. Should a Likely Significant Effect on a European/Internationally designated site be identified or be uncertain, the local planning authority may need to prepare an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to consideration of impacts through the EIA process.	Noted. LUC have prepared Appendix 6.2: Report to Inform Habitat Regulations Assessment to demonstrate consideration of this designated site in relation to Proposed Development.
		Advised the ES should include an assessment of the likely impacts on the local wildlife, protected species and geodiversity interests of such sites. The assessment should include proposals for mitigation of any impacts and if appropriate, compensation measures.	The ES Chapter has assessed the impact on statutory and non-statutory designated sites, habitats and protected and notable species.
		The ES should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species (including, for example, great crested newts, reptiles, birds, water voles, badgers and bats). Natural England does not hold comprehensive information regarding the locations of species protected by law, but advises on the procedures and legislation relevant to such species. Records of protected species should be sought from appropriate local biological record	The ES has assessed the impact on protected species during the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. Appropriate ecological baseline surveys have been carried out for protected and notable species as detailed in Appendices 6.2-6.10. Biological Records have been obtained from Derbyshire Biological Records Centre.

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised at Scoping	Response
		centres, nature conservation organisations, groups and individuals; and consideration should be given to the wider context of the site for example in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area, to assist in the impact assessment.	
		Advised the ES should thoroughly assess the impact of the proposals on habitats and/or species listed as 'Habitats and Species of Principal Importance' within the England Biodiversity List, published under the requirements of S41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.	<p>The ES Chapter has assessed impacts on 'Habitats and Species of Principal Importance'.</p> <p>Design considerations have achieved the protection and retention of key ecological corridors, including woodland, hedgerow, trees and watercourses, through sensitive design from the outset.</p> <p>Appropriate consideration of climate change has been provided.</p>
		Requested that local landscape character areas are mapped at a scale appropriate to the development site as well as any relevant management plans or strategies pertaining to the area.	Local landscape character types are mapped on Figure 5.4b . The assessment considered the 'planting and management guidelines' set out in DCC's <i>The Landscape Character of Derbyshire (2014)</i> .
		Advised the EIA process should detail the measures to be taken to ensure the building design will be of a high standard, as well as detail of layout alternatives together with justification of the selected option in terms of landscape impact and benefit.	Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy details the measures taken to ensure building design, in addition to presenting the evolution of the design of the Proposed Development. Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual considers the impact of the Proposed Development on the landscape and any associated benefits.
		Advised that the LVIA should include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area including proposals currently at Scoping stage. .	A list of projects to be considered in the cumulative assessment was provided by SDCC in August 2021 and updated through further consultation with SDDC in February 2022, and via research by the Applicant's planners throughout 2023. These are set out in Table 5.7 of Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual , shown on Figure 5.8 and have been considered in the cumulative assessment. This includes the proposed Energy Storage System (ESS) project at Barr Hall Farm, Drakelow, which is at scoping stage.
		The LVIA should refer to the relevant National Character Areas.	The relevant National Character Areas are referred to in Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual in paragraphs 5.67 - 5.68 and shown on Figure 5.4a: National Character Areas .

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised at Scoping	Response
		<p>The Applicant should consider whether there is land in the area affected by the Proposed Development which qualifies for conditional exemption from capital taxes on the grounds of outstanding scenic, scientific or historic interest.</p>	<p>Checks have been made, using HM Customs 'Land, buildings and their contents' search tool¹, for exempt land – none lies within the Site or study areas. The Proposed Development has no implications for any conditionally exempt properties.</p>
		<p>The EIA should consider potential impacts on access land, public open land, rights of way and coastal access routes in the vicinity of the development. Appropriate mitigation measures should be incorporated for any adverse impacts and recommend reference to the relevant Right of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) to identify public rights of way within or adjacent to the proposed site that should be maintained or enhanced.</p>	<p>This has been considered in the Assessment of Construction Chapter 12: Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation.</p>
		<p>Recommend that soils should be considered in the context of the sustainable use of land and the ecosystem services they provide as a natural resource, as also highlighted in paragraph 170 of the NPPF.</p>	<p>This has been included in Chapter 15: Agriculture and Soils, see operational effects: effects on soils.</p>
		<p>The Applicant should consider the following as part of the ES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The degree to which soils are going to be disturbed/harmed as part of the Proposed Development and whether 'best and most versatile' agricultural land is involved. ■ If required, an agricultural land classification and soil survey of the land should be undertaken. This should normally be at a detailed level, e.g. one auger boring per hectare, (or more detailed for a small site) supported by pits dug in each main soil type to confirm the physical characteristics of the full depth of the soil resource, i.e. 1.2 metres. ■ The Environmental Statement should provide details of how any adverse impacts on soils can be minimised. Further guidance is contained in the Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Sites. 	<p>This has been considered in Chapter 9: Ground Conditions and in Chapter 15: Agriculture and Soils.</p> <p>Chapter 15: Agriculture and Soils includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the effects on soils. See operational effects: effects on soils; ■ the land quality following detailed ALC survey. See baseline; ■ the effects on soils and from construction are assessed: see assessment of construction effects; <p>See also the CEMP in Appendix 4.3.</p>

¹ HM Customs (no date) Land, buildings and their contents search tool. Available at: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/gds/heritage/lbsearch.htm> [Access 29/09/23]

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised at Scoping	Response
		<p>Advised the ES should include an impact assessment to identify, describe and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been or will be carried out.</p>	<p>Noted, the topic chapters of the ES consider in-combination effects with other environmental disciplines.</p>
		<p>The England Biodiversity Strategy published by Defra establishes principles for the consideration of biodiversity and the effects of climate change. The ES should reflect these principles and identify how the Proposed Development's effects on the natural environment will be influenced by climate change, and how ecological networks will be maintained.</p>	<p>Design considerations have sought to protect, retain and enhance ecological corridors, including woodland, hedgerow, trees and watercourses, from the outset.</p>
		<p>Advised the NPPF requires that the planning system should contribute to the enhancement of the natural environment 'by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures' (NPPF Para 174), and should be demonstrated through the ES.</p>	<p>In line with the draft National Planning Statement, whilst there is no specific requirement for this Proposed Development to achieve a minimum Biodiversity Net Gain score, there is a requirement to provide demonstrable gain. In NPS EN-1 (November 2023, designated in January 2024), it is detailed that development "Energy NSIP proposals, whether onshore or offshore, should seek opportunities to contribute to and enhance the natural environment by providing net gains for biodiversity, and the wider environment where possible (para 4.6.6)." The Proposed Development will seek to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain where possible using the Natural England Defra Metric 3.1.</p> <p>Design considerations have sought to protect, retain and enhance ecological corridors, including woodland, hedgerow, trees and watercourses, from the outset.</p>
<p>Public Health England</p>	<p>17/09/21</p>	<p>Noted the Scoping Report makes reference to a traffic and transport assessment, but wishes to scope out driver and pedestrian delay and also noted no detail is provided regarding the methodology for the traffic and transport assessment. Therefore the ES should include an assessment in accordance with the IEMA 'Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic' (1993).</p>	<p>The IEMA 'Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic' have been reviewed, albeit a newer version has been released since this comment was received. This assessment has been carried out in accordance with the 2023 IEMA guidance.</p>
		<p>Recommends that a CEMP be provided to demonstrate that construction phase effects can be controlled and mitigated.</p>	<p>The Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is included at Appendix 4.3.</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised at Scoping	Response
		<p>Sets out guidance for assessment of emissions to air and water.</p> <p>Requirements for an assessment of land quality are set out, including consideration of emissions to and from the ground associated with;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) pre-existing ground conditions; b) construction-phase activities c) re-use of soils. 	<p>Nature of the greenfield site and the low-impact development limits potential for emissions to air from disturbance of ground conditions. Dust particulates are considered herein in accordance with the guidance provided in terms of human health and are considered further in Appendix 16.1 Air Quality Assessment.</p> <p>Land quality is considered within this chapter, specifically;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) pre-existing land conditions are considered in Appendix 9.1: Land Quality Desk Study and Preliminary Coal Mining Risk Assessment b) and c) control of emissions during construction-phase and re-use of soils are considered within Appendix 4.3: Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan.
		<p>We believe the summation of relevant issues into a specific section of the report on human health provides a focus which ensures that public health is given adequate consideration. The section should summarise key information, risk assessments, proposed mitigation measures, conclusions and residual impacts, relating to human health. Compliance with the requirements of National Policy Statements and relevant guidance and standards should also be highlighted.</p> <p>Any assessments undertaken to inform the ES should be proportionate to the potential impacts of the proposal, therefore we accept that, in some circumstances particular assessments may not be relevant to an application, or that an assessment may be adequately completed using a qualitative rather than quantitative methodology. In cases where this decision is made, the applicant should fully explain and justify their rationale in the submitted documentation.</p>	<p>Chapter 16: Other Issues includes a specific section on human health from paragraph 16.105 and sets out the relevant impacts that could affect human health. It provides a proportionate qualitative assessment taking account of the characteristics of the Proposed Development and its likely effects on the environment and on people.</p>
<p>Rosliston Parish Council (RPC)</p>	<p>17/09/21 16/09/21</p>	<p>Advised all effects of decommissioning should be considered as part of the scoping process given the expected change in the land over the period of the solar farm and also the impact of decommissioning on the local transport network.</p>	<p>Decommissioning of the Site means that impact will be equivalent to construction. Significant driver and pedestrian delays are not anticipated due to construction trips being made outside of peak traffic hours. The proposed construction vehicle routes avoid the identified villages of Rosliston and Walton-on-Trent.</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised at Scoping	Response
Walton on Trent Parish Council (WTPC)		Disagree with driver and pedestrian delay during construction being scoped out of the ES as this is a major development in an area where transport links are already constrained and infrastructure poor. The impact on drivers, cyclists and pedestrians during construction and operation should be included in the scope of the review.	ITP does not anticipate a significant driver and pedestrian delay, in large part due to the likely requirement to limit construction trips to outside of peak hours, as is standard for similar developments. It is considered that any potential impact will be controlled through standard procedures without the need for extensive assessment to get to that same position.
		Given the poor state of the local rural roads, and the Applicant's comment in relation to vibration from vehicle movements on public roads that this is "generally only noticeable where roads are poorly maintained" this needs to be retained in scope.	Vibration from vehicle movements is highly unlikely to be significant unless there are significant discontinuities or sudden changes in road height, such as potholes or speed bumps immediately adjacent to a receptor. There is a general obligation (BS 5288 Section 8.2.1: Control of noise at source) to keep "internal" haul roads well maintained- this would be applied to the haul road formed from the Park Farm access track. It is also assumed that where there is a plan to use an existing access track, such as Park Farm access tracks, the track will be upgraded to an appropriate state.
		<p>Advised that potential effects on residents and transport users should be addressed in the ES.</p> <p>Advised that the development of the power station on the Drakelow Power Station site by Vital Energi, the Swadlincote Resource Recovery Park at Cadley, and two battery farms at Breech and Royal farm Cauldwell should be included in the cumulative assessment.</p>	This is covered in Chapter 10: Transport and Access
		Advised the ES should adequately investigate the noise impact of covering 500 acres of ground with soil; or foliage which are generally noise "absorbers" with 500 of acres of what are hard reflective surfaces which will reflect noise and make the ambient background noise very different.	Sound reflection from solar panels may be a consideration if located close to both a significant noise source and receptors. There are no significant existing noise sources (such as a busy main road) close to the Site. The maximum possible theoretical increase would be 3dB where the majority of the surface between a noise source and receiver changes from being entirely absorptive to entirely reflective. In practice the change is much lower. Existing ambient noise levels in the area are relatively low, and as such resulting effect is highly unlikely to be a significant issue.
		Advised major accidents and disasters, human health, telecommunication, television reception and utilities, waste and air quality need to be within the scope of the review given the scale of the site/construction	These topics have been considered in Chapter 16: Other Issues

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised at Scoping	Response
		<p>Noted that nature reserves owned by Staffordshire and Derbyshire Wildlife Trusts are within 5km of the Site. Therefore, advised these should be added to the consultees in addition to the National Forest Company as Rosliston Forestry Centre is within close proximity to the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>Appropriate consultation with stakeholders, including National Forest Company, has been undertaken to inform the ES. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust were included in all stages of consultation for the Proposed Development, but no responses have been received.</p> <p>LUC has taken into consideration the geographic location and the ecological features of these sites to understand the potential impact of the Proposed Development as part of the impact assessment of non-statutory designated sites. This has been considered within the Ecology Chapter.</p>
		<p>The development of the power station on the Drakelow Power Station site by Vital Energi, the Swadlincote Resource Recovery Park at Cadley, and two battery farms at Breech and Royal farm Cauldwell should also be included in the cumulative assessment.</p>	<p>Drakelow Power Station has been included in the ES. The other developments will be included within the cumulative assessment in the relevant topic chapters, if they are located within appropriate distances for their assessment.</p>
		<p>Advised Derbyshire and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust should be included within the post scoping-consultation process for the LVIA.</p>	<p>Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust were included in all stages of consultation for the Proposed Development, but no responses have been received.</p>
		<p>Not in agreement with the scoping out of decommissioning, the effects on private residential dwellings and the effects of night-time lighting.</p>	<p>The LVIA does not assess the effects of decommissioning (as agreed by the Planning Inspectorate) as these effects are anticipated to be the same as during construction. The LVIA provides commentary on anticipated permanent long term landscape effects (e.g. as a result of mitigation planting) in Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual in paragraphs 5.189 - 5.190.</p> <p>A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment is provided in Appendix 5.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment and considers views from the key properties around the Site.</p> <p>Consideration of the effects from lighting required during construction and operation is provided in paragraphs 5.140 - 5.141 and 5.187- 5.188 in Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual.</p>
		<p>Not in agreement with the proposed viewpoints stating there are no viewpoints within or around Rosliston or Walton on Trent.</p>	<p>The LVIA includes a viewpoint at the north-western edge of Rosliston (Viewpoints 5a and 5b). A viewpoint was not considered from Walton-on-Trent as intervening landform obscures views of the Site, as shown on the ZTV at (Figures 5.5a – d).</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised at Scoping	Response
		Noted the Applicant proposed an iterative approach to mitigation. RPC would like clarification as to how this will be enforced if issues arise after planning has been granted and what will the measures be for ensuring local authorities can raise concerns and issues be resolved.	Any mitigation identified through the ES is then captured through the various requirements of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO). Compliance with the terms of the DCO, including the requirements, would be a matter for South Derbyshire District Council to monitor. The Planning Act 2008 provides for local planning authorities to enter land for the purpose of inspecting a development and for seeking information relating to any perceived non compliance with the terms of a DCO and also for the process of resolving any issues or ultimately levelling sanctions.
		Advised the study area for historic environment should be alight with that for landscape and visual (5km).	Study Areas have been kept under review during the course of the ES and effects to designated assets lying up to 5km from the Site are considered.
		Requested no heavy goods vehicles for construction, operation or decommission should be routed through Rosliston or Walton on Trent (even if at the point of construction/decommissioning the Walton Bypass has been built).	Noted. The proposed construction vehicle routing, as confirmed in the CTMP, avoids the identified villages.
		Requested a limitation on working hours – no night working and normal construction hours to be limited during weekdays and at weekends.	The working hours for construction will be from 07:00 to 19:00 Monday to Friday and from 07:00 to 13:00 on Saturdays. No construction will occur on Sundays or during bank holidays. The details of the working hours for the Proposed Development are included in Appendix 4.3: Construction and Environmental Management Plan
		Advised there should be a phone number for local residents to report traffic issues arising from the proposed development.	This is discussed in Chapter 10: Transport and Access .
		Questioned why local parks including Walton on Trent park and Rosliston Forestry Centre are not included as noise sensitive receptors? Additionally, why is Fairfield not a noise sensitive receptor given its proximity to both the panels and the overhead cables (over Rosliston Road).	Fairfield Farm is included as a receptor position in the assessment. The Rosliston Forestry Centre was included in the PEIR but following design changes and reduction in the Site's red line boundary, it is now outside of the assessment boundary. (See Table 11.3 in Chapter 11: Noise for list of operational and construction noise receptors.)
		Agreed construction vibration be included within the scope along with decommissioning vibration.	Construction vibration has been assessed. It is considered reasonable to assume the effects of decommissioning will be similar to that from construction.

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised at Scoping	Response
		Does not agree with the scope of proposed significant effects in relation to socio-economics as the Proposed Development falls within grades 2 and 3 agricultural land and therefore land use should not be scoped out of the ES.	The use of agricultural land is included in Chapter 15: Agriculture and Soils , assessing temporary and permanent effects.
		Noted RPC wish to be consulted as the application progresses.	Noted
South Derbyshire District Council	07/09/21	The EIA can only take account of the vulnerabilities or the Conservation Objectives of the SAC if some early assessment under the Habitat Regulations takes place to inform the scope of the EIA. In order to co-ordinate the EIA and HRA requirements a level 1 HRA (Screening assessment) should be undertaken as soon as practicable during the pre-application stage. An early understanding of the potential ways in which development could affect the SAC can then inform the evidence or assessment that needs collecting or preparing as part of the EIA.	LUC has prepared a Report to Inform HRA (see Appendix 6.2) to provide evidence to enable the competent authority to assess the Proposed Development under the requirements of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
		<p>Consideration to be given to the sensitivity of the Mease SAC to nutrient release.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to the potential of the development to alter surface water run-off and drainage characteristics.</p> <p>Consideration to be given to the development's potential to damage field drains which may affect the local hydrological regime</p> <p>Implementation of an appropriate Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS)</p>	<p>These concerns are addressed in Chapter 8: Water Resources and Flood Risk in the following paragraphs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Paragraph 8.49 - Mease SAC ■ Paragraph 8.65 - Surface water run-off and SUDS ■ Paragraph 8.73 - land drains
		Regarding decommissioning of the Site. The ES should clearly outline how the effects associated with decommissioning phase will be controlled. A Construction and Environment Management Plan (CEMP) is proposed to control/mitigate against construction phase effects, but clearly if a similar suite of measures cannot be secured to manage the decommissioning phase effects then the impact this stage of works could be materially different to those during construction. Some consideration of how a Decommissioning and Environment Management Plan will be secured and	A Decommissioning Plan, to include timescales and transportation methods, will be agreed in advance with the local planning authority, and secured by DCO requirement

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised at Scoping	Response
		<p>the scope of that Plan should be outlined in the EIA. This should take account of changes to the baseline within and around the site over the operational life of the development (i.e. potential increase in biodiversity interest). In such circumstances there may be a need to undertake further assessments or identify further mitigation measures prior to decommissioning and this should be considered in the ES.</p>	
		<p>Advised that the assessment should consider any permanent landscape change and long-term landscape effects.</p>	<p>The LVIA provides commentary on anticipated permanent long term landscape effects (e.g. as a result of mitigation planting) in Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual paragraphs 5.189 – 5.190.</p>
		<p>Welcomes the commitment of the applicant to consult the Authority on proposals to deliver a Biodiversity Net Gain within the Site. Given the sites current land use and its scale, and having regard to the proposed use clearly there is very significant potential to deliver a significant net gain, both through specific habitat creation and improvement and changes to long-term land management.</p>	<p>The ES has included a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment, which has been provided in Appendix 6.12 and a separate River Condition Assessment provided in Appendix 6.13.</p> <p>The Proposed Development have sought to maximise the opportunity for Biodiversity Net Gain by retaining valuable habitats and focusing development in areas of lower ecological value, whilst recognising and promoting opportunities for habitat creation and management as part of the project.</p>
		<p>Raised no issues with the 2.5km study area as proposed, subject to some mention of Brizlincote Hall being made. Beyond that, the approach and level of detail proposed all seems reasonable. Given the scale of the proposal officers are particularly concerned about the impact on setting of Walton on Trent Conservation Area, also the list of potential mitigation does not include anything that might mitigate visual impacts on setting of assets. That being said, any attempt to screen visual impacts would result in screening, the scale of which might itself have adverse impacts of its own.</p>	<p>Brizlincote Hall lies in the wider study area so the potential for effects to it as a result of setting change has been reviewed as part of baseline studies.</p> <p>Walton-on-Trent lies within the core study area so has been considered for potential effects related to setting change.</p> <p>Where mitigation measures have been suggested for effects related to setting change, consideration has been given to the screening measures, such as plantation of woodland at the Site fringes, could be a source of such effects in their own right.</p>
		<p>Recommend review of the recently signed section 106 agreement for the Drakelow Park site which may significantly inform future transport routing options available.</p>	<p>Noted. This has been referred to during optioneering, but we understand that the timeline for bringing forward the Walton-on-Trent Bypass remains uncertain.</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised at Scoping	Response
		SDDC are not aware of any additional noise sensitive receptors not identified in the scoping report (Including ecological or amenity).	Noted
		Agreed offsite vehicle movements can be scoped out from the quantitative assessment in the Noise chapter	Noted
		Agreed vibration from vehicle movements on roads and tracks can be scoped out from the quantitative assessment in the Noise chapter	Noted.
		Agreed construction vibration can be scoped out from the quantitative assessment in the Noise chapter provided that the piling activities do not significantly exceed those described in para 8.3.	Noted.
		Agreed assessment of overhead cable noise for cables below 350kV can be excluded from the scope.	Noted.
		Applicant queried local policy/ interpretation of BS4142. 9th June 2021 email response from Matthew Holford setting out LOAEL and SOAEL relationships and noise character penalties.	Noted.
		Applicant requested confirmation of acceptance of residential survey positions. 4th November email response from SDDC confirmed that happy with proposals for noise survey positions.	Noted.
		Agreed to the scoping out of the following topics, as explained in Chapter 10 - Glint and Glare; Major Accidents and Disasters; Human Health; Ground Conditions; Hydrology; Telecommunications, Television Reception and Utilities; Waste; and Air Quality.	Further to the Scoping Opinion from PINS, major accidents and disasters, human health, air quality, waste and telecommunications, television reception and utilities are considered in Chapter 16: Other Issues , whilst the remaining topics have been assessed in the following chapters of the ES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chapter 8: Water Resources and Flood Risk; ■ Chapter 9: Ground Conditions; and ■ Chapter 14: Glint and Glare.
		It is requested that the National Forest are included in list of consultees at para 2.7.	Noted.

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised at Scoping	Response
		<p>It is requested that SDDC Local Plan Part 2 should also be considered in any policy review to be undertaken (noting policy consideration is likely to be set out in a supplementary document outside the ES). The Local Plan Part 2 includes policies on woodlands, trees and hedgerows and historic environment that may be material to the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>Noted. This is covered in the ES.</p>
		<p>Expect climate reduction chapter of the EIA to explore in some depth whether the project delivers net carbon reduction benefits given the large land-take which it will require</p>	<p>The greenhouse gas emissions assessment has been undertaken for the Proposed Development. This is presented in Chapter 13: Climate Change.</p>
<p>Staffordshire County Council</p>	<p>20/09/21</p>	<p>Requested SCC are included as a consultee as access to the site from the strategic road network also runs through Staffordshire.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
		<p>Noted the route through Stapenhill is within Staffordshire and is particularly sensitive to HCV usage and will need careful consideration.</p>	<p>The Framework CTMP in Appendix 10.1 considers the routing closely and includes necessary mitigation to avoid an unacceptable impact through Stapenhill.</p> <p>A joint meeting with Derbyshire and Staffordshire Highways Officers was held on 1st February 2022 which stated that the Walton-on-Trent Bypass should be used as the preferred construction route. However, following news that the Chetwynd Bridge will be closed to through traffic, a further meeting was held on 16th August 2022 which discussed alternative routing. SCC, DCC and NH indicated that an alternative strategy to create a hierarchy of routes would be supported and in the event that a preferred route was not available the dispersion of construction vehicles across the network would be acceptable.</p>
		<p>Noted the scope does not pick up that there is a consented scheme to replace the bridge along with a bypass of Walton-on-Trent as part of the Drakelow Park housing development, with a commencement date of early 2022. The Applicant should liaise closely with DCC on timeframes for the bridge works and factor this into any transport work as this potentially offers a preferred route to site.</p>	<p>A joint meeting with Derbyshire and Staffordshire Highways Officers was held on 1st February 2022 which stated that the Walton on Trent Bypass should be used as the preferred construction routed. However, following news that the Chetwynd Bridge will be closed to through traffic, a further meeting was held on 16th August 2022 which discussed alternative routing. SCC, DCC and NH indicated that an alternative strategy to create a hierarchy of routes would be supported and in the event that a preferred route was not available the dispersion of construction vehicles across the network would be acceptable.</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised at Scoping	Response
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	09/09/21	Noted they have no comments to make on the Proposed Development.	Noted

Table 2.2: PEIR Consultation Responses

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during PEIR Consultation	Response
Derby City Council	20/04/22	Confirmed that as the site is south of Burton on Trent it will have very limited- nil impacts on the City of Derby.	Noted
Derbyshire County Council (DCC)	01/06/22	<p>Confirmed that the Drakelow Public Footpath No.5 and Walton Upon Trent Footpath No.9 run through the proposed application site. As such, the consultee requests that the following is considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The footpaths must remain open, unobstructed and on their legal alignments. • There should be no disturbance to the path surfaces without prior authorisation from the Rights of Way Section. • Consideration should be given to the safety of members of the public using the paths during any works. A temporary closure of paths will be permitted on application to DCC where the path(s) remain unaffected on completion of the development. • There should be no encroachment of the paths, and no fencing should be installed without consulting the Rights of Way Section. • Any detailed future plans for consideration, should include proposed widths allowed for the footpaths to run along, and any proposed landscaping , including hedgerows. The Rights of Way Section would 	<p>Chapter 12: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation assesses effects on the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network.</p> <p>For effects on users of the PRoW network see Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Amenity.</p> <p>Safety measures and mitigation are covered in Appendix 4.3: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan.</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during PEIR Consultation	Response
	<p>24/03/23 written response and follow up in a meeting 23/05/23</p>	<p>welcome the opportunity to discuss any such proposals at an early stage.</p> <p>Walton upon Trent Public Footpath No. 9 runs through the proposed development site, and Drakelow Public Footpath No. 5 runs close to it. Footpath 9 must remain open, unobstructed and on its legal alignment, as shown on the attached plan, or a diversion applied for. If the line of the path on the ground differs, it is likely that this additional line has also acquired rights, and must therefore also remain open and unobstructed. The addition of a permissive path in the updated proposals is welcomed.</p> <p>The following details, relating to the impact of the proposals on the path and its users, will need to be provided during the planning process: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the proposed width of ground to be set aside for FP 9 to run through the development, including any proposed landscaping. • How safety will be ensured for users of the path during the works. • Any measures for mitigating the effects of dust and / or noise from the proposed works. • How the path will be reinstated if it needs to be closed, or if it is damaged, due to the works, i.e. surfacing. • How the views from both FP 9 and FP 5 will change. • Details of any proposed screening, such as planting. • The predicted impact on the enjoyment of the routes by users. Visual amenity is an important factor to consider when predicting this impact. • Details of the proposed permissive path and it's connections to the Rights of Way network. 	<p>See Chapter 12: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation for further information on the proposed permissive path and effects on the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. See also Appendix 4.8: Permissive Path Management Plan.</p> <p>The Applicant met with the Public Rights of Way Officer on the 23rd May 2023.</p> <p>In response to the issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The corridor which Footpath No.9 runs through will be maintained throughout the life of the solar farm. ■ Safety of users of the PRoW network addressed in this Chapter as are measures for mitigating noise and dust , and included in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Appendix 4.3). ■ Any damage to the path will be made good to match the existing surface. ■ Visual effects on users of the PRoW network are assessed in Chapter 5. ■ Proposed planting is shown on the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) at Appendix 5.6. <p>The permissive path is shown on the landscape plan at Appendix 5.6. Alignment has been checked on site and designed to avoid badger setts and provide some interesting elements for users such as woodland walk. It connects to Footpath No.9 in the north and the wider footpath network at Lads Grave to the south.</p> <p>For effects on users of the PRoW network see Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Amenity.</p> <p>Safety measures and mitigation for noise and dust are covered in Appendix 4.3: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan.</p>
<p>Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and South</p>		<p>Members have raised a number of objections which are summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal will lead to the loss of good quality agricultural land. 	<p>Agricultural Land surveys are included in Appendix 15.1: Agricultural Land Classification Survey for Oaklands Farm and Appendix 15.2: Agricultural Land</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during PEIR Consultation	Response
Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) 06/06/22		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This agricultural land is valuable and is important nationally to ensure food security. The scale of the proposal is too large and will have a significant impact on the area, which is considered to be an attractive rural area of South Derbyshire. The traffic routings proposed are unacceptable, the small roads from the A38 (through Catton and Coton in the Elms) will not be able to cope with the traffic and the large vehicles required. Concern over loss of biodiversity and trees, and disruption to the earth during construction. 	Classification Survey for Park Farm. Land use is covered in Chapter 15: Agriculture and Soils.
		Scope and methodology of EIA	
		Agreed that while there are changes to the red line boundary for the Proposed Development, these are not a material change to the Proposed Development and any resulting impacts will be within the scope of the ES.	Noted
		Heritage	
		<p>The following heritage assets may be impacted upon directly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gate Piers, Adjoining Walls and Attached Piers at Drakelow Lodge Entrance to Drakelow Power Station 1158871 Grove Farmhouse, Drakelow - 1096453 Historic England Possible Roman Road (conjectural route of), Ibstock (Leicestershire) to Ryknield Street (Staffordshire), South Derbyshire: Heritage Gateway – Results <p>There is also potential impact on the setting to the following heritage assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church of St Mary, Rosliston - 1159242 Stableblock and Cottages to Former Drakelow Hall a SK 241203 Drakelow - 1096454 	This has been assessed in Chapter 7: Historic Environment

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walton on Trent Conservation area, and those Listed Buildings within the boundary Slight univallate hillfort 230m south west of Old Hall Cottages, Walton upon Trent - 1017742 Historic England 	
		<p>DCC is less certain over the potential impacts on the setting of Park Farm (GII). While this authority does not disagree that it is likely to fall into the category of less than substantial harm it is not presently clear exactly where within this category it is likely to fall.</p>	<p>This has been assessed in Chapter 7: Historic Environment</p>
		<p>Landscape and Visual Impact</p>	
		<p>It is requested that the landscape assessment also includes within the assessment methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National and Regional Landscape Character Assessments; A visual assessment and impacts, of the construction phase of the project; All viewpoint visual assessments to be summer and winter; Assessments to be made from all residential properties, farmsteads, and local settlements, a valuation for all these receptors is required. 	<p>Each of these requests had been considered in the draft LVIA for the PEIR and are included in the final LVIA for the ES. It is unclear what this comment is referring to such that no further action has been taken.</p>
		<p>The officer requests that the 13 viewpoints should be increased, given the size of the application. In terms of landscape mitigation planting, they wish to see, tree belts and buffer zones to certain field boundaries of at least 5m, as well as buffer zones to any PROW that would allow for substantial tree planting and give greater ecological enhancement.</p>	<p>17 viewpoints were considered in the draft LVIA for the PEIR so it is unclear what this comment is referring to. The number of viewpoints has decreased to 11 for the final LVIA as a result of the Proposed Development reducing in size.</p> <p>The proposed PV panels are set back by over 5m from field boundaries and the Cross Britain / National Forest Way. Blocks of woodland are proposed across the Site (see Appendix 5.6: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan). Due to constraints around land ownership, off-site planting does not form part of the proposals.</p>

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		<p>Where a photomontage isn't produced for a particular viewpoint to show where the panels would be, it is suggested that the agricultural fields affected by the development should be identified in some way so that the viewer can better appreciate the full extent of any impact. Also, It is not clear if only PV panels are displayed on the photomontages excluding other elements such as the substation, battery storage facility and possible overhead pylons.</p>	<p>Visualisations have been prepared for all viewpoints considered in the LVIA. The Proposed Development has been illustrated with full photomontages (produced at AVR3 Level) for five of the viewpoints (Viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 5a and 8). The remaining viewpoints (Viewpoints 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11) have been shown at AVR2 Level (single colour massing where visible and masked into the viewpoint). For these viewpoints, the PV panels have been modelled within the views and placed at the correct heights. Two visualisations are presented for the AVR2 Level. In the first, a dotted outline has been applied to show the extent of the Proposed Development. This is followed by another visualisation showing the areas of PV panels that are visible (where they are/ not screened by intervening vegetation, landform and/ or buildings), shown with a single colour. This approach was agreed via email on 17th March 2023.</p> <p>Viewpoint 5b is shown with a baseline photograph (taken during winter) to demonstrate that the Site is mostly obscured by the intervening Redferns Wood.</p>
		<p><i>Commented that "the landscape and visual impact assessment is refreshingly honest and concludes that there would be long-term impacts on the landscape character of the site and its immediate setting as a result of this development proposal. I would concur that this is a fair judgement given the scale and nature of the development, the rolling nature of the landscape and its general openness at the present time, and whilst I might argue that the impact on the wider landscape character type might be greater than suggested, overall I don't believe these effects would be significant."</i></p>	<p>Noted.</p>
		<p><i>Commented that "The LVIA goes on to state that there would also be longer term visual impacts associated with certain visual receptors (people) around the site at certain locations where views of the development would be obtained. Some of these effects at certain locations can be mitigated through reinforcing existing hedgerows, allowing some hedgerows to grow taller and through strategically placed new woodland planting but on the whole the site is surprisingly well screened from the main settlement locations by both intervening landform and vegetation. The overall approach</i></p>	<p>Noted.</p>

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		<i>to landscape and visual mitigation is supported and has attempted to maintain some aspects of the current character of the wider landscape".</i>	
		Requested that the colour finish of certain components of the development is considered, and suggested dark and recessive colours are used.	Agreed via email on 17th March 2023 for Merlin grey (RAL 180 40 05/BS 18B25) to be considered for the battery storage facility and transformers, which is shown on the photomontages. It was also agreed to show an alternative colour on one of the visualisations, and so Pearl Green (RAL 6035) has been shown for one of the transformer units in Viewpoint 1 (see Figure 5.10m).
		Requested that additional off-site planting is considered to further reinforce the overall approach to landscape and visual mitigation and enhancements to the wider landscape character. Suggested that all boundaries within the site boundary should be replanted/gapped up and field corners to be planted as small woodland copses.	Due to constraints around land ownership, off-site planting does not form part of the proposals. Field boundaries requiring replanting/ gapping up have been identified on the landscape strategy plan in Appendix 5.6: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan . Since the statutory consultation, additional planting has been proposed (as shown in Appendix 5.6: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan) including areas of woodland and scattered trees within the corners of the Site where appropriate (ensuring that blocking and enclosing the views experienced by residents is avoided).
		Commented that it was difficult to precisely locate the viewpoints due to the scale of the plans provided in the PEIR. Advised that an arrow indicating the direction of view on the plans would assist in their interpretation.	A separate viewpoint plan has been provided in the LVIA on Figure 5.6a. A zoomed in version is also provided on Figure 5.6b. A line of sight from each viewpoint has also been provided on these plans.
		Requested that underground cable connections are considered to negate the need for any additional overhead structures.	The proposed grid connection will be undergrounded and overhead structures do not form part of the proposals.
		The SDDC officer raises a query in terms of soil compaction and how this will be avoided.	This is addressed in paragraph 8.82 and effect C3 in Table 8.8 within Chapter 8: Water Resources chapter and in Chapter 9: Ground Conditions
		The DCC officer notes an error in paragraph 13.19 of the PEIR in that the climate change strategy is a Derbyshire County Council document, not South Derbyshire District Council as referred to.	This has been corrected in the ES.
		The DCC officer also states that a Carbon Management Plan, which aligns with the requirements set out in PAS 2080, should ideally be developed for a	The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan at Appendix 4.3 has incorporated mitigation from this assessment which reflects the Proposed

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during PEIR Consultation	Response
		scheme of this nature and size as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).	Development's commitment to reducing carbon emissions. The crux of the Emissions Reduction assessment is whether the Proposed Development contributes to reducing GHG emissions relative to a comparable baseline consistent with a trajectory towards net zero by 2050, and the assessment includes the baseline conditions, the framework and methodology for assessing the baseline and GHG assessment against available carbon budgets, which aligns with the requirements of the set out in PAS 2080 ² .
		Under the Climate Change Adaptation (Resilience) assessment, DCC would expect to see an assessment of any potential the proposed development might have to exacerbate climate change impacts, such as drought, flood risk or overheating due to a reduction in shading and cooling from vegetation loss.	The vulnerability of the Proposed Development to climate change (project resilience) has been considered in the Project Resilience section of Chapter 13: Climate Change with respect to rising temperatures, extreme weather events such as strong winds, and wild fires, and the extent to which climate exacerbates or ameliorates the effects of the Proposed Development on the environment (in-combination impacts) has been considered in the Climate Change Adaptation section of Chapter 13: Climate Change .
		Biodiversity, ecology and trees	
		The DDC officer notes that residents have voiced concern that site fencing will restrict the movement of wildlife across and through the site. It is accepted that for security reasons fencing is required and that such fencing will need to prevent access by deer to prevent damage to the PV panels. With this in mind, consideration should be given to the design of the fencing, particularly the ground level panels, to enable the passage of smaller mammals such as badgers, foxes and hedgehogs while maintaining site security.	Mammal gaps will be provided in the fencing at specific locations. Indicative locations are shown as detailed in Figure 6.3 . This will allow the movement of small mammals, including badger and hedgehog to disperse through the site.
		The SDDC officer states that the ES submission should ensure all ecological survey work has been undertaken within the appropriate timeframes and lifespans as dictated in best practice guidelines.	Surveys have been completed within the appropriate timings of surveys. Details of these surveys are presented in Appendix 6.3-6.13 . An updated site walkover was undertaken in March 2023, which confirmed the land use and site conditions largely remain unchanged since the previous surveys and that the findings of the surveys remain valid. This is presented in Appendix 6.5: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report .

² British Standards Institute (no date) PAS 2080 Carbon Management In Infrastructure.

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		The ES should specify in appropriate detail the likely ecological impacts arising from the fixed cable routes and the mitigation measures required to adhere to relevant statutory legislation and best practice guidelines, in respect of habitats and species.	The ES fully considers the ecological impacts of the proposed cable route.
		The ES should clearly identify whether ponds are to be affected by the NSIP and further specify any enhancement and mitigation measures, likewise for any drains and watercourses.	The Chapter 6: Ecology and Appendix 6.10: Great Crested Newt Survey appropriately considers the impacts of the Proposed Development in relation to GCN. The Proposed Development will not result in the loss of any ponds and will be focused in areas of arable and improved grassland, which has limited value for GCN.
		The PIER states that retained veteran/ancient trees will be protected with a 15m buffer. This is an incorrect interpretation of Natural England's standing guidance, which requires 'the buffer zone to be at least 15 times larger than the diameter of the tree'. The ES should ensure that ancient and veteran trees are buffered in accordance with the correct statutory guidance (as correctly noted in the submitted Arboricultural Report, appended to the PIER).	Chapter 6: Ecology has been updated to provide the correct reference to Natural England's Standing Advice document.
		The ES should include a biodiversity metric utilising the latest approved Natural England calculator tool (currently Metric 3.1) to suitably measure the biodiversity impact of the NSIP in accordance with current best practice. It is vital that the submitted Metric is directly supported by appropriately annotated plans to ensure that retained, removed, created and enhanced habitats are clearly defined in a transparent manner.	The ES includes a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment using Defra Metric 3.1 in Appendix 6.12 and a separate River Condition Assessment, which is provided in Appendix 6.13 .
		The outline mitigation measures should be further refined within the proposed CEMP to ensure all habitats are suitably protected during the construction phase in accordance with current best practice. It is recommended that a habitat constraints plan or similar is produced for the CEMP, which clearly defines buffer zones to sensitive features such as ancient/veteran trees, other retained trees, ponds, watercourses, hedgerows and woodlands etc	This has been taken into account within the CEMP.

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		The outline LEMP should be further refined for the ES submission to ensure all habitats are suitably managed to maximise ecological potential over the operational period of the NSIP, in accordance with current best practice.	An outline LEMP is provided in Appendix 5.6 , which provides an appropriate level of detail at this stage. A detailed LEMP will be provided following planning consent to provide further details on the delivery of ecological enhancements and management.
		The ES should provide separate consideration on likely significant impacts to ground nesting birds, particularly 'Priority Species', arising from the solar installation and the compensation measures which are to be delivered.	Chapter 6: Ecology has been updated to provide specific consideration of the impacts of the Proposed Development on ground nesting birds.
		The ES should clarify whether barn owl has been identified as nesting within a Site tree; and if nesting has been identified, mitigation and compensation measures should be prescribed to adhere to statutory legislation and best practice guidelines during construction and operational phases.	No nesting habitat for barn owl will be lost as part of the Proposed Development. It is predicted that the proposed scheme will provide benefit to this species by providing increases in the availability of taller, tussocky grassland habitat within the Site boundary of increased suitability for this species to forage. In addition, barn owl boxes will be provided in suitable locations within the Site. Barn owl has been considered as part of this Chapter 6: Ecology and in supporting Appendix 6.9: Breeding Bird Survey Report .
		In respect of the Oaklands Farm part of the Site, the ES should consider in more detail the implications of an absence of GCN survey data for off-site ponds and furthermore, the likely significant impacts arising from the construction phase of the solar installation following the precautionary principle. Additional compensation and mitigation measures may be required to suitably control the potential for killing and injuring GCN during the construction phase.	Chapter 6: Ecology has been updated to provide further information in relation to impacts to GCN during the construction phase.
		The ES should clarify the location and specification of badger access gaps within the perimeter fencing, which should ideally be plotted on an approved site plan.	Mammal gaps will be provided in the fencing at specific locations. Indicative locations are shown as detailed in Figure 6.3 . This will allow the movement of small mammals, including badger and hedgehog to disperse through the site.
		Water Resources, Flood Risk and Ground Conditions	
		The Applicant should provide an assessment of any potential the proposed development might have to exacerbate climate change impacts, such as drought and flood risk.	All necessary mitigation has been informed by relevant and up to date climate change allowances for the Proposed Development's lifespan. An assessment of the Proposed

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		<p>In order to maximise infiltration, a soil management plan should be developed which demonstrates how damage to soil horizons and ground cover will be mitigated and remediated during and after construction and for future decommissioning.</p> <p>There is a suggestion that chisel ploughing will be undertaken on completion of construction works to improve infiltration and counter compaction – how will this be carried out with the solar arrays in place?</p> <p>A construction phase surface water management plan should be incorporated.</p> <p>Measures should be incorporated to mitigate against potential erosion of the ground underneath the lower edges of the arrays.</p> <p>Any surface water drainage system should be sustainable and with multiple benefits.</p>	<p>Development and Climate Change is considered at paragraphs 8.57 - 8.60 of this chapter.</p> <p>Soil management plan has been developed and accompanies the CEMP in Appendix 4.3.</p> <p>Chisel ploughing will not take place on site. Instead low bearing pressure plant will be used to minimise potential local compaction of near surface soils.</p> <p>A surface water management plan will be included within the CEMP.</p> <p>Overall erosion and erosion of the ground underneath the lower edges of the arrays will be reduced as vegetation will be in place all year round, and therefore the underlying soil will not be left bare or compacted by agricultural activities. The vegetation will intercept and buffer the runoff from the panels as described in section 6.4.1 of Appendix 8.1: Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage Strategy</p> <p>A Sustainable urban drainage system has been proposed and is described in detail in Appendix 8.1: Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage Strategy this both attenuates the surface water flows, and allows for interception of pollutants.</p> <p>The surface water flood map, which is likely to more accurately reflect the risk of flooding from the ordinary watercourse than the flood zone mapping has been assessed and discussed in Appendix 8.1: Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage Strategy</p> <p>Addressed in Appendix 8.1: Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage Strategy section 5.1</p>

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		<p>Ordinary watercourses within the site should be modelled to ensure infrastructure is kept outside of areas of risk.</p> <p>As requested by the Environment Agency, there should be a minimum of 8m easement between the top of any watercourse bank and any infrastructure.</p> <p>Any watercourses crossings, or changes to existing crossings, may need Land Drainage Consent from the LLFA and should be designed so as to not impeded drainage.</p> <p>Drawings of battery storage and transformer details in the FRA do not appear to show the gravel bases referred to within paragraphs 5.6 and 5.7.</p>	<p>Addressed in Appendix 8.1: Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage Strategy section 5.1</p> <p>A drainage and containment system is now proposed for both the battery energy storage system and sub-station for drainage and fire-fighting water control.</p> <p>See updated FRA in Appendix 8.1: Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage Strategy</p>
		<p>Planning Officer</p>	
		<p>The DSSC officer notes that the applicant should consider utilising land which would not lead to the loss of Grade 2 and 3 agricultural land (albeit on a semi-permanent basis).</p>	<p>Chapter 15: Agriculture and Soils considers the effects on land quality, and quantifies whether land is lost, temporarily or permanently.</p>
		<p>Glint and Glare</p>	
		<p>This authority does not have the in-house expertise to assess the data included in the PEIR appendices.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
		<p>Major Accidents and Disasters and Telecommunications and Utilities</p>	
		<p>DCC agrees that with the scoping out of major accidents, disasters, telecommunications and utilities.</p>	<p>These topics have been covered in Chapter 16: Other Issues.</p>
		<p>Minerals Consultation Areas</p>	

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		DCC do not have any objections to this proposal in terms of its impact on the sand and gravel resource.	Noted.
		Transport and Access	
		It is noted that once operational, there will be very little in the way of generated traffic. The Highway Authority will need to be satisfied that there are no fundamental safety related considerations regarding the wider highway network. This will need to be addressed through the evolving Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).	Noted
		Noted the routeing and delivery of indivisible abnormal loads will require further discussion with the highway authority to confirm the suitability of the proposed route and the measures necessary to ensure accessibility and the protection of highway infrastructure.	Swept Path Analysis has been undertaken against the planned access arrangements. See Chapter 10: Transport and Access
		Community Benefits	
		Further details should be provided in the ES submission regarding the annual community benefit fund, particularly regarding the scale of funding and how such a fund is likely to be administered in consultation with local community groups.	See Chapter 12: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation , paragraph 12.106 .
		Miscellaneous comments	
		There is a general feeling that while solar energy is supported to tackle climate change, large warehouses (especially new ones) should be utilised as a priority, instead of agricultural land.	Noted.
		Rosliston Forestry Centre, which is adjacent to the proposal to the east, have asked whether there would be scope to incorporate solar power energy in their education sessions and possibly work with the company to enable that to happen. If biodiversity measures were found to be exemplar, they would be keen to share expertise in this area also.	Noted

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Leicestershire & Rutland Bridleways Assn	11/05/22	<p>“I note the commitment to keep traffic out of the villages. They were laid out when ‘traffic’ was only the occasional horse and cart/carriage. To my mind the only route that looks feasible would be leaving the A38 at Alrewas onto the A513 and then going NE through Catton and using the Catton Lane towards Rosliston. Your contractors and their employees should be required to use only whatever is the designated route and to obey the “40 is Fast Enough” rule once off the A road so that Vulnerable Road Users are protected. It would be helpful to know when a decision about the access route is made so that we can comment on behalf of bridleway users – horse riders, walkers, cyclist and the disabled.</p> <p>Q7 re the proposed right of way. I see the proposed footpath runs under one of the transmission lines from Drakelow, which I assume has to be kept clear of solar panels as this is mentioned in your list of ‘issues’ when choosing a site. My immediate criticism of this is that it does not exit onto Catton Lane directly opposite the footpath from Rosliston village. It is not appropriate to make walkers ‘dog-leg’ along any rural road so this should be remedied which it would be in our proposal below.</p> <p>In the light of local riders having highlighted the FP to which the new path connects as a desired bridleway, giving an off-road and direct route between Rosliston and Walton, the ideal would be that both the existing and proposed footpaths should be bridleways. However this would require the support of other landowners and the solar farm is at its narrowest where the two paths meet.</p> <p>As was pointed out on Friday afternoon, there are 2 local bridleways which need linking up. The one from the SW comes up from the Catton Lane and ends on the Coton Road directly opposite Oaklands Farm. The other is to the NE of Rosliston, running between Cauldwell and Linton villages.</p>	<p>See Chapter 10: Transport and Access for an assessment of the construction traffic routes to Site.</p> <p>The proposed permissive path has been redesigned to ensure an off-road connection to the local PRow network.</p> <p>Other comments are addressed in the Consultation Report (Doc Ref 5.1).</p>

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		<p>The best way to do this is to utilise the space between roadside hedges and the security fencing around your panels as ‘bridleways’ so riders, walkers and cyclists can get off the road and travel in safety.</p> <p>To apply this to the Catton Lane from Rosliston and the Coton Road to and beyond Oaklands Farm would greatly assist our desired connectivity for riders whilst also keeping walkers, and those cyclists who choose to use it, out of harm’s way from cars.</p> <p>We would like this to be applied to all parts of the site where the panels are alongside a road, including both sides of the Coton Road. Stress can be significantly reduced if one can get off the road even for a short while.</p> <p>A decision would have to be made on how to most safely link the bridleway opposite Oaklands Farm into the provision as I presume the Farm residents would not want a bridleway through their buildings.</p> <p>Q8 Providing local community benefit. We think that providing an extension to the rights of way network, in particular one that encourages physical activity and provides safe off-road routes for doing so, is a significant community benefit in itself. It is up to you and the landowners to decide whether this is provided on a temporary (40 year) basis or more permanently by means of it being added to the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way either now or later”.</p>	
<p>South Derbyshire District Council (Additional comments from the Environmen</p>	<p>21/06/22</p>	<p>The Environment Officer is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the scheme can be satisfactorily mitigated to ensure that they are not of a magnitude to be considered significant and adverse. The officer identified piling during construction to be the most significant effect, and they expect the applicant to explore provision of localised screening to minimise the impacts this will have.</p> <p>At full application stage the officer will recommend conditions including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDDC standard construction hours 	<p>Noted.</p>

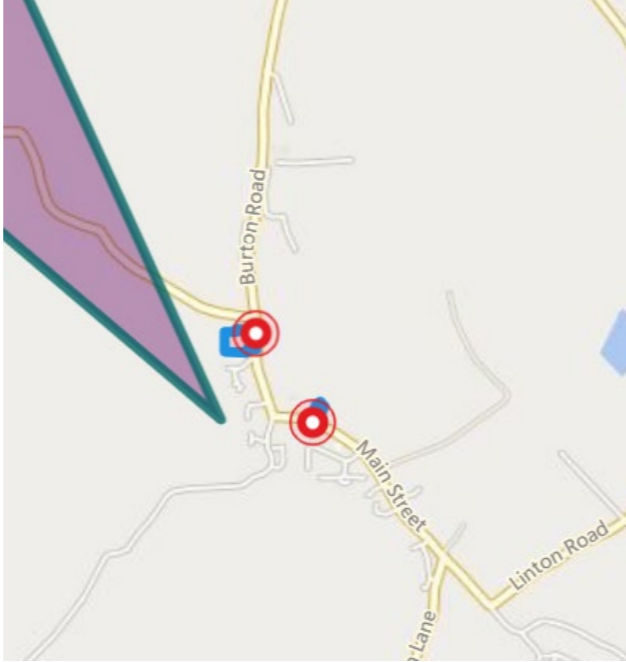
Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during PEIR Consultation	Response
tal Health Officer).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A site noise limit at the boundary with NSR's (to be validated upon completion, and maintained thereafter) A Construction Environmental Management Plan, including a risk-based assessment of potential dust impacts arising from construction. 	
South Derbyshire District Council (Additional comments from the Biodiversity Officer).	27/06/22	<p>Additional comments were received from the SBBC Biodiversity Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The officer acknowledged that additional information will be provided at the formal EIA stage in respect of barn owl, GCN and skylark. In respect to veteran/ ancient trees, the officer notes that Natural England/ Forestry Commission guidance specifically states <i>'for ancient or veteran trees (including those on the woodland boundary), the buffer zone should be at least 15 times larger than the diameter of the tree'</i>. In relation to Tables 6.6 and 16.1, the officer states that the PEIR has incorrectly interpreted the NE/FC standing advice for ancient and veteran tree buffers which should be directly proportional to the stem diameter of each tree (measured at 1.5m from ground level). For example, a veteran or ancient tree of 2m in stem diameter would require a buffer zone of 30m. Furthermore, the BS 5837 15m RPA upper threshold limit cannot be utilised as a generic buffer for veteran and ancient trees. The officer also notes that the submitted arboricultural report has correctly interpreted the NE/FC standing guidance. In regards to the Badger Survey Report, the officer states that the ES should clarify the location and specification of badger access gaps within the perimeter fencing, which should ideally be plotted on an approved site plan. 	<p>Chapter 6: Ecology has included additional provision of information on protected and notable species, including barn owl, GCN and skylark, and has been updated to provide the correct reference to Natural England's Standing Advice document.</p> <p>Mammal gaps will be provided in the fencing in specific locations as detailed in Figure 6.3. This will allow the movement of small mammals, including badger and hedgehog to disperse through the site.</p>

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	6/06/22	<p>Concerns regarding general Heavy vehicle movements ‘piggy backing’ off temporary construction access through the 7.5t Environmental weight limit.</p> <p>Further consultation with the local highway authorities will be required regarding AIL routes, construction traffic routes and Road Conditioning Surveys.</p> <p>Swept Path Analysis should be undertaken to ensure vehicles can access the Site and Site compounds safely.</p> <p>It has been noted following the consultation period that there will be a 7.5 tonne weight restriction imposed on the Chetwynd Bridge which will need to be reflected within the assessment.</p> <p>Would welcome further dialogue with ITP as the scheme progresses to shape the CTMP</p>	<p>Further meetings have been held with DCC and other authorities to consider the most suitable construction vehicle routes as discussed in Paragraph 10.17.</p> <p>Swept Path Analysis has been undertaken against the planned access arrangements. This is detailed further in Paragraph 10.158.</p> <p>The accompanying CTMP provides details of suitable management to discourage ‘piggy backing’ of Heavy vehicles across the 7.5t weight restriction (Except for Access) on Rosliston Road. This includes the marking of Heavy vehicles that identifies them as vehicles associate with accessing the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Additional meetings have taken place with SCC, DCC and NH to discuss emerging Framework CTMP proposals which are included within Appendix 10.1.</p>
	06/06/22	<p>“No significant concerns in principle are raised at this stage, but officers would look to comment at full application stage, once the design of the scheme and proposed plant has been selected.”</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
Amber Valley Borough Council	27/04/22	<p>Noted they have no comment to make on the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

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The British Horse Society	06/06/22	<p>Identified the following threats from development plans for vulnerable road users including equestrians, cyclists, pedestrians, wheelchair users and mobility scooter users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional HGV journeys will increase traffic volumes and will make the road higher risk for vulnerable road users (movement of construction traffic may coincide with times that equestrians are active on bridleways). • HGV's are generally 2.5m wide and 4.5m high (some vehicles for component transportation significantly larger) which, on the road network local to the site, would sandwich a horse and rider between the vehicle and the hedgerow or ditch along the route with little room for refuge which may cause panic. • The position of the inverters should ensure they are installed away from the highway. Sudden noise and continuous levels of noise can be a hazard for equestrians as horses are flight animals, therefore the further these elements can be located from the highway, the better it will be for safety. • equestrian access to the proposed permissive routes and permissive bridleways using existing footpaths (Walton Upon Trent FP9, Drakelow FP 5) for the life of the project could be a contribution to the community and provide off-road access for all vulnerable road users. • They welcome further discussion (a call was set up as part of the consultation process). 	<p>Transport effects are covered in Chapter 10: Transport and Access</p> <p>Noise effects are covered in Chapter 11: Noise</p> <p>Recreational effects are covered in Chapter 12: Socio- Economics, Tourism and Recreation</p>
Cadent	09/06/22	<p>Identified the following apparatus within the redline boundary or within the vicinity of the Proposed Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medium Pressure mains and associated equipment 	<p>The presence of utilities has been taken into account in the design of the Proposed Development. See Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy and Chapter 16: Other Issues</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during PEIR Consultation	Response
		<p>Existing easements for these pipelines means the erection of permanent / temporary buildings / structures and changes to existing ground levels or storage or materials etc within the easement strip is not permitted.</p> <p>If diversions of apparatus are required to facilitate the Proposed Development, adequate notice and discussions should begin at the earliest opportunity, noting that diversions for high pressure apparatus can take in excess of two years to plan and procure materials.</p>	
<p>Derbyshire County Council Place Department</p>	<p>01/06/22</p>	<p>Confirmed that Drakelow Public Footpath No.5 and Walton Upon Trent Public Footpath No.9 run through the Site and therefore the following should be taken into consideration throughout the planning process and any subsequent works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The footpaths must remain open, unobstructed and on their legal alignments. • There should be no disturbance to the path surfaces without prior authorisation from the Rights of Way Section. • Consideration should be given to the safety of members of the public using the paths during any works. A temporary closure of paths will be permitted on application to DCC where the path(s) remain unaffected on completion of the development. • There should be no encroachment of the paths, and no fencing should be installed without consulting the Rights of Way Section. • Any detailed future plans for consideration, should include proposed widths allowed for the footpaths to run along, and any proposed landscaping , including hedgerows. The Rights of Way Section would welcome the opportunity to discuss any such proposals at an early stage 	<p>See Chapter 12: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation for further information on effects on the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network.</p> <p>For effects on users of the PRoW network see Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Amenity.</p> <p>Safety measures and mitigation are covered in Appendix 4.3: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan.</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during PEIR Consultation	Response
The Environment Agency	26/05/22	Biodiversity	
		Note that if crops are to be replaced by wildflower meadows, a management plan must be agreed which should include when and where any grazing is permitted, as well as an annual cut and removal of wildflowers in August to allow species to fully establish.	An outline LEMP has been provided at Appendix 5.6 , which provides high-level detail on the ecological enhancements and management. Further detail will be provided as part of a detailed LEMP following consent of the proposed scheme.
		Environment Management	
		Mitigation measures need to be identified and considered to ensure sediment does not enter the tributary of the Mease or the River Trent especially during wet weather. The plans do include a plan to introduce hedgerows and wildflower meadows around the panels which should help act as mitigation against silt and other sediment entering the watercourse however these would need to be maintained.	The CEMP (Appendix 4.3) includes all necessary mitigation to manage sediment run off on site. The LEMP (Appendix 5.6) ensures the suitable management of proposed and existing planting.
Erewash Borough Council	20/04/22	Noted they have no comment to make on the Proposed Development.	Noted.
ESP Utilities Group Ltd	03/05/22	Confirmed they have no gas or electricity apparatus in the vicinity of the Site and will not be affected by the Proposed Development.	Noted.

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during PEIR Consultation	Response
		<p>Confirmed they have networks in close proximity to the Proposed Development.</p> 	<p>Noted</p>
		<p>Noted that new gas and electricity networks are continually being laid and therefore further a further enquiry should be made prior to works being on the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Forestry Commission East and West Midlands Area</p>	<p>23/05/22</p>	<p>FC considers that as the Proposed Development is set within the areas of the area of the National Forest then it should strive to deliver on the attempt to afforest as much as possible of the area. Given the Rosliston Forest Centre is adjacent to the Site on the western side, it would present a prime opportunity to expand the forested area or at least provide a buffer to it. However, they defer to the views of the National Forest on this matter.</p>	<p>LUC have consulted with the National Forest and have included consideration of the tree planting targets as part of the design of the Proposed Development. Further detail is presented in the outline LEMP (Appendix 5.6), which has been prepared.</p>
		<p>The Proposed Development should consider how it will support biodiversity net gain and tree planting targets, given these are national ambitions.</p>	<p>The ES includes a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment, which is supported by Defra Metric 3.1 and is provided in Appendix 6.12 and River Condition Assessment, which is provided in Appendix 6.13. This is further supported by the preparation of an outline LEMP (Appendix 5.6), which takes into consideration the delivery and management of ecological enhancements, including those relating to the tree planting targets</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during PEIR Consultation	Response
Hilton Parish Council	06/06/22	Hilton Parish Council is disposed towards supporting solar farm projects when they are fully compliant with all regulations and planning requirements, however the Proposed Development includes mainly arable farmland. Therefore, they urge the Applicant to conduct a review of the food production from the Site so a more objective decision can be made about the balance of food production and energy production on the Site.	See Chapter 15: Agriculture and Land Use
Historic England	06/06/22	HE note that opportunities to better reveal and safeguard Rynield Street's significance should be embraced. Furthermore, remains of the Drakelow Park pale should be regarded in the context of the park as whole including its GII Gate Piers 1158871, the GII listed Stable block and cottages 1096454, GII Sunken Garden 1334614 and GII Garden Wall 1311251. HE also note that they are keen to continue further consultation on setting matters both in terms of fixed point and kinetic views for the assets at 7.45 in the PIER (and for other assets where impacts emerge through study).	Noted. See Chapter 7: Historic Environment
HSE	26/05/22	Confirmed the Proposed Development is not within any consultation zones of major accident hazard sites or major accident hazard pipelines.	This has been considered in more detail in Chapter 16: Other Issues from paragraph 15.57.
		Noted there is a limited consideration of risk assessments arising from the Proposed Development's vulnerability to major accidents and advised this is considered further in line with Advice Note 11 Annex on the Planning Inspectorate's website - Annex G.	This has been considered in more detail in Chapter 16: Other Issues from paragraph 15.57.
National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)	27/05/22	Due to the proximity of some of their assets, NGET wishes to express their interest in further consultation while the impact on our assets is still being assessed. Where the Promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with or work within close proximity to any of NGET's apparatus and land, this will require appropriate protection and further discussion on the impact to its apparatus and rights.	The presence of utilities has been taken into account in the design of the Proposed Development. See Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy and Chapter 16: Other Issues . NGET has been consulted with in depth during the development of the Proposed Development's design and connection to the NGET network.
National Highways	06/05/22	Noted the following advice with respect to the assessment of traffic impacts on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) to support any forthcoming application:	Circular 02/2013 has been referred to in the Policy review of Chapter 10: Transport and Access in paragraph 10.31.

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during PEIR Consultation	Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised the assessment of the Proposed Development should be carried out and reported as described in the Department for Transport 'Guidance on Transport Assessment (GTA)' and in accordance with Circular 02/2013. • Noted that a construction traffic management plan (CTMP) shall be provided, which National Highways support but advised this is submitted for review and advice in advance of the DCO application. • Details regarding site operation and decommissioning from a traffic impact perspective should also be provided for review. • Although a plan has been provided showing the access routes which shall be recommended during construction, for longer distance journeys, it is not clear which junctions on the SRN shall be impacted. It appears that for traffic routeing from the south on the A38, the A38 / A513 junction at Alrewas will be used; from traffic routeing from the north on the A38, the Branston junction south of Burton on Trent will be used. Advised this should be clarified, along with routeing choices for those travelling from elsewhere. • Further to the above point on identifying the SRN locations which shall be impacted, the likely distribution proportions (during the most intensive construction period) should be detailed to understand the scale of traffic impacts and potential need for assessment. <p>Advised this advice should be considered alongside the advice provided in their September 2021 response letter to the EIA scoping consultation (ref EN010122-000013).</p>	<p>Traffic distribution has been detailed for each construction route and assessed as a percentage of baseline levels of traffic on the network.</p>
North West Leicestershire District Council	01/06/22	<p>Noted that officers would consider the only real impact from the Proposed Development to the District would be the potential for limited distance glimpsed views to be established from those settlements in the north-western part of the District (e.g. Chilcote and Albert Village). Officers cannot foresee any other planning issues affecting the District given the separation distance</p>	<p>The ZTV shown on Figure 5.5b indicates that there will be no visibility from the areas around Chilcote and Albert Village.</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during PEIR Consultation	Response
		but full consideration would need to be given to any potential traffic implications on the road network through North West Leicestershire should such impacts arise.	
Openreach	06/05/22	Stated a detailed investigation is required to ensure their network is protected.	Consultation between BT Openreach and the Applicant is on-going to agree a set of protective provisions where BT Openreach consider this necessary.
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	04/05/22	Confirmed that due to the location and nature of the development hereby proposed, it will have little, if no impact on the Borough of Rotherham.	Noted
Severn Trent Water	27/04/22	Confirmed that there is a 150mm rising main located within the site boundary, grid ref 423363 317588.	The presence of utilities has been taken into account in the design of the Proposed Development. See Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy and Chapter 16: Other Issues .
Staffordshire County Council	06/06/22	Confirmed that there had been previous concern regarding construction traffic being routed to the norther part of the site through Burton. They would welcome further dialogue to shape the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and to keep the applicant updated on progress with the Walton bypass. They acknowledge that the applicant cannot, at this stage, commit to a route that does not exist however the CTMP at paragraph 3.15 is somewhat dismissive on the potential use of the Walton bypass. Traffic data on potential use of the bypass is available from the Transport Assessment/s associated with the Drakelow Park development and we would therefore welcome a technical assessment of the route is undertaken.	Additional meetings have taken place with SCC, DCC and NH to discuss emerging Outline TMP proposals.
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	26/04/22	The Council has no comments to make.	Noted
The Coal Authority	12/05/22	Confirmed the Site does not fall within the defined Development High Risk Area and is instead located within the defined Development Low Risk Area	Noted.

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during PEIR Consultation	Response
		and therefore the Coal Authority has no comments to make on the Proposed Development.	
The National Forest Company	01/06/22	Noted the National Forest Strategy and the National Forest is introduced on Page 71 of the PEIR. However, The NFC considers that earlier reference should be made to the Site's location within the National Forest	This has been referenced in Chapter 1: Introduction .
		Requested that the Non-Technical Summary explicitly states that the Site is located within The NFC and that The NFC is correctly identified as designation that covers 200 square miles, which includes the entire Site, prior to the DCO being submitted.	This has been updated in the NTS.
		The NFC considers that Paragraph 146 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) should be acknowledged in the application.	See the Planning Statement submitted with the Application (Doc Ref 7.1)
		Although Local Plan Policy INF8 and the National Forest Strategy are quoted, The NFC does not consider that they are explored in detail, resulting in a landscape strategy that is generic and not specific to The National Forest. To make the landscape strategy more locally relevant further consideration of the Site's location within the National Forest should be incorporated along with detailed explanations of how the proposals can contribute to the creation of the National Forest and not hinder its Proposed Development.	The LEMP (Appendix 5.6) has been updated to include reference to the National Forest Strategy. Reference should be made to the updated version of the Landscape Strategy, which has been updated following further discussions with NFC.
		The Government-endorsed aim of the National Forest is to increase forest cover to 33% (from an original 6%) so extensive further tree planting is anticipated across the Forest including around the Proposed Development. This should be taken into account in the PEIR with consideration given to how the design of the Proposed Development can ensure that there is no detriment to future forest habitat connectivity. The Strategy should consider how development of this scale will not form a barrier to habitat connectivity both north-south and east-west.	The Proposed Development has made provision for tree planting in areas, which promote and strengthen habitat connectivity with the Site and wider area.

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during PEIR Consultation	Response
		<p>The NFC does not consider that the landscape strategy has achieved increased connectivity between existing woodland blocks. At this preliminary stage of design, the NFC considers that there may also be the opportunity for woodland planting in the 'land available for grid cable route and site access'.</p>	<p>Reference should be made to the updated version of the Landscape Strategy, which has been updated following further discussions with NFC.</p>
		<p>The NFC are pleased that the National Forest Way has been identified in the PEIR and that any diversion of this route will not conflict with the National Forest Trek. However, improvements could be made to the route to ensure the route is not dominated by the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>Appendix 5.6: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan identifies proposed new hedgerow planting and strengthening of existing hedgerow in the vicinity of the National Forest Way but has been carefully designed to not completely enclose route which benefits from views across the landscape in places.</p>
		<p>The NFC notes that the creation of National Forest woodland does not feature in the objectives and design approach of the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. This should be included.</p>	<p>The Outline LEMP has been updated to include as much planting as possible</p>
		<p>Due to the nature and scale of the Proposed Development, full landscaping details should be provided at the submission stage, as opposed to being dealt with by a condition of consent. The NFC also considers the approved landscaping scheme, or elements of it, must be provided in a phased arrangement prior to the completion of the Proposed Development, ideally in accordance with details approved as part of the application. The NFC considers that it would be wholly inappropriate to wait until the completion of a development of this size, scale and impact for commencement of the approved landscaping scheme.</p>	<p>See responses above and below, with reference to the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. Full landscaping details will be provided during final design of the Proposed Development post consent and secured by way of a requirement to the DCO.</p>
<p>UK Health Security Agency</p>	<p>30/05/22</p>	<p>The OHID note that the report does not assess the risk from road traffic injuries based the frequency of use of these PRoW and the nature and number of vehicles using these roads and whether any accident clusters occur along this route. Furthermore, the report does not also consider the</p>	<p>There will be no diversion of Public Rights of Way (PRoW). See Chapter 12: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation.</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during PEIR Consultation	Response
		option to temporarily divert the PRow a short distance on site for the few days required to construct the on-site access tracks. The ES should therefore assess the risk of the temporary diversions of the PRow along local roads and also consider the alternative of short diversions on site whilst internal access tracks are laid on site.	
National Grid Electricity Distribution (formerly Western Power Distribution)	06/06/22	Western Power Distribution have submitted a holding objection until the applicant considers including WPD specific protective provisions secured on other DCO schemes including the Triton Knoll Electrical System 2016 and the M54 to M6 Link Road Development Consent Order 2022. Furthermore, WPD expect that the developer to enter into an Asset Protection Agreement.	The presence of utilities has been taken into account in the design of the Proposed Development. See Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy and Chapter 16: Other Issues .

Table 2.3: Targeted Consultation Responses

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during Targeted Consultation	Response
The Coal Authority	23/03/23	No comment.	N/A
Derbyshire Dales District Council	10/03/23	No comment as they do not cover the study area.	N/A
Derbyshire County Council	24/03/23	Public Rights of Way officer Confirmed that the Walton upon Trent Public Footpath No. 9 runs through the proposed development site, and Drakelow Public Footpath No. 5 runs close to it. Stated that footpath 9 must remain open, unobstructed and on	See Chapter 12: Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation . The Applicant met with the Public Rights of Way Officer on the 23rd May 2023. In response to the issues raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The corridor which Footpath No.9 runs through will be maintained throughout the life of the solar farm.

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during Targeted Consultation	Response
		<p>its legal alignment or a diversion applied for. It was confirmed that the addition of a permissive path in the updated proposals is welcomed.</p> <p>Confirmed that the following details, relating to the impact of the proposals on the path and its users, will need to be provided during the planning process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Details of the proposed width of ground to be set aside for FP 9 to run through the development, including any proposed landscaping. ■ How safety will be ensured for users of the path during the works. ■ Any measures for mitigating the effects of dust and / or noise from the proposed works. ■ How the path will be reinstated if it needs to be closed, or if it is damaged, due to the works, i.e. surfacing. ■ How the views from both FP 9 and FP 5 will change. ■ Details of any proposed screening, such as planting. ■ The predicted impact on the enjoyment of the routes by users. Visual amenity is an important factor to consider when predicting this impact. ■ Details of the proposed permissive path and it's connections to the Rights of Way network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Safety of users of the PRow network addressed in this Chapter as are measures for mitigating noise and dust , and included in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Appendix 4.3). ■ Any damage to the path will be made good to match the existing surface. ■ Visual effects on users of the PRow network are assessed in Chapter 5. ■ Proposed planting is shown on the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) at Appendix 5.6. <p>The permissive path is shown on the landscape plan at Appendix 5.6. Alignment has been checked on site and designed to avoid badger setts and provide some interesting elements for users such as woodland walk. It connects to Footpath No.9 in the north and the wider footpath network at Lads Grave to the south.</p>
		<p>Derbyshire County Council Member Comments</p> <p>Consultation on the second consultation, revised scheme has been undertaken with Derbyshire County Council’s Elected Members, Stuart Swann (Linton Electoral Division), and Carolyn Renwick (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Environment, Eckington and Killamarsh Electoral Division) asking for their comments on the scheme.</p> <p>Councillor Swan has stated that:</p> <p>“Clearly, constructing solar farms on good quality agricultural land means prioritising somewhat limited renewable energy generation above much-</p>	<p>See Chapter 15: Agriculture and Soils, Chapter 10: Transport and access, Chapter 6: Ecology, Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual and Chapter 12: Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation.</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during Targeted Consultation	Response
		<p>needed sustainable food production. This is not a sensible a policy at the best of times but, in the context of the war in Ukraine and the geopolitical tensions that have arisen from the conflict, it would be foolish in the extreme in the present circumstances. While the huge challenges of climate change, and its impacts, need to be addressed along with the requirement to achieve energy security for the UK, there is not a valid case for replacing quality agricultural land with a development of this sort, particularly as there are many brownfield alternatives. Although the amended proposal is reduced in geographical extent and power generating capacity, residents continue to express legitimate concerns in respect of the sheer size and scale of the proposed solar farm and its potential to become a dominant feature of the local environment. Additional traffic, particularly in the construction stage, is also a key matter of concern for local communities which are already plagued by HGVs servicing the huge housing development on the former Drakelow power station site. The failure, so far at least, of the developer of the Drakelow housing site to build the new bridge near Walton on Trent, as per the conditions of its planning permission, is also highly problematic in respect of the proposed solar farm. Furthermore, among other issues, there remains some scepticism regarding the impact of the proposal on the wonderful array of wildlife and biodiversity currently in the area. Clearly, this proposal would lead to a significant loss of amenity in a rural area that would be altered beyond recognition. Also, the small annual sum offered in respect of community benefit seems to be somewhat lacking given the sheer size and impact locally of this proposed development.</p> <p>Given the above and other key policy considerations, on behalf of the communities I represent, I strongly object to these plans. Importantly, I trust that the comments and submissions of all local residents, parish councils, and other groups in the area are taken fully on board and their</p>	

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during Targeted Consultation	Response
		material concerns addressed as part of the planning process in relation to this proposal”.	
		<p>Officer Comments</p> <p>In addition to the feedback highlighted above, the County Council makes the following technical comments. Although the scale and extent of the solar farm proposals has been significantly reduced in the revised scheme the subject of this consultation, many of the County Council’s comments on the previous scheme dated 6th June 2022, which was included within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) consultation, remain relevant to the current scheme. This is indicated, where appropriate, in the comments below. For completeness, a copy of the County Council’s joint response with South Derbyshire District Council on the PEIR consultation is appended to this letter.</p>	N/A
		<p>Transport, Access and Public Rights of Way</p> <p>Although the scale and extent of the solar farm proposals has been significantly reduced in the revised scheme the subject of this consultation, many of the County Council’s comments on the previous scheme dated 6th June 2022, which was included within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) consultation, remain relevant to the current scheme. This is indicated, where appropriate, in the comments below.</p> <p>The Highways Traffic and Safety Team have raised concerns regarding the proposed construction access route identified in the ‘Additional Consultation and Project Update: Consultation Summary Document / Spring 2023’ as this shows use of the proposed Walton bypass, a project that has now been cancelled for the foreseeable future. An alternative route must be identified bearing in mind that the Station Lane Bailey Bridge has a 3 tonne weight restriction and a</p>	See Chapter 10: Transport and access

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during Targeted Consultation	Response
		<p>maximum width of 7' 6". The Chetwynd Bridge on the A513 at Croxall also has a weight limit, 7.5 tonnes, and by the time that construction starts, is also likely to have a similar width restriction imposed by Staffordshire County Council.</p> <p>The option from the North, off the A38, is more complex as construction traffic would need to exit onto the A5189 and then enter the area via Main Street/Rosliston Road, through a predominantly residential environment and raising further issues associated with road widths, on street parking etc within Staffordshire's boundary. Walton Road has the existing Industrial Estate and then the major Dracan Village development on the former Drakelow Power Station site off Walton Road. There are also a number of regular and historic issues with HGV traffic in the rural parishes of Walton, Rosliston, Coton, Linton, Caldwell, Netherseal to name a few, it will therefore be essential the HGV movements through these areas are carefully managed.</p> <p>These access difficulties have been acknowledged in the Spring Consultation Summary and alternative access arrangements are being considered in consultation with the County Council's Transport Strategy team.</p>	
		<p>Heritage</p> <p>In relation to archaeology and built heritage, the Councils Conservation, Heritage and Design Team state that it is understood from the re-consultation information that the scheme area is being reduced in size from 322 to 165 ha. The most significant reduction in area appears to be focused around the former Drakelow power plant site. A smaller reduction in area also appears to be proposed on the area of land immediately to the north of Oaklands farm.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during Targeted Consultation	Response
		<p>The overall reduction in the scheme area is welcomed and it will hopefully reduce its visual impact further on the setting of some of the designated and non-designated heritage receptors surrounding the site. However, it is noted that any reduced visual impacts predicted are subject to an updated ZTV and LVIA and so it is not possible to fully comment on these at this stage. Therefore it is to this end that the previous comments and advice (submitted in response to the PIER dated 6 June 2022), on the whole, still stand.</p>	
		<p>Landscape and Visual Impact</p> <p>The landscape and visual impacts of the scheme are likely to be reduced due to the reduction in the overall size of the development, which should be viewed as a positive change with regard to the potential environmental impacts. A number of viewpoints originally proposed have now been omitted, either because they relate to that part of the site that will now not be developed or, following site inspections, they have been assessed as having no view of the site. These changes have been considered and agreed by the County Council’s Landscape Architect. In addition, the scope of the photographic material supporting the LVIA and the proposed style of the visualisations has also been agreed. This has included the colour finish of various components of the scheme including storage containers, transformers, etc. recommending that all infrastructure of this type should be shown finished in Merlin grey in all visualisations with one photomontage showing this colour and an alternative dark green colour so that the two finishes can be compared.</p>	<p>Noted. The alternative colour - Pearl Green (RAL 6035) – has been shown has been shown for one of the transformer units in Viewpoint 1 (see Figure 5.10m).</p>
		<p>Climate Change and Carbon Reduction</p> <p>No further comments have been received regarding climate change and carbon reduction. The comments on the PEIR dated 6 June 2022 remain relevant.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during Targeted Consultation	Response
		<p>Biodiversity, Ecology and Trees</p> <p>No additional comments in relation to biodiversity, ecology and trees have been received. The comments on the PEIR dated 6 June 2022 remain relevant.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
		<p>Water Resources, Flood Risk and Ground Conditions</p> <p>No further comments regarding water resources and flood risk have been received. The comments on the PEIR dated 6 June 2022 remain relevant.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
		<p>Planning Officer</p> <p>That part of the site occupied by fixed infrastructure, is predominantly comprised of grade 3a and 3b agricultural land, fringed to the east and west by small areas of grade 2 land. Current government policy set out within the National Planning Policy Framework states that the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) should be protected from development in the interests of agricultural production and food security. Furthermore, on 22nd December 2022, the Government published a consultation on its proposed revisions to the NPPF as part of its wider proposed reforms to the planning system through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. In the consultation, the Government highlights its intention to emphasise the important role that our best performing farms have on food security, alongside imperatives such as energy security. The Government proposes to make amendments to the Framework to increase, compared to areas of poorer quality land, the consideration given to the highest value farmland used for food production, in both plans and decision making, where significant development of higher quality agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary.</p> <p>There is therefore some conflict between the provision of renewable energy, climate change mitigation and the preservation of best and most</p>	<p>The key policy documents are referenced in Chapter 15: Agriculture and Soils</p> <p>The land use and food production implications of using BMV and non-BMV land are considered in Chapter 15: Agriculture and Soils. See Assessment of Operational Effects: Economic and Land use Effects.</p> <p>Paragraph 181 of the NPPF (December 2023) is about plan making. Footnote 62 has been amended to require the availability of agricultural land used for food production to be considered alongside the other policies in the NPPF when deciding what sites are most appropriate for development. This footnote does not relate to decision making on planning applications.</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during Targeted Consultation	Response
		<p>versatile agricultural land, although the reduced extent of the proposal will clearly significantly reduce the loss of agricultural land.</p> <p>It is noted that although best and most versatile agricultural land will be taken out of production for the duration of the proposed development, this loss of production will not necessarily be permanent and there are potentially biodiversity and soil health benefits to be gained from eliminating the use of agricultural chemicals, allowing the land to rest, returning the ground to a more biodiverse sward and potentially improving water quality in the unnamed tributaries flowing into the River Trent.</p> <p>The Derbyshire Spatial Renewable Energy Study was published in January 2023 and was commissioned by Derbyshire County Council on behalf of Derby City Council, all the district and borough councils in Derbyshire (including South Derbyshire District Council) and the Peak District National Park Authority. The study identifies the solar technical capacity in the county to be 327 MW, or 7% of electricity demand within the 'less constrained' land. However, this proposal lies within land identified as 'constrained', partly due to agricultural land classification and National Forest designation (constraint categorisation options being 'Less constrained', 'Constrained' and 'More constrained'). The locality is also identified as being of moderate landscape sensitivity but importantly benefitting from good access to the transmission network, which is considered to have very high headroom to accept additional generation capacity.</p>	<p>The potential benefits to soil health and quality are considered under the Assessment of operational effects: Effect on soils.</p> <p>The Derbyshire Spatial Renewable Energy Study is considered in Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual</p>
		<p>Glint and Glare</p> <p>The County Council does not have the in-house expertise to assess the validity of the glint and glare assessment which accompanied the first consultation, therefore specialist advice is being sought.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
		<p>Minerals Consultation Areas</p>	<p>Noted</p>

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during Targeted Consultation	Response
		<p>The site initially proposed included a small area identified for inclusion as a Sand and Gravel Safeguarding Area in the Draft Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan. The realignment of the proposal boundary now largely excludes this safeguarding area other than a short section of cable routing parallel to Drakelow Road to the north of Grove Wood. This reduces any potential conflict with the allocation for safeguarding in the existing or emerging Minerals Local Plan and is unlikely to impact on the availability of the resource.</p>	
		<p>Noise</p> <p>The reduced size of the scheme and relocation of the substations are likely to result in lower than previously predicted noise levels. Both the battery storage area and substation are to be located toward the centre of the site with the nearest residential receptor being in the region of 600 metres distant. Although sections of the existing rights of way network are significantly closer than 500 m, users of this network will be transitory and the impacts of noise from the transformers and battery storage are unlikely to be significant.</p> <p>Any further issues of noise may be considered by the Environmental Health Officer at South Derbyshire District Council.</p>	Noted
		<p>Cumulative Impacts</p> <p>In terms of the assessment of potential cumulative impacts of the solar park proposals that will need to be considered through the DCO process, it should be noted that planning application proposals by Lullington Solar Park Ltd for a new solar farm on land north of Lullington in South Derbyshire District were refused planning permission by South Derbyshire District Council and are currently subject to an appeal by the applicant for which an appeal hearing took place on 18th April 2023.</p>	Noted

Consultee	Date of Response	Issue Raised during Targeted Consultation	Response
<p>East Midlands Environment Agency</p>	<p>23/03/23</p>	<p>Groundwater and Contaminated Land comments</p> <p>We have reviewed the information in the submitted letter report - 'Oaklands Farm Solar Ltd: Targeted Consultation and update on Proposals' (BayWa r.e. UK Ltd. 8th March 2023). The information does not change our position in relation to risk to controlled waters. Therefore we would just like to re-iterate our previous comments as follows.</p> <p>Reference to the 1:50,000 scale geological maps indicate that the site is located on the Edwalton Mudstone Member, which is designated a 'Secondary B Aquifer' by the Environment Agency. Superficial Glacial Till, designated as a Undifferentiated Secondary Aquifer, and Glacio-fluvial and Alluvium deposits, designated as a Secondary A Aquifer, are also designated for parts of the site. These are likely to be associated with tributaries of the River Trent, located in proximity to the site. The site is not within a groundwater Source Protection Zone.</p> <p>We have previously reviewed the information in the following report: 'Oaklands Farm Solar Park Preliminary Environmental Information Report' LUC (April 2022).</p> <p>We have reviewed the 'Land Quality Desk Study' included within the above referenced report. Information provided indicates that the site has been predominantly occupied by agricultural land, with no significant development that may have given rise to contamination that may significantly impact controlled waters receptors. The conceptual model included within the above referenced report identifies a low risk to controlled waters from the proposed development. We are in agreement with this given the historical use of the site, and low sensitivity of groundwater</p>	<p>See Chapter 9: Ground Conditions</p>

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		<p>resources in the area. We therefore consider that the preliminary conceptual site model and desk based preliminary risk assessment presented are sufficient to support the proposed planning application.</p> <p>The applicant should however note that in accordance with Government policy detailed in the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 183), 'where a site is affected by contamination or land stability issues, responsibility for securing a safe development rests with the developer and/or landowner'. Therefore should any significant contamination subsequently become apparent then responsibility will remain with these parties.</p> <p>We would like to provide the following advice to the applicant:</p> <p>The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection</p> <p>We would like to refer the applicant/enquirer to our groundwater position statements in 'The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection', available from gov.uk. This publication sets out our position for a wide range of activities and developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste management • Discharge of liquid effluents • Land contamination • Ground source heat pumps • Drainage 	

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		<p>Requirement for an environmental permit</p> <p>The proposed construction of a solar generation plant associated with this development may require an environmental permit under the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016, from the Environment Agency, unless an exemption applies. The applicant is advised to contact the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506 for further advice and to discuss the issues likely to be raised.</p> <p>You should be aware that there is no guarantee that a permit will be granted. Additional 'Environmental Permitting Guidance' can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/environmental-permit-check-if-you-need-one.</p> <p>Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology comments</p> <p>We have no further comment to make above and beyond those already submitted although we would like to draw your attention to the below advisory note.</p> <p>Advisory note</p> <p>We welcome the intention to create valuable wildflower meadows as part of the development. We believe that it would be advisable for the LPA to protect this habitat long-term rather than the land just return to arable post development. If possible we would be pleased to see the LPA apply a SINC designation once this reaches a good habitat condition/status.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>See Chapter 6: Ecology</p>

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		<p>Flood Risk comments</p> <p>We have no further comment to make in addition to those already supplied from a flood risk perspective.</p> <p>Land and Water comments</p> <p>We have no further comment to make in addition to those already supplied from a Land and Water (water quality) perspective.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>
ESP Utilities Group Ltd	14/03/23	Confirmed that ESP Utilities Group Ltd may be affected by the proposed works as there is an intermediate and medium pressure gas main serving the area (Reference ESN030925 & 9009581) at grid reference E421630, N318194 and security of supply is vitally important. Provided plans of the asset, and precautionary measures. Advised the Applicant to liaise with a Network Controllers to check the site before any works are done.	See Chapter 16: Other Issues
Environment Agency	21/04/23	<p>Flood Risk comments</p> <p>EA have no further comment to make in addition to those already supplied from a flood risk perspective.</p> <p>Land and Water comments</p> <p>EA have no further comment to make in addition to those already supplied from a Land and Water (water quality) perspective.</p>	N/A

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Historic England	14/04/23	<p>HE note that the revision to the extent of the proposed scheme in the vicinity of Park Farm is welcomed in the context of Grove Farmhouse listed GII and their previous comments in respect of Drakelow Park.</p> <p>It is felt that the confirmed cable route may provide an opportunity for the Applicant to record a cross section of the park pale (a timber ditch and bank topped with a wall, hedge or fence to contain deer within a park and exclude poachers).</p>	See Chapter 7: Historic Environment
HSE	31/03/23	<p>They have no additional comments to provide at this stage of the NSIP application.</p> <p>They note that they have replied to earlier consultations, as listed below, and this response should be read in conjunction with that earlier correspondence.</p> <p>[Request for Scoping Opinion 23/08/2021]</p> <p>[Public Consultation: Section 42 21/04/2022]</p> <p>The additional information supplied does not cause any change to UKHSA's responses above.</p>	N/A
Leicestershire County Council	23/03/23	The proposed abnormal road and secondary HGV routes now use the Leicestershire network (what was considered in 2021 was not in their network). LCC request further consultation.	The Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) route will only use a short section of LCC's network, this being the A444 between the M42 and Acresford which is a primary route without any restriction to general traffic. LCC were offered a meeting to discuss this but declined to take up the offer of further engagement at that stage. Further consultation will take place prior to the AIL movements taking place.
Lullington Parish Committee	10/04/23	The parish are concerned about the protection of agricultural land and the rural landscape. They are also concerned about the impact on local highways.	See Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual, Chapter 10: Transport and Access and Chapter 15: Agriculture and Land Use
National Forest	A meeting was held	NFC maintain that the landscape strategy should include significantly more woodland, with their preference for larger blocks of woodland as	The Proposed Development has maximised opportunities to deliver tree planting, including woodland, scrub and hedgerow creation and enhancement in areas, which

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Company (NFC)	with NFC on 17/04/23. Written response received 20/04/23	<p>opposed to a number of smaller areas as has been shown. Additionally, they consider that more habitat connectivity should be achieved.</p> <p>While their preference is for woodland, we discussed that an element of parkland style planting could be appropriate, particularly to the south of panels.</p> <p>NFC are pleased to note the retention of existing landscape features, however they consider that opportunities to connect these features as opposed to being isolated and/or surrounded with panels, should be taken. They are supportive of a permissive path and the ability to connect to surrounding footpath routes. NFC were advised at the meeting that opportunities to increase planting around this route were under consideration.</p> <p>NFC requested a revised landscape strategy presented at a different scale in order to understand proposed connectivity. Upon receipt of the revised landscaping strategy, the NFC will annotate the areas where they consider it important that connectivity is improved.</p>	<p>promote and strengthen habitat connectivity with the Site and wider area, whilst ensuring that the Proposed Development meets the requirements and needs of the solar farm proposals.</p> <p>The updated landscape strategy is presented in Appendix 5.6: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. Since the targeted consultation, additional planting has been proposed including areas of native scrub and new hedgerows which improve habitat connectivity across the Site.</p>
National Grid	13/04/23	No comments	N/A
National Highways	18/04/23	Considering the volume of trips associated with the Proposed Development, National Highways do not consider there to be a material impact on the network under their jurisdiction, however they requested notification prior to the AIL movement which is proposed to utilise the M42.	The contractor will notify National Highways, as one of several stakeholders, of the AIL movements prior to them taking place through established road space booking systems.
Natural England	21/04/23	<p>Natural England welcome the additional planting that has been set out in the Landscape Strategy Plan for Park Farm and Oaklands.</p> <p>In relation to the undergrounding of the connection to the grid and the likely introduction of permanent infrastructure as set out in the updated</p>	<p>See Chapter 9: Ground Conditions and Chapter 15: Agriculture and Soils</p> <p>An Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) is included as an appendix to the CEMP (Appendix 4.3).</p>

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		<p>site layout Natural England would like to offer the following advice on soils.</p> <p>Soils and Agricultural Land Quality</p> <p>Natural England is a statutory consultee on development that would lead to the loss of over 20ha of 'best and most versatile' (BMV) agricultural land (land graded as 1, 2 and 3a in the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system, where this is not in accordance with an approved plan.</p> <p>We consider that the proposed development, if temporary as described, is unlikely to lead to significant permanent loss of BMV agricultural land, as a resource for future generations. This is because the solar panels would be secured to the ground by steel piles with limited soil disturbance and could be removed in the future with no permanent loss of agricultural land quality likely to occur, provided the appropriate soil management is employed and the development is undertaken to high standards.</p> <p>Although some components of the development, such as construction of a sub-station, may permanently affect agricultural land this would be limited to small areas of BMV agricultural land.</p> <p>However, during the life of the proposed development it is likely that there will be a reduction in agricultural production over the whole development area. Therefore consideration whether this is an effective use of land in line with planning practice guidance which encourages the siting of large scale solar farms on previously developed and non-agricultural land.</p> <p>Paragraph 174b and footnote 53 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that:</p> <p><i>'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.'</i></p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted – this is assessed under the assessment of construction and operational effects.</p> <p>This is assessed and qualified: see Table 15.7</p> <p>National policy and guidance has been referenced in this assessment. The NPPF has been updated (September 2023).</p> <p>This has been referenced in this Chapter.</p> <p>This has been referenced in this Chapter.</p>

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		<p>Footnote 53: Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality.</p> <p>We would also draw to your attention to Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (March 2015) (in particular paragraph 013), and advise you to fully consider best and most versatile land issues in accordance with that guidance.</p> <p>Should you have any questions about ALC or the reliability of information submitted with regard to BMV land please refer to Natural England’s ‘Guide to assessing Development proposals on Agricultural Land’. This document describes the ALC system including the definition of BMV land, existing ALC data sources and their relevance for site level assessment of land quality and the appropriate methodology for when detailed surveys are required.</p> <p>Soil is a finite resource which plays an essential role within sustainable ecosystems, performing an array of functions supporting a range of ecosystem services, including storage of carbon, the infiltration and transport of water, nutrient cycling, and provision of food. It is recognised that a proportion of the agricultural land will experience temporary land loss. In order to both retain the long term potential of this land and to safeguard all soil resources as part of the overall sustainability of the whole development, it is important that the soil is able to retain as many of its many important functions and services (ecosystem services) as possible through careful soil management and appropriate soil use, with consideration on how any adverse impacts on soils can be avoided or minimised.</p> <p>Consequently, Natural England would advise that to safeguard soil resources and agricultural land, including a required commitment for the</p>	<p>Soil management has been considered in this Chapter and in the Outline Soil Management Plan within Appendix 4.3: Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p>The Construction Code of Practice is referenced in the oSMP.</p> <p>This Guidance Note is followed.</p>

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		<p>preparation of reinstatement, restoration and aftercare plans; normally this will include the return to the former land quality (ALC grade).</p> <p>General guidance for protecting soils during development is also available in Defra’s Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites, and should the development proceed , we recommend that relevant parts of this guidance are followed, e.g. in relation to handling or trafficking on soils in wet weather.</p> <p>The British Society of Soil Science has published the Guidance Note Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction which sets out measures for the protection of soils within the planning system and the development of individual sites, which we also recommend is followed.</p> <p>Solar Parks – Further information</p> <p>For additional information relating to Solar Parks please refer to the Technical Information Note at the link below, which provides a summary of advice about their siting, their potential impacts and mitigation requirements for the safeguarding of the natural environment. Solar parks: maximising environmental benefits (TIN101)</p>	
Barton under Needwood Parish Council	03/04/23	<p>They raised the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The loss of agricultural land – “From what we have read about the national guidance for solar farms, we understand that it favors previously developed, brownfield sites, industrial land and low grade agricultural land. There appears to have been no consideration of such alternative previously developed locations and their reasons for rejection before focusing on this present site. We understand the convenience of the National Grid hub nearby at the former Drakelow coal fired power station. That site is brownfield as is the nearby former Willington power station site also with National Grid connection. We, therefore, do not know the justification for this particular site, and why 	See Chapter 15: Agriculture and Land Use

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		<p>greenfield land is the only option. We do not know the agricultural classification of this agricultural land. There appears to be no information about whether even with the solar farm any continued agricultural use might be viable, including any opportunity to improve biological diversity with suitable planting within the site;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The need for agricultural land vs renewable energy – “As the country is currently experiencing a cost of living crisis with food inflation at a very high level, with imported food shortages much more an issue now that at this time in 2022, we would have thought that there was a priority to retain as much agricultural land as possible. We also support the move to be carbon neutral and, therefore, we feel that this proposal raises the question about how do you make a decision between two laudable objectives. The information we have received and read relates to the practicalities of the proposal and there is very little about its justification and, as a consequence, why solar power should be given precedence over an agricultural use”. ■ Reflection issues – “Whilst we assume that most panels will be south facing, can they be maneuvered so as to face the sun as a means of capturing the optimum energy at any point in time? If that is the case, then is the sun’s reflection on the panels likely to cause health and safety problems or hazards? We are mindful of the village being located to the west of the site”. ■ Security issues – “is there likely to be any issues regarding security fencing and any light pollution? We are aware of a solar farm at Tutbury, for example, which seems to use drones for surveillance purposes. Will that be the case in this location?” ■ Public Footpaths - “We understand the footpaths in the area of the site are popular with walkers from Barton. We see on your landscaping 	<p>Please refer to the Planning Statement for further justification for the need for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>See Chapter 14: Glint and Glare</p> <p>All security monitoring will be via CCTV. Drones are not proposed. Further information on security measures is provided in Chapter 4: Project Description and assessed in Chapter 16: Other Issues.</p> <p>The PRow that crosses the Site will be retained with no diversions required. a new permissive path has also been proposed to provide a link north to south.</p>

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		<p>strategy plan that the public rights of way are marked. We presume therefore that they will be retained and would like reassurance on this”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Traffic impacts – “We assume that the proposal for the solar farm was partly predicated on the construction of the Walton bypass as a means of mitigating the impact of both construction and operational traffic. As a local Parish Council, we are particularly concerned at a noticeable increase in through traffic in the village in recent years. Please can you provide any assurances the construction or operational traffic will not use our village? The necessary delay to the construction of the Walton Bypass and associated river crossing and the restrictions on the A513 Chetwynd Bridge at Alrewas will require heavy construction traffic to approach the site through already largely unsuitable rural roads within South Derbyshire”. 	<p>Different traffic routeing scenarios have been assessed in Chapter 10: Transport and Access</p>
<p>Netherseal Parish Council</p>	<p>31/03/23</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Parish Council feel that project is still too large and will have a negative impact on the landscape within the picturesque rural area. ■ The proposed site takes away valuable agricultural land. ■ It is felt that brown field sites should be identified or roof spaces used instead. The Parish Council notes that there is a vast commercial development at junction 11 of M42 for Jaguar Land Rover, which, to their knowledge, does not have any solar panels fitted to the roof space. It is considered this type of development would be far better suited to solar panels than valuable agricultural land. ■ Low amplitude noise will be emitted from the constant running of the plant which will affect the well-being of residents and a range of wildlife. 	<p>The effects of the proposed Development on the landscape are considered in the Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual. The Landscape Strategy Plan (Figure 5.9a-f) shows the proposed measures to help integrate the Proposed Development into the landscape.</p> <p>Chapter 15: Agriculture and Land Use assesses effects on agricultural land.</p> <p>See Chapter 6: Ecology, Chapter 10: Transport and Access, Chapter 11: Noise</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Parish Council are not convinced that contractors will always use the proposed routes to and from the site during the construction period. There are a number of narrow lanes leading to Walton(including those through Netherseal from A444/M42) which are unsuitable as routes for lorries. ■ There is a potential for verges and ditches to be damaged during construction. ■ The Parish Council are concerned about the loss of employment (farm workers) and of the increase in traffic. 	
<p>North West Leicestershire 20/04/23</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Limited distance glimpsed views may be established from settlements in the north-western part of the District (e.g. Chilcote and Albert Village) as a result of the proposed development. It was acknowledged that the revised proposals may reduce the visual effects of the proposed development, however this was to be confirmed by the revised ZTV assessment. ■ There may be potential traffic implications on the road network through North Leicestershire if it is used for construction access. 	<p>The ZTV shown on Figure 5.5b indicates that there will be no visibility from the areas around Chilcote and Albert Village.</p> <p>See Chapter 10: Transport and Access</p>
<p>Nottinghamshire County Council</p>	<p>09/03/23</p>	<p>No comment</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Peak District National Park</p>	<p>06/04/23</p>	<p>No comment</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Atkins Global on behalf of Vodafone</p>	<p>27/03/23</p>	<p>Confirmation that Vodafone: Fixed does have apparatus within the vicinity of the proposed works. Plans provided show these to be within the Drakelow Power Station substation.</p>	<p>Vodafone underground cables are located under existing roads within Drakelow substation. Consultation with Vodafone is underway to establish whether Protective Provisions are required or not.</p>

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Overseal Parish Council	08/04/23	“Councillors object to this proposed development on the basis it is to be sited on top quality farmland which will be a significant loss, also considering this new site would be close to a solar farm already agreed on greenfield land between Coton and Lullington. Cllrs have significant concerns regarding the impact on wildlife and feel for this reason, brown field sites should be identified or roof spaces used to include warehousing units which are prolific in the area.”	See Chapter 15: Agriculture and Land Use
Roslington Parish Council	08/04/23	The Parish Council note that the proposed development would result in the loss of agricultural land.	See Chapter 15: Agriculture and Land Use
Sheffield City Council	09/03/23	No comment	N/A
South Derbyshire District Council	21/04/23	South Derbyshire District Council note that the original comments made by the Council on 6 June 2022 in relation to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) remain valid in connection with these latest revised plans, and these comments are attached as an appendix for completeness. However, in addition to those comments, Members noted that they have additional concerns relating to the potential additional traffic and transport issues that may arise due to the potential delays in the construction of Walton Bridge, as well as the width and weight restrictions at Chetwynd Bridge.	An extensive analysis of the local highway network operation and sensitive receptors are discussed within Chapter 10: Transport and Access . The routing scenarios presented are reflective of constraints on the local highway and set out a hierarchy of preference to allow for unforeseen circumstances.
	24/03/23	Public Rights of Way officer requested details of how the safety of users of the footpath will be ensured. Raised concerns regarding construction traffic on local communities in the light of other local developments.	Safety of PRoW users is covered within Appendix 4.3: Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan and Appendix 4.4: Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan.

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		<p>Many of the comments provided as part of the PEIR submission remain relevant to the final scheme, and acknowledge the continued consultation and meetings made with the local highway authority to discuss the routing.</p>	<p>A cumulative assessment is included in this Chapter from Paragraph 10.318 onwards. It has not been shown that there will be any residual cumulative impact when considering other local developments.</p> <p>All consultation regarding the proposed construction vehicle routing, as detailed above in the table, and any modifications to the local highway network are reflected within this chapter, as set out in the Introduction of this Chapter.</p>
Staffordshire County Council	28/03/23	<p>Staffordshire County Council's previous comments raised concerns of around the impact of construction traffic on the Staffordshire Road network. They acknowledge that the scheme proposals now include for a preferred construction access route utilising the proposed Walton Bypass if completed prior to work beginning on the solar farm site. They agree this route should be prioritised if it is available prior to commencement of the Solar Farm or becomes available during the course of construction.</p> <p>SCC will need to see data and assessment of the volume of construction traffic likely to use the alternative route (A5121 and A5189); potential impact on junctions; and impact on the residential area of Stapenhill as traffic enters Rosliston Road.</p>	<p>A robust assessment of the construction traffic on the local highway network is presented Chapter 10: Transport and Access</p>
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	22/03/23	No comment	N/A
UK Health Security Agency	13/04/23	No comment	N/A

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West Midlands Environment Agency	23/03/23	No comment	N/A