

Heckington Fen Solar Park

EN010123

Appendix 6 – Change consultation information leaflet

Applicant: Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

Document Reference: Pre-ExA.ChangeApp.CCRApp6.V1

Pursuant to: APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Document Revision: 1

August 2023



Heckington Fen Solar Park

EN010123

Change Notification Consultation– Information Leaflet

Applicant: Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

Document Reference: PreExA.IL.CN.V1

Document Revision: 1

July 2023



We are consulting on localised changes to our proposals at Bicker Fen Substation that have been made since our Application was submitted in February 2023.

Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited (the Applicant) submitted its application for a Development Consent Order for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of solar photovoltaic generating panels with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts together with associated energy storage and grid connection to, and infrastructure at, the Bicker Fen National Grid Substation (the Proposed Development) on 15 February 2023 (the Application). The Application was accepted for Examination on 13 March 2023 and the period for relevant representations closed on 9 June 2023.

The Applicant is proposing to submit a Change Application to the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State). Prior to doing so, the Applicant has submitted a Change Notification to the Planning Inspectorate, which explains the change, and is undertaking Targeted Consultation (in accordance with this Leaflet).

The accepted Application includes land and works at National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation (Bicker Fen Substation) to provide for a new generation bay for the Applicant together with works to facilitate the connection for the Applicant's project.

The proposed change relates to land at Bicker Fen Substation, which is under the ownership of National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (NGET). Following submission of the Application, and as a result of ongoing discussions with NGET, it has become clear that additional works at Bicker Fen Substation are required to enable the grid connection. These works lie outside of the current Order Limits at the Bicker Fen Substation.

The works are Associated Development which is necessary as a consequence of the Proposed Development and includes:

- a new section of NGET infrastructure at the substation comprising a busbar extension including a section breaker, a bus coupler and a feeder circuit on land to the south of Bicker Fen Substation (AW1) ; and
- a new cable sealing end compound (CSE) on land to the west of Bicker Fen Substation (AW2); together known as, the "Additional Works".

The land is owned by NGET.

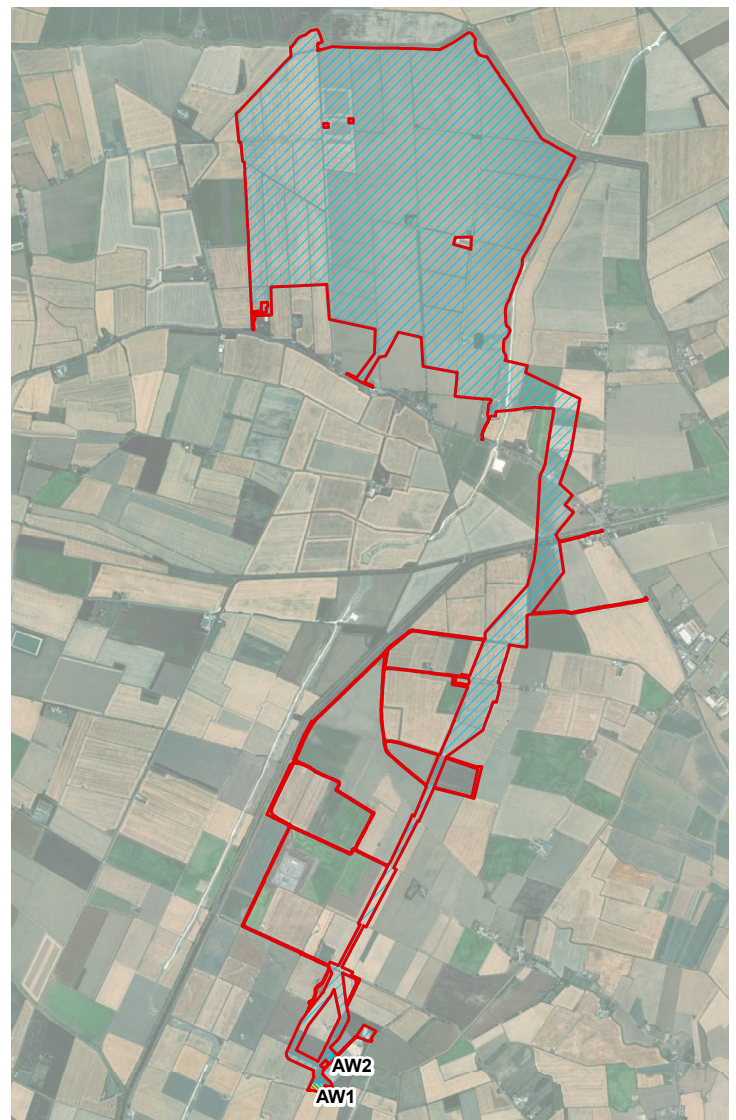
Accordingly, a larger area (of approximately 0.9ha) is needed to deliver the Additional Works and to facilitate the Applicant's connection into the Bicker Fen Substation. The full extent of the land area covered by the change is shown in yellow and green hatching on plan overleaf.

<https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-green-energy/heckington-fen-solar-park-consultation>.

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Freephone: 0800 151 0784

Post: Freepost ECOTRICITY SOLAR PARK



HOW TO RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION

Consultation responses can be made via:





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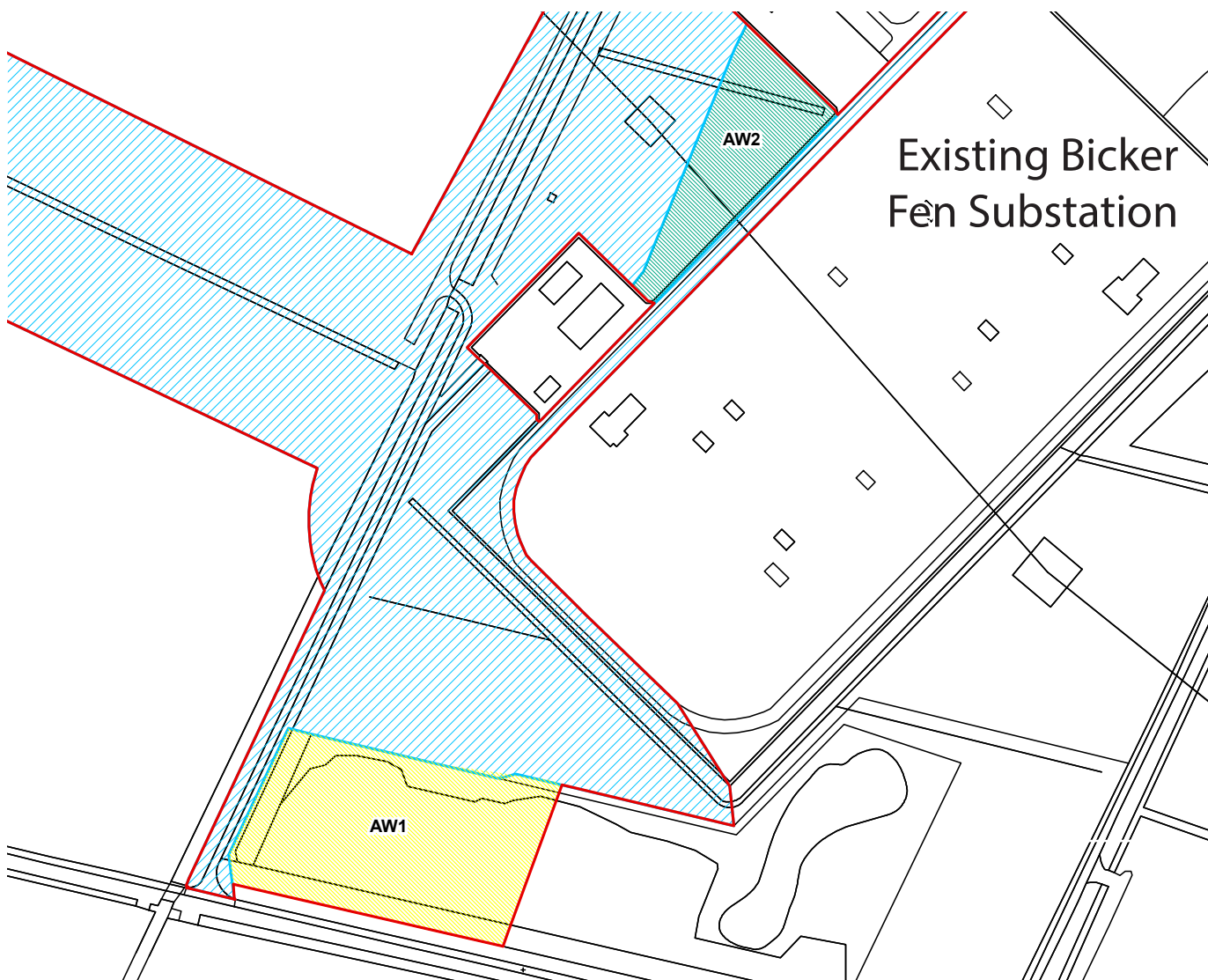
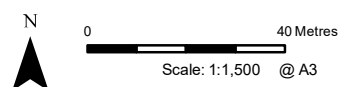
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If you require a hard copy please let us know using the details above.

Please let us have your comments by 23:59 on Friday 18 August 2023.

-  Proposed Order Limits
-  AW1 extension for bus-coupler
-  AW2 extension for new CSE*
-  Accepted DCO Order Limits

*cable sealing end



REASON FOR THE CHANGE

The Additional Works must be delivered by NGET in order for NGET to be able to connect the Heckington Fen project whilst maintaining compliance with the infeed loss risk at Bicker Fen Substation. The Additional Works are therefore infrastructure works and assets which will be built and owned by NGET, but are triggered by the new connection.

The Applicant's Proposed Development is the "tipping point" of generation, necessitating a new section. The reason for this change now is due to further technical information being known and for completeness to ensure that the DCO contains the relevant provisions and permissions to allow the full project to be constructed; it also gives a complete picture of the related environmental impacts associated with the NGET connection works. This position is supported by the emerging National Policy Statements for Electricity Networks (EN-5) which encourages holistic planning – particularly at paragraph 2.7.1 and 2.7.2, which includes the following text:

"EN-1 explains in Section 4.10 that the Planning Act 2008 aims to create a holistic planning regime, such that the cumulative effects of the same project can be considered together.

Accordingly, the government envisages that, wherever reasonably possible, applications for new generating stations and their related infrastructure should be contained in a single application to the Secretary of State..."

Furthermore, the principle of including wider associated development is supported in guidance on associated development applications for major infrastructure projects where at paragraph 5(iv) guidance states that associated development should be proportionate to the nature and scale of the principal development.

ADDITIONAL WORKS - DESCRIPTION

The extent of the trees which need to be cleared to enable the necessary expansion at Bicker Fen can be seen on the plan below (yellow area). NGET have advised that all of the plantation within AW1 would need to be cleared if an Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) solution is used. NGET have also advised that some of the plantation woodland would need to be cleared for the Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) solution but this would be more limited. This design solution would be a continuation of the switchgear equipment already in operation at Bicker Fen National Grid substation. The alternative design option is the installation of a Gas Insulated Switchgear system (GIS). This alternative solution would be housed within a building and would occupy a smaller footprint than the AIS design option.

The cable sealing end (CSE) compound on land to the west of the existing Bicker Fen Substation (green area AW2) is a connection point to transition between underground cable and above ground apparatus such as electrical bus-bars or overhead line. At Bicker Fen Substation there is a 400kV transmission tower on the western boundary of the substation site which carries overhead line circuits to West Burton. As part of facilitating the Applicant's connection, one of the West Burton circuits will be moved to terminate at a new bay that will be constructed as part of the Bicker Fen Substation extension. To achieve this, the overhead line circuit will be connected onto a new CSE to be located in the area adjacent to the tower and an underground cable run to the new bay. For this reason, the Order Limits need to be extended around the transmission tower to allow for this circuit transfer.





Photograph taken from Vicarage Drove looking east, markers indicate approximate AW1 area

DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

The Additional Works must be delivered by NGET in order for NGET to be able to connect the Applicant whilst maintaining compliance with the infeed loss risk at Bicker Fen Substation. The Additional Works are therefore infrastructure works and assets which will be built and owned by NGET, but are triggered by the Applicant's connection.

In view of this, NGET require control over the Additional Works. In the alternative, if these works are not included in the DCO, NGET would need to obtain planning permission for the works on AW1 (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990). That alternative is not the Applicant's preferred approach as it creates an additional consenting step to obtain all necessary consents to bring forward the Applicant's Proposed Development. It may, however, be necessary in the event that NGET needed to undertake the extension works prior to commencement of the Applicant's DCO. For this reason, the Applicant proposes to include standalone works within the DCO for the benefit of NGET to undertake these Bicker Fen Substation Additional Works. Accordingly, the Applicant envisages splitting Work No. 6 into Work No. 6A (for the Applicant's generation bay), Work No. 6B (for NGET's extension works (AW1)), and Work No. 6C (for the CSE compound (AW2)). Allied with the above, a new Article will be included in the DCO to make clear that, in the event that NGET did undertake Work 6B or Work 6C under a separate consenting regime, the respective works and requirements in the DCO would not be engaged.

In addition, NGET require optionality over the type of insulation required for the switchgear and so the relevant parts of Work No.6A and 6B in the revised DCO will be updated to include the option for Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) or Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS).

ROCHDALE ENVELOPE

Where flexibility is required, as is the case with the Additional Works the use of the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach can be applied to ensure a robust assessment of the likely significant environmental effects. This involves assessing the maximum (and where relevant, minimum) parameters, size (footprint, width, and height), technology, and locations. The outcome of the Development Consent Order would then permit development of the type and scale assessed within that envelope area.

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

Effects upon landscape features

The Additional Works within area AW1 would result in the removal of the existing trees south of the Substation. The majority of the existing plantation along the southern and eastern edge of the existing Substation, however, would be retained. The removal of this vegetation would cause direct harm and adverse effects upon this particular area of tree planting, but the direct adverse effects would be balanced by the proposed orchard planting.

With regard to the area AW2, the proposed infrastructure would remove areas of semi-improved grassland. This is considered to represent a very modest increase in the footprint of the Proposed Development, and the effects would be no greater than those assessed in Chapter 6 of the ES (doc. ref. 6.1.6, APP-059) para. 6.5.10.

Effects upon landscape character

The Additional Works areas fall within the landscape characterised by the existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation. The influence in landscape character and visual terms is significant, and the Additional Works would be seen in direct context and would read as forming an intrinsic part of the existing substation infrastructure.

During the construction stage, the landscape character effects within the Additional Works area would be major significant short-term and temporary - as the character of the land associated with AW1 and AW2 would be redefined.

With regards the operational stage, the development within the Additional Works areas AW1 and AW2 would not cause any additional harm upon the medium sensitivity host Landscape Type (LT) - A Reclaimed Fen and more specifically its Landscape Character Area (LCA) - A1 Holland Reclaimed Fen, over and above that assessed in Chapter 6 of the ES (doc. ref. 6.1.6, APP-059).

Effects upon visual receptors

In the context of the Additional Works areas, the following viewpoints are considered informative: Viewpoint 9, Viewpoint 14 and Viewpoint 15 (Figure 6.6, doc. ref. 6.2.6, APP-141-143) and Viewpoint A1 and Viewpoint A2 (Appendix 6.2, doc. ref. 6.3.6.2, APP-178). It is anticipated the Additional Works areas would not cause any significant effects upon the visual receptors identified in Chapter 6 of the ES (doc. ref. 6.1.6, APP-059), given the screening, distance, and typology.

The works carried out during the PEIR stage and as evidenced in Chapter 6 of the ES; visual receptors are relatively absent in this part of the study area. Vicarage Drove, immediately south of the Additional Works area AW1, a public Footpath along Hammond Brook, and the promoted long distance path Cross Britain Way that leads along North Ing Drove, are the only relevant receptors. Vicarage Drove was excluded from the assessment as it is a dead-end lane that does not serve any settlements or dwellings and does not connect to any other public highway.

With regard to the Public Footpath along Hammond Brook to the east and south east, views would be distant some 1.5km away and are heavily screened by the remaining areas of woodland planting that surround the existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation to the south and east, and a line of mature Oak trees that mark the southern edge of the Additional Works area AW1 to be retained. No significant visual effects are expected to occur, and no further work is required.

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL CONTINUED

Effects upon visual receptors continued

In terms of views from the Cross Britain Way along North Ing Drove, this route is located some 1.5km away to the south east at its closest point. At such distance, and given the presence of the Viking Link development in the foreground, no significant effects are expected to occur, and no further work is required.

Mitigation Measures

Should a Gas Insulated Switchgear system be used, then it is recommended that the shed is painted muted matt and recessive green colour, based on the palette of greens prevailing in the local landscape, and grey for the roof.

RESIDENTIAL VISUAL AMENITY ASSESSMENT

The Residential Visual Amenity Chapter 7 of the ES (document reference 6.1.7, APP-060) has assessed the potential significant visual effects and overbearing effects, and found that none of the residential properties located in close proximity to the Energy Park would be subject to any overbearing effects.

The Residential Visual Amenity Chapter 7 of the ES (document reference 6.1.7, APP-060) excluded the southern part of the Proposed Development: the National Grid Bicker Fen Substation Extension Works from the assessment, due to the context, presence of woodland around the existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation which would screen the Extension Works, lack of any direct inter-visibility with the nearby dwellings, and the distance.

Given the location of the Additional Areas AW1 and AW2, and their close association with the existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation, it is considered that there is no potential for any significant or overbearing effects upon the residential receptors located in the surrounding area. No further work is required.

ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY

The Ecology and Ornithology Chapter of the ES (doc. ref. 6.1.11, APP-061) has assessed potential impacts of the Proposed Development on ecology and nature conservation value (biodiversity features). A further extended Phase 1 Ecology survey was conducted in May 2023 at National Grid Bicker Fen Substation to assess the ecological baseline conditions in the study area of the Additional Works.

The previous Phase 1 survey (Extended Phase Survey - Cable Route Corridor Appendix 8.5 (doc. ref. 6.3.8.5, APP-194)) classified the Additional Works area south of Bicker Fen Substation as plantation woodland. The area was included in the breeding bird surveys and the small wetland directly to the east was surveyed for great crested newt (negative result). This extended phase 1 survey was conducted to assess the habitat present within the woodland, the potential for protected species and the need for further detailed survey.

The plantation woodland south of Bicker Fen Substation is not within any local or nationally designed site for nature conservation. The closest SSSI is Horbling Fen, 4.8km to the southwest. The closest non-statutory site is the South Forty Foot Drain 1.4km to the west. The plantation woodland appears to have limited management since the area was planted, and ground flora is sparse. There were no features within any of the trees that would be potentially suitable as a bat roost. Evidence of deer, field voles and hare were found in the plantation woodland and surrounding area. There were a number of farmland birds recorded singing within or adjacent to the plantation woodland. No evidence of badgers were found. Overall, the plantation woodland south of Bicker Fen Substation is considered to be of local importance.

ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY CONTINUED

The area west of Bicker Fen Substation to accommodate the cable sealing end is rough grassland/scrub, with limited signs of maintenance.

A full assessment of the ecology and ornithology within the plantation woodland south of the operational section of Bicker Fen substation has been completed. This has determined that the removal of a section of this plantation woodland for the expansion of the Bicker Fen Substation (for either the GIS or AIS technology) will not result in any significant impacts to ecology or ornithology. As per the ES chapter in Ecology (doc ref. 6.1.11, APP-061) the land where the plantation is currently is considered to be of low nature.

HYDROLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY, FLOOD RISK AND DRAINAGE

Land at National Grid Bicker Fen Substation is approximately 2m AOD and entirely underlain by Tidal Flat (superficial) deposits comprising predominantly low permeability clay, with a thickness of approximately 4m. National Grid Bicker Fen Substation lies within Flood Zone 3 associated with fluvial flooding arising from the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD). The SFFD is also classified as Main River and benefits from flood defences comprising earth embankments. The EA 'Flood Risk from Surface Water Map' shows the National Grid Bicker Fen Substation is at 'Very Low' risk of surface water flooding, with only very localised areas at high, medium and low risk of flooding. The EA 'Flood Risk from Reservoirs Map' shows the National Grid Bicker Fen Substation is only affected by reservoir flooding under conditions when there is also flooding from rivers. Geological data suggests that groundwater emergence is unlikely due to the thick layers of low permeability superficial and bedrock deposits that underlie the National Grid Bicker Fen Substation.

The proposed Additional Works on land at National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation is anticipated to use the same construction activities assessed in the ES chapter (doc. ref. 6.1.9, APP-062), and therefore are likely to have a minor potential to impact upon the surface water drainage regime or contaminate surface water at the Substation. Measures set out in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (doc. ref. 7.7, APP-068) will control effects. Therefore, no significant effects are expected to flood risk (flood flows/storage), surface water drainage and groundwater as a result of the Additional Works. No significant effects are anticipated for the operational or decommissioning phases related to the Additional Works.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

The proposed Additional Works on land at National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation will have not altered the assessment of built heritage setting in the ES chapter (doc. ref. 6.1.11, APP-063). Therefore, the conclusions of no significant harm to any Scheduled Monument, Listed Building or Conservation Area as arising from the Proposed Development remain accurate. The ES chapter (doc. ref. 6.1.11, APP-063) confirms a geophysical survey evaluation has not been undertaken within the National Grid Bicker Fen Substation due to access constraints and interference from existing infrastructure. The Outline Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation (doc. ref. 7.13, APP-244) proposes for the excavation, investigation and recording of 240 trial trenches across the Proposed Development area. The trial trenching evaluation works of the Proposed Development are not yet complete. Requirement 12 of the Development Consent Order confirms no part of any phase of works (of which the substation works including the Additional Works area will form one or more phases) may commence until a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation (which must accord with this Outline Written Scheme of Investigation – Evaluation) has been submitted to and approved by the county authority.

SOCIO-ECONOMICS

The proposed Additional Works on land at National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation may have an impact on employment with potentially additional direct jobs on-site during the construction phase, and indirect/induced roles in the wider economy. Accommodation demand during the construction and operational phases could increase if employment opportunities increase. Employment figures have been calculated for the Additional Works. It has been calculated that the construction of the extension at Bicker Fen will result in the additional employment of 36 people over the construction period of 30 months. The ES chapter (doc. ref. 6.1.11, APP-064) has used employment figure data inclusive of extension works required at Bicker Fen Substation and assessed the Proposed Development as a whole. A moderate beneficial (significant) effect was determined for the construction phase for employment, and sufficient available bedspaces are available to accommodate the workers. The Assessment has shown that increase in employment opportunities through the Additional Works will be minor and not impact the conclusions drawn in the ES chapter (doc. ref. 6.1.11, APP-064).

NOISE AND VIBRATION

The Noise and Vibration assessment in the DCO application assessed on a worst-case basis, considering potential emission noise levels from typical construction activities based on the type and scale of development. The construction works associated with National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation in the ES chapter (doc. ref. 6.1.11, APP-065) are assessed as negligible (not significant), with the nearest noise sensitive receptors located over 500m away. The Additional Works on land at National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation is anticipated to use the same construction methods assessed and no additional noise-generating equipment is expected to be in use that has not been assessed. Any tree removal required as part of the Additional Works would not produce noise and vibration levels in excess of typical construction activities assessed.

The Additional Works equipment for National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation is likely to be similar in nature to the existing substation switchgear, in that no additional transformers or other substantial outdoor noise-generating plant is proposed as part of the Additional Works. Noise from the Additional Works during the operational phase is therefore expected to be similar to noise and vibration levels already assessed in the the ES chapter (doc. ref. 6.1.11, APP-065) and will be indistinguishable from the normal operational noise from the Substation as a whole.

The proposed Additional Works on land at National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation will incur additional traffic movements associated with the construction of the extension works. The assessment work carried out by the Transport consultants has updated the traffic flow predictions for the extension works. These increases in construction traffic flows have also been considered for the impact on noise and vibration in the local area. This assessment has shown that the impact on noise and vibration from construction traffic will remain not significant.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The proposed Additional Works on land at National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation will require further infrastructure to accommodate a connection to the Proposed Development. It is likely the additional infrastructure may impact on the embodied carbon and GHG emission assessment. Assessment work from the Climate Change consultants has been completed for expected GHG emissions. There is flexibility in the design of the Additional Works with two design options assessed: an Air-Insulated Switchgear System (AIS) and a Gas-Insulated Switchgear System (GIS). Both design options were assessed in the updated GHG emission calculations. The updated GHG assessment work confirmed that this proposed development still has significant beneficial climate effects in regard to greenhouse gas emissions, as per the ES chapter (doc. ref 6.1.16, APP-006)

No change to the conclusions is anticipated to the climate change adaptation assessment work presented in the ES Chapter (doc. ref. 6.1.16, APP-066), and therefore the Proposed Development is predicted to be subject to no significant effects in relation to climate change adaptation.

TRANSPORT AND ACCESS

The proposed Additional Works on land at National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation will incur additional traffic movements associated with the construction of the extension works. The estimated length of works is 60 weeks. National Grid has provided an estimate of the number of vehicles that could be associated with the Proposed Development, including the Additional Works. This equates to a total of 2,076 vehicles over the 60 week (320 days) period and up to six vehicles per day on average. There are expected to be three minibuses per day for staff (6 two-way movements). As such, a total of 18 two-way movements per day on average during the busiest construction periods, including 12 HGV trips, are forecast to be associated with the 60-week construction phase of the substation site. This equates to an AADT value of around 15 two-way movements ((18 x 6 days)/7 days), including around 10 HGV trips. The number of vehicles associated with the Additional Works on land at National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation is likely to be considered negligible when assessed against the criteria in the Transport and Access chapter and would be on a temporary basis, and therefore in EIA terms is considered Not Significant.

AIR QUALITY

The proposed Additional Works on land at National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation will incur additional traffic movements associated with the construction of the extension works. Assessment work from the Transport consultants for the updated traffic flow predictions has been completed. This work indicates the change of traffic flows will not cause an exceedance of EPUK/IAQM guidance on traffic generation that may cause impacts to air quality. It is expected air quality effects linked to construction traffic movement will remain not significant.

Dust and non-road mobile machinery emissions during the construction phase will be controlled via an Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (doc. ref. 7.7, APP-068). The assessment of dust emissions in the Air Quality ES chapter (doc. ref. 6.1.16, APP-068) remains valid and the Additional Works on land at National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation are controlled by mitigation measures included in the Outline CEMP. Therefore, no significant effects are expected to air quality as a result of dust emissions.

LAND USE AND AGRICULTURE

The Land Use and Agriculture Chapter of the ES (doc. ref. 6.1.16, APP-069) has assessed the potential effects on the agricultural land use of the Energy Park, and the potential effects on agricultural land quality and soil resources. An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey was undertaken in 2021, with further survey work of additional auger samples carried out in 2022 of the Energy Park. The Energy Park consists of the area of land proposed for ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation and the energy storage facility. A walk-over survey was completed of the Offsite Cable Route Corridor, no ALC survey has been carried out on this area of land.

The proposed Additional Works on land at National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation is not within the Energy Park, and therefore an ALC survey has not been undertaken on this land. The Additional Works land area includes a small area of plantation woodland south of National Grid Bicker Fen Substation and semi-improved grassland to the west of National Grid Bicker Fen Substation, approximately 0.9ha combined. This land area is under National Grid's ownership. The woodland area south of National Grid Bicker Fen Substation is part of a larger planting block as part of the landscaping condition of the National Grid Bicker Fen Substation approved in 2005. The Additional Work will incur removal of the landscaping planting to accommodate the required infrastructure.

No agricultural practices are present in the Additional Works land area, and therefore there is no impact on agricultural business. The conclusions of the Agricultural and Land Use Chapter of the ES (doc. ref. 6.1.16, APP-069) and associated appendices are to remain unaltered with the Change of Application Submission, with the overall conclusion of no adverse significant effects anticipated.

GLINT AND GLARE

The Glint and Glare assessment only considers the potential glint effects from fixed solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays associated with the Energy Park. The proposed Additional Works on land at National Grid's Bicker Fen Substation is not within the Energy Park boundary assessed for glint and glare effects. The infrastructure required as part of the Additional Works will not include PV array elements or other large quantities of reflective material (beyond the type of infrastructure already present) to cause significant adverse effects. Therefore, no further assessment work is required to consider the potential effects of glint and glare and the text within the application documents remains accurate. The conclusions of the Glint and Glare Chapter of the ES (doc. ref. 6.1.17, APP-070) and associated appendices are expected to remain unaltered with the Change of Application Submission, with the overall conclusion of no adverse significant glint and glare effects anticipated.

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

A long list of potential Major Accidents and Disasters associated with the Proposed Development was assessed in the ES chapter (doc. ref. 6.1.18, APP-071). The following potential major accident and disaster events were shortlisted for further consideration in the chapter- Health and Safety at Work, Fire, Rail Accidents, Utilities Failure and Criminal Damage. Other major accident and disaster events on the long list are assessed within the main ES Chapters. The Additional Works on land at National Grid Bicker Fen Substation are not anticipated to alter the conclusions drawn for Fire, Rail Accidents, Utilities Failure or Criminal Damage sections in the ES chapter (doc. ref. 6.1.18, APP-071), with no significant effects expected. There is flexibility in the design of the Additional Works with two design options proposed to be assessed: an Air-Insulated Switchgear system (AIS) and a Gas-Insulated Switchgear system (GIS). If an AIS system is used, it is expected effects on the Health and Safety of Workers will remain not significant and conclusions drawn in the chapter will remain unaltered. A GIS system design traditionally uses sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), an inert gas used for insulating the switchgear infrastructure to protect the electrical power supply. SF₆ is a potent greenhouse gas with the largest global warming potential. However, no SF₆ is proposed for this GIS system. The assessments have considered the effects of a GIS system if used and the effects of Health and Safety of Workers. It is anticipated effects remain not significant.

The Additional Works on land at National Grid Bicker Fen Substation are anticipated to produce no further significant quantities of waste and the conclusions drawn in the ES chapter (doc. ref. 6.1.18, APP-071) remain valid. During construction, operation, and decommissioning, the re-use or recycling of materials will be explored before resorting to landfill options. Waste during the construction, operation and decommissioning phase will be dealt with as part of the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (doc. ref. 7.7, APP-238) and Outline Decommissioning and Restoration Plan (DRP) (doc. ref. 7.7, APP-240).

The Additional Works on land at National Grid Bicker Fen Substation are anticipated to produce no significant EMF effects, and the conclusions drawn in the ES chapter (doc. ref. 6.1.18, APP-071) remain valid. National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) stated "for electricity substations, the EMFs close to the sites tend to be dictated by the overhead lines and cables entering the installation, not the equipment within the site". The ES chapter has assessed the 400kV underground cable route as the only relevant infrastructure exceeding the ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection) exposure guidelines and it demonstrated through the assessment work not to produce EMF exposure above public and occupational guidelines. Therefore, it is anticipated that there would be no significant effects on EMF from the Additional Works.

The Additional Works on land at National Grid Bicker Fen Substation are anticipated to produce no significant effects on telecommunication or television reception, and the conclusions drawn in the ES chapter (doc. ref. 6.1.18, APP-071) remain valid. No telecommunication infrastructure has been identified beneath or close to the Proposed Development.

HOW ARE WE CONSULTING?

This consultation will be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the Statement of Community Consultation dated June 2022. We will implement a digital led-approach which ensures the proposals can be viewed online, on the Project website, and feedback can be provided via email. We will also utilise non-digital methods to provide alternative means for consultees to engage with our proposals, including providing a hard copy version of all materials on request (free of charge) and enabling consultees to provide feedback verbally and in writing. Upon request, the documents will be made available in alternative accessible formats.

WHO ARE WE CONSULTING?

Anyone directly impacted by our plans is welcome to take part although, given the localised nature of the changes, we are undertaking targeted consultation. All relevant landowners will be notified of the start of the consultation by letter.

HOW WILL WE USE YOUR FEEDBACK

We will have regard to all comments received during the consultation. Your feedback is important to us. We are seeking your views on the changes outlined in this document and are only consulting on these changes. Ecotricity will consider the consultation responses made and will have regard to them as it finalises its request to make changes to the Application. It will compile a consultation report, which sets out how it has undertaken its consultation and how regard has been had to the responses received. This will be submitted with the request to make changes to the Application. The examining authority will then decide whether to accept the request.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION

Consultation responses can be made via:

Email: heckingtonfensolar@ecotricity.co.uk
Freephone: 0800 151 0784
Post: Freepost ECOTRICITY SOLAR PARK

Please let us have your comments by 23:59 on
Friday 18 August 2023.

