

# Heckington Fen Solar Park

EN010123

## ES Technical Note– Updated Information on Cumulative Projects

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## ES TECHNICAL NOTE - UPDATED INFORMATION ON CUMULATIVE PROJECTS

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Heckington Fen Solar Park Development Consent Order (DCO) application is for the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation and energy storage facility (hereafter referred to as “the Energy Park”), cable route to, and above and below ground works at, the National Grid Bicker Fen Substation (hereafter referred to as “the Proposed Development” (inclusive of Energy Park)) on land at Six Hundreds Farm, Six Hundreds Drove, East Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2. The purpose of this document is to provide an update to the cumulative effect assessment undertaken in the Environmental Statement (ES) since the submission of the DCO application on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

## Background

- 1.3. An ES was prepared for the Proposed Development’s DCO application and accordingly assessed cumulative effects as per the requirements within the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 as amended (hereafter referred to as the “EIA Regulations”). Additionally, the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 17 (Planning Inspectorate, 2019) provides a clear and systematic approach to identify projects with potential cumulative effects which formed the basis of the cumulative effects assessment for the Proposed Development. A detailed description of the Cumulative Assessment methodology is found in **Chapter 2: EIA Methodology and Consultation** (document reference 6.1.2/ PS-051) of the ES.
- 1.4. A long list of cumulative projects was established using guidance from the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 17 (Planning Inspectorate, 2019) and the four-stage approach. The long list was further refined to the potential cumulative effect project shortlist, presented and assessed in **Chapters 6 to 18** (document reference 6.1.6–6.1.18/PS-059, PS-061, PS-063, PS-065, APP-063, PS-067, PS-069, PS-071, PS-073, PS-075, APP-069, APP-070 and PS-076) of the ES.
- 1.5. The identification and collation of the cumulative long list and shortlist was finalised prior to the finalisation of the ES chapters and was up to date as of 31st December 2022.
- 1.6. Since the submission of the DCO Application and acceptance for Examination on the 13th March 2023, the status of some of the identified projects in the cumulative long list and shortlist has subsequently changed. Additionally, there are new applications which have been identified and submitted to the Relevant Planning Authority and PINS subsequent to the submission of the Heckington Fen Solar Park DCO Application.
- 1.7. Accordingly, this Technical Note sets out an update to the cumulative effect assessment undertaken in the submitted ES. Section 2- Methodology of this document sets out the updated cumulative shortlist of projects to be assessed against for potential cumulative effects in combination with Heckington Fen Solar Park, and the methodology applied to the cumulative effect assessment.
- 1.8. Additionally, this Technical Note has been prepared in response to the Examining Authority’s (ExA) first written question GEN 1.9 which states the following:



***“Provide an updated version (or addendum) of the cumulative and in-combination effects assessment for each chapter of the ES and associated figures [APP-173, PS-084, PS-085], so that the additional proposals included in the report on the Interrelationship with Other NSIPs [REP1-021] and the findings are consistent with it.”***

and, as agreed at the Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) 2 on the 20th September 2023, whereby the Examining Authority (ExA) set out that a cumulative effect assessment update would be submitted for Deadline 2 (7th November 2023).

- 1.9. Following on from ISH4 on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, where cumulative sites were discussed,, North Kesteven District Council have requested a further 2No. TCPA applications be added to the cumulative long list. Both sites are within South Kesteven District Council administration area. The cumulative long list within Appendix 1 of this Technical Note includes these 2No. sites.

## 2. Methodology

- 2.1. As part of the EIA process, it considers cumulative effects of the Proposed Development in combination with the environmental effects of other existing and/or approved developments on sensitive receptors identified. The update to the cumulative effects assessment has drawn upon the method as set out within Advice Note 17 (Cumulative Effects Assessment), as published by PINS in August 2019. Advice Note 17 was relied upon for the drafting of the cumulative effects assessment for the submitted ES in the DCO application. Full details of the cumulative effects assessment methodology can be referred to in Section 2.13 of **Chapter 2- EIA Methodology and Consultation** (document reference 6.1.2/ PS-051).
- 2.2. The subsequent cumulative effect assessment undertaken by the technical team in the submitted ES in the DCO application (February 2023) can be located at the end of each technical chapter, **Chapters 6 to 18** (document reference 6.1.6-6.1.18). Accordingly, the updated cumulative effects assessment for all technical disciplines outlined in this document supersedes, unless otherwise stated, the cumulative effect assessment undertaken at the end of each technical ES chapter.
- 2.3. The initial step of updating the cumulative effect assessment for the ES has involved re-considering the long list of development within the appropriate Zone of Influence (Zoi) for each topic discipline, which forms the basis of the search area for the cumulative effects assessment. The methodology and principles of "Stage 1- Establishing the Long List", as per paragraph 2.13.9-2.13.16 of **Chapter 2- EIA Methodology and Consultation** (document reference 6.1.2/ PS-051) have been applied. Revision 4 of **Appendix 2.3- Cumulative Sites Long List and Shortlist** (document reference 6.3.2.3/ APP-175) is found at **Appendix 1** of this document and details the full longlist.
- 2.4. A shortlist of projects with the potential to have cumulative effects with the Proposed Development has been established in line with the methodology and principles of "Stage 2 – Identify the Shortlist", as per paragraph 2.13.17-2.13.18 of **Chapter 2- EIA Methodology and Consultation** (document reference 6.1.2/ PS-051). Revision 4 of **Appendix 2.3- Cumulative Sites Long List and Shortlist** (document reference 6.3.2.3/ APP-175) is found at **Appendix 1** of this document and details the shortlist. The shortlist is extracted and presented for ease in this section of this document, at **Table 2.1**.
- 2.5. The locations of the shortlisted cumulative projects in relation to the Proposed Development are shown in Revision 3 of **Figure 2.2a- Cumulative Plan - Shortlisted (Regional Context)** (document reference 6.2.2/ APP-079) and **Figure 2.2b- Cumulative Sites- Shortlisted (Local Context)** (document reference 6.2.2/ APP-080). These figures are found at **Appendix 2** of this document.
- 2.6. It should be noted, the revised shortlist to be assessed in this document has removed four projects that were previously assessed in the EIA submitted with the DCO application. The four sites, and justification for removal include:
  - Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (EN010130)- this DCO project is for an offshore wind farm over 54km away from the Proposed Development. The project is at the Pre-Application stage and have produced a Preliminary Environmental Information Report for statutory consultation. The offsite grid connection route has been refined which is now 10.6km away from any part of the Order Limits (previously was 390m from the





Scoping Report information). Therefore, the project is deemed to be too far away for cumulative impacts.

- Land At Ewerby Thorpe (14/1034/EIASCR, North Kesteven District Council (NKDC)) – this Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) project is for the erection of solar array with generating capacity of up to 28 MW. Only an EIA Screening Opinion Request had been submitted to NKDC. The land for this application has now been absorbed into the DCO application for Beacon Fen Energy Park (number 12 on shortlist) and will therefore not progress as a standalone application.
- Land to the North of White Cross Lane Solar Farm (19/0863/FUL -NKDC)– this is a TCPA project for a solar farm of 32MW, 8.3km away from the Proposed Development. The application was approved in October 2019 and the site is now fully operational (as confirmed by the developer). Therefore, this application has become part of the baseline conditions.
- Land South Of Gorse Lane (19/0060/FUL- NKDC) – this is a TCPA project for a solar farm of 20MW, 11km away from the Proposed Development. The application was approved in April 2019 and the site is now fully operational. Therefore, this application has become part of the baseline conditions.

2.7. Beacon Fen Energy Park issued a press-release on their project website on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 entitled “*New access road proposed for Beacon Fen Energy Park*”. Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd are considering whether to widen their proposed Order Limits to include a new haul road for construction access from Heckington Road, linking to the A17. Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd are currently writing to landowners to confirm viability of the haul road. As of December 2023, Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd have not confirmed their Order Limits will be widened and therefore **Figure 2.2a** and **Figure 2.2b** of Appendix 2 this document have not been updated from Revision 1.



**Table 2.1- Cumulative Project Shortlist**

	Name of Scheme	LPA	NSIP	Reference Number	Size of Scheme	Distance from Application Site
<b>Tier 1 Sites</b>						
<b>1</b>	<b>Vicarage Drove</b>  Approved with conditions 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	BBC <sup>1</sup>	No	B/21/O443	49.9MW	c. 4.5km south of the Energy Park Site at its closest point but adjacent to the the proposed extension to the substation at Bicker Fen. To date construction has not commenced.
<b>2</b>	<b>Land West of Cowbridge Road, Bicker Fen, Boston</b>  Approved with conditions 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	BBC SHC <sup>2</sup>	No	B/22/O356 HO4-0849-22	49.9MW	c. 5.3km south of the Energy Park Site at its closest point to main site, but adjacent to the site boundary cable route. To date construction has not commenced.
<b>3</b>	<b>Boston Alternative Energy Facility</b>  Granted Development Consent 6th July 2023	PINS- BBC	Yes	ENO10095	50MW + (NSIP)	c. 11.7km west of the Energy Park Site at its closest point. To date construction has not commenced.
<b>4</b>	<b>Mallard Pass Solar Farm</b>  Application Submitted. Examination Commenced 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	PINS - SKDC <sup>3</sup>	Yes	ENO10127	50MW + (NSIP)	c.33.2km south-west of the Energy Park Site at its closest point.

<sup>1</sup> Boston Borough Council

<sup>2</sup> South Holland District Council

<sup>3</sup> South Kesteven District Council



	Name of Scheme	LPA	NSIP	Reference Number	Size of Scheme	Distance from Application Site
5	<b>Cottam Solar Project</b>  Application Submitted. Examination Commenced 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	PINS– BDC <sup>4</sup> & WLDC	Yes	ENO10133	50MW + (NSIP)	c. 43.4km north-west of the Energy Park Site at its closest point
6	<b>Gate Burton Energy Park</b>  Application Submitted Examination Commenced 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	PINS – BDC <sup>3</sup> & WLDC <sup>5</sup>	Yes	ENO10131	50MW + (NSIP)	c.48.5km north-west of the Energy Park Site at its closest point
7	<b>West Burton Solar Project</b>  Application Examination Commenced 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	PINS – BDC <sup>3</sup> & WLDC	Yes	ENO10132	50MW + (NSIP)	c.41.1km north-west of the Energy Park Site at its closest point
8	<b>Land at Little Hale Fen</b>  Application submitted 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 and under determination	NKDC <sup>6</sup>	No	23/1021/FUL	49.995MW	c. 4.6km north-east of the Energy Park Site at its closest point
9	<b>Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red</b>	SHDC	No	H09-0132-23	48MW	c. 19.7km southwest of Bicker Fen Substation

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4 Bassetlaw District Council and West Lindsey District Council

5 West Lindsey District Council

6 North Kesteven District Council

	Name of Scheme	LPA	NSIP	Reference Number	Size of Scheme	Distance from Application Site
	<b>House Farm, Holbeach Bank</b>  Application submitted 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 and under determination					
17 <sup>7</sup>	<b>Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane, Sleaford</b>  Application submitted 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023- awaiting determination.	NKDC	No	23/1419/FUL	49.9MW	c.10.5km east of the Heckington Fen Energy Park at its closest point
<b>Tier 2 Sites</b>						
10	<b>Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park</b>  Scoping Submitted and Response Published August 2022	PINS – SKDC, NKDC, BBC, SHC	Yes	ENO10126	50MW + (NSIP)	c.18.1 km south-west of the Energy Park Site at its closest point
11	<b>Tillbridge Solar Project</b>  Scoping Submitted and Response Published November 2022. Statutory Consultation	PINS- BDC & WLDC	Yes	ENO10142	50MW + (NSIP)	c. 47.7km north-west of the Energy Park Site at its closest point

<sup>7</sup> Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane, Sleaford; this project is now a Tier 1 and removed as a Tier 3 project. The numbering of this project remains as '17' to maintain consistency in the use of the number in 'Section 3: Assessment of Cumulative Project' in this document.

	Name of Scheme	LPA	NSIP	Reference Number	Size of Scheme	Distance from Application Site
	from 30 May to 11 July 2023. Targeted Statutory Consultation being undertaken between 14 December 2023 and 25 January 2024.					
12	<b>Beacon Fen Energy Park</b>  Scoping Submitted and Response Published May 2023 Statutory Consultation expected to commence on 22 January 2024.	PINS – NKDC & BBC	Yes	ENO10152	50MW + (NSIP)	c. 3.3km north west of the Energy Park Site. The Offsite Cable Route Corridor of this project and Heckington Fen’s intersect. The area of the possible crossing is south of the South Forty Foot Drain.
13	<b>Springwell Solar Farm</b>  Scoping Submitted and Response Published May 2023. Statutory Consultation commenced on 11 January 2024.	PINS– NKDC	Yes	ENO10149	50MW + (NSIP)	c. 15.5km north west of the Heckington Fen Energy Park Site at its closest point
14	<b>Fosse Green Energy</b>  Scoping Submitted and Response Published July 2023	PINS – NKDC	Yes	ENO10154	50MW + (NSIP)	c. 28.3km north west of the Heckington Fen Energy Park Site at its closest point
15	<b>One Earth Solar Farm</b>  Scoping Submitted 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	PINS– NSDC <sup>8</sup> ,	Yes	ENO10159	50MW + (NSIP)	c. 42.4km northwest of the Heckington Fen Energy Park Site at its closest point.



	Name of Scheme	LPA	NSIP	Reference Number	Size of Scheme	Distance from Application Site
		BDC, WLDC				
<b>Tier 3 Sites</b>						
<b>16</b>	<b>Lincolnshire Reservoir</b>  Pre application	PINS - NKDC	Yes	WA010003	50 million cubic metre (m <sup>3</sup> ) reservoir and water treatment works	c.6.9km west of the Offsite Grid Route at its closest point.

### 3. Assessment of Cumulative Projects

- 3.1. Cumulative projects identified in the updated shortlist as assessed by the ES technical team are set out in the section headings below.

## Landscape and Visual

### Introduction

- 3.2. This section of this document provides an update to the assessment of the potential cumulative landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development presented in **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual** (document reference 6.1.6/ PS-058 and PS-059), taking into account the additional cumulative sites as listed at **Table 2.1**.

### Assessment Approach

- 3.3. The cumulative schemes at **Table 2.1** have been considered and the distance from the Proposed Development, their landscape context, spatial and visual relationship, and potential for inter-visibility with the Proposed Development have been analysed.
- 3.4. The methodology and approach outlined in **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual** (document reference 6.1.6/ PS-058 and PS-059) remain valid and unchanged.
- 3.5. Consistent with the approach and methodology presented at the beginning of Section 6.7 of **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual** (document reference 6.1.6/ PS-058 and PS-059), out of the 17 no. of shortlisted cumulative projects at **Table 2.1** only those within the 3km study area are considered relevant.
- 3.6. Three of those shortlisted cumulative schemes, located within the 3km cumulative study area, have already been assessed at Revision 2 of **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual** (document reference 6.1.6/ PS-058 and PS-059) – these are identified at Paragraphs 6.7.14.
- 3.7. Therefore, it follows that the proposed cumulative Beacon Fen Energy Park (Reference Number: EN010152) is the only additional cumulative scheme relevant for the purpose of this document.

### Baseline Conditions

#### Landscape Character

- 3.8. The Beacon Fen Energy Park falls within Natural England National Character Areas (NCA) 44 Central Lincolnshire Vale and NCA 46 The Fens, thus in parts would be located within the same NCA 46 as the Proposed Development.
- 3.9. On the regional level, the Beacon Fen Energy Park project – particularly its main development area of solar modules, falls within the same host landscape: The Fens Regional Landscape

Character Type and the Fenland Landscape Character Sub-Area, as identified in the North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment 2007. The cable route corridor of the Beacon Fen Energy Park falls within the same landscape as the Off-site Cable Route Corridor, and National Grid Bicker Fen Substation – the LT A Reclaimed Fen and more specifically its LCA A1 Holland Reclaimed Fen, as identified in the Landscape Character Assessment of Boston 2009.

- 3.10. With regard to the visual receptors those located within the north western and western study area, and in the southern part of the study area – West Low Grounds and Bicker Fen, and around the existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation are relevant. The baseline presented in Revision 2 of **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual** (document reference 6.1.6/ PS-058 and PS-059) remains valid and appropriate.

## **Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects**

### **Construction Phase**

- 3.11. The construction stage of the Proposed Development and Beacon Fen Energy Park could occur at the same time, with the estimated construction programme for the Beacon Fen Energy Park currently detailed as running from 2026–2028 with the Proposed Development’s estimated construction programmed running from 2025–2027,

### **Landscape Elements – Construction Phase**

- 3.12. It is noted that the currently proposed cable route for the Beacon Fen Energy Park partially overlaps with the Order Limits of the Proposed Development – its Off-site Cable Route Corridor, within West Low Grounds and Bicker Fen, and around the existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation. It is envisaged that the cable route for the Beacon Fen Energy Park will be detailed further in the PEIR (not currently available) and DCO application (not currently available), similarly to the Proposed Development, thus will eventually be narrower than the currently proposed route.
- 3.13. The Proposed Development was assessed as bringing about major beneficial effects upon the hedgerow resource with moderate beneficial effects upon the tree resource and grassland within the Order Limits. Therefore, its additionality to the scenario where the cumulative Beacon Fen Energy Park is being constructed would not result in any adverse significant effects upon these and any other landscape elements associated within the Order Limits.

### **Landscape Character – Construction Phase**

- 3.14. A temporary change upon the character of the host landscape: NCA 46 The Fens, and The Fens Regional Landscape Character Type and its associated Fenland Landscape Character Sub-Area would occur. The very limited to no inter-visibility between the Energy Park Site and this part of the study area, coupled with the distance of c. 3.3km between the Beacon Fen Energy Park and the Energy Park Site – i.e., located just outside of the defined Zone of Influence, ensures that such temporary effects would not be significant during the construction phase.
- 3.15. With regard to the grid connection, assuming that both construction phases would occur simultaneously, the temporary effects upon the host LT A Reclaimed Fen and more

specifically its LCA A1 Holland Reclaimed Fen, as identified in the Landscape Character Assessment of Boston 2009, would be significant, yet highly localised. The significant effects would influence the character of the landscape during the construction stage of the Off-site Cable Route Corridor only, which is expected to be shorter than the overall 30-month long construction phase. Such significant effects are expected to be limited to area approx. 500m away from the Order Limits associated with the Off-site Cable Route Corridor.

- 3.16. Any potential cumulative effects upon the neighbouring national and regional levels landscapes are not expected to be significant.

#### **Visual Effects – Construction Phase**

- 3.17. There is the potential for significant cumulative visual effects to occur during the construction stage of the offsite cable routes – assuming that the construction of the grid connection for the Proposed Development would occur during the same time as that of the cumulative Beacon Fen Energy Park. Road receptors are expected to gain direct views of the construction activities as they travel through West Low Grounds and Bicker Fen, and around the existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation. The degree of change is assessed as high, at most, with the effects major adverse and significant.
- 3.18. It is unlikely that the users of local Public Rights of Way located within the West Low Grounds and Bicker Fen, and around the existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation, would experience significant adverse effects, given the distance and nature of views gained. This conclusion is supported by the assessment presented in Section 6.7 Cumulative and In-Combination Effects of **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual** (document reference 6.1.6/ PS-058 and PS-059).
- 3.19. With regard to the cumulative views of the Beacon Fen Energy Park and the Energy Park Site during the construction phase, the analysis presented in **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual** (document reference 6.1.6/ PS-058 and PS-059) gives evidence of the very limited to no-intervisibility between the proposed Energy Park and the north western quadrant of the study area. For reference, it is worth reiterating that none of the medium range or distant viewpoints identified in the western or north western part of the study area have been judged to be affected to a significant degree – refer to Table 6.6 page 41 and 42 of **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual** (document reference 6.1.6/ PS-058 and PS-059). Therefore, it follows that whilst certain aspects of the construction phase may be perceptible by the receptors present in the intervening landscape – plant movement as they cross the surrounding landscape and views of construction equipment, such views would be distant, restricted, and temporary, thus such effects are not expected to be significant.

#### **Operational Phase**

- 3.20. During the operational phase of the Proposed development its Offsite Cable Route Corridor would be underground and would not be visible, this would not exert any significant landscape character or visual effects.

#### **Landscape Elements – Operational Phase**

- 3.21. It is predicted that after the implementation of the proposed planting there would be no further effects, including any cumulative effects, upon the landscape elements associated with the Order Limits during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. The proposed planting will mature and this in turn would exert landscape character effects.





### **Landscape Character – Operational Phase**

- 3.22. It is accepted that the addition of the Proposed Development would cause some long term albeit temporary change to the character of the local landscape in cumulative terms.
- 3.23. With regard to the host NCA 46 The Fens, its underlying agricultural character and key characteristics would prevail and would not be significantly changed.
- 3.24. With regard to the host Landscape Character Type: The Fens Regional and its associated Fenland Landscape Character Sub-Area, its north western part would contain two large scale solar energy development and ancillary infrastructure. The landscape pattern would change and would comprise energy infrastructure located some distance apart (over 3km away from each other) set within the settled and working countryside. This change in itself would not be significant when taken the full extent of the host Fenland Landscape Character Sub-Area due to the distance between the cumulative schemes, scale of the landscape, big skies, foreshortened inter-visibility across this landscape, and intervening vegetation, that collectively serve to considerably reduce any adverse effects. It is anticipated, that similarly to the Proposed Development, the cumulative Beacon Fen Energy Park would cause some highly localised significant effects with the site itself and immediately around it, when judged in isolation. Given the distance between the two schemes the zone of significant landscape character effects is considered to be set sufficiently apart as not to cause any significant cumulative landscape character effects. For reference, LVIA Viewpoint 17 and Viewpoint 18 and Viewpoint 19 (document reference 6.2.6 / APP-143) along with Viewpoint 20 and Viewpoint 21 (document reference 6.2.6 / APP-144) have not been judged to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development when judged in isolation, thus there is no potential for any cumulative effects upon the perceptual or sensory aspect of the landscape character. It is worth reiterating that the residual landscape character effects of the Proposed Development upon the wider host landscape, when judged in isolation, were assessed as not being significant. Therefore, it follows that in cumulative terms any residual landscape character effects would not be significant either.

### **Visual Effects – Operational Phase**

- 3.25. As stated above, there are a number of viewpoints located in the western and north western part of the study area, which can assist in analysing the potential cumulative visual effects, and whether such effects would be significant: LVIA Viewpoint 17 and Viewpoint 18 and Viewpoint 19 (document reference 6.2.6 / APP-143) along with Viewpoint 20 and Viewpoint 21 (document reference 6.2.6 / APP-144). None of the receptors associated with these locations have been assessed as subject to significant effects, when judged in isolation – refer to Table 6.8 page 48 and 49 of **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual** (document reference 6.1.6/ PS-O58 and PS-O59).
- 3.26. Given the distance, intervening vegetation, and in sequence nature of the views it is concluded that none of the above mentioned receptors would be subject to significant cumulative visual effects.

### **Decommissioning Phase**

- 3.27. Assuming that the decommissioning stage of the Offsite Cable Route Corridor overlaps with that of the decommissioning of the Beacon Fen Energy Park offsite cables, it is

predicted that the same significant cumulative effects would be experienced as those assessed during the construction stage.

## Mitigation and Enhancement

- 3.28. Given the already proposed mitigation planting associated with the Proposed Development, no further mitigation or enhancement measures are considered necessary.
- 3.29. The 'Mitigation and Enhancement' section 6.6 of Revision 2 of the **Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual** (document reference 6.1.6/ PS-058 and PS-059) remain valid and unchanged.

## Residual Cumulative Effects

- 3.30. There are no mitigation measures applicable to the proposed Off-site Cable Route Corridor that would reduce the established significant cumulative landscape character and visual (road receptors only) effects during the construction phase.
- 3.31. None of the residual effects experienced during the operational phase of the Proposed Development are expected to be significant given the above analysis.

## Conclusion

- 3.32. In cumulative terms, the addition of the Proposed Development would cause **no significant cumulative effects** upon the character of the local landscape or visual receptors associated with this area.



## Residential and Amenity

### Introduction

- 3.33. **Chapter 7 – Residential Visual Amenity** (document reference 6.1.7/ PS-060 and PS-061) excluded cumulative assessment due to the distance between the cumulative developments and the fact that the primary focus of the analysis was the operational stage of the Energy Park and whether any significant effects would be overbearing.
- 3.34. Given the distance of over 3km between the Beacon Fen Energy Park and the Energy Park Site – i.e., located just outside of the defined Zone of Influence, none of the visual cumulative effects upon the nearby residential receptors are expected to be significant.
- 3.35. Therefore, no further assessment is progressed, and it is anticipated **no significant cumulative effects** upon identified residential receptors local to the Proposed Development.

## Ecology and Ornithology

### Introduction

- 3.36. This section of this document provides an update of the potential cumulative effects in combination with the Proposed Development in relation to Ecology and Ornithology. As there is no potential for cumulative effects where a proposed development has a negligible effect, this updated cumulative assessment only considers the 'moderate adverse' effect in relation to ground nesting birds (inc. Skylark and Yellow Wagtail) and any permanent loss of breeding habitat that may arise from the Proposed Development.

### Assessment Approach

- 3.37. A review of all shortlisted cumulative projects as per **Table 2.1** of this document has been undertaken as part of this cumulative effects assessment update.
- 3.38. The revised list of projects has led to a change in the number of cumulative projects being assessed when compared to those listed in **Chapter 8. Ecology and Ornithology** (document reference 6.1.8/PS-063) which, at the time of submission identified **no significant cumulative negative effects**.
- 3.39. Following the submission of this report three sites, namely 'Land at Ewerby Thorpe', 'Land at White Cross Lane' and 'Land South of Gorse Lane' have now been removed from the assessment whilst the following five sites are now included in the assessment: 'Beacon Fen', 'Springwell', 'Fosse Green', 'One Earth' and 'Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane, Sleaford'. An explanation of why these 3No. sites have been removed from the cumulative list is provided in Section 2 of this report.

The assessment of significant effects presented in **Chapter 8 Ecology and Ornithology** (document reference 6.1.8/PS-063) considered the impact of 'disturbance, injury or mortality during construction' upon breeding birds that may result from the proposed Solar Park development. The assessment presented in Chapter 8 concluded that this 'minor adverse' effect would not be significant. However, there is also a need to consider the potential for ground nesting birds (inc. skylark and yellow wagtail) to be impacted by the 'permanent loss of breeding habitat' resulting from the Solar Park both in isolation and cumulatively with other projects in the locality. The magnitude of impact and significant effect of the permanent loss of breeding bird habitat is set out in **Table 3.1** below.

**Table 3.1: Summary of Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect**

Receptor	Effect description	Value of Effect	Sensitivity/ Magnitude	Geographical Importance	Effect Category	Significant Effect?
Ground Nesting Birds (inc. skylark and yellow wagtail).	Permanent loss of breeding habitat	Long term / Direct	Medium/High	District	Moderate adverse	Yes

## Baseline Conditions

- 3.40. The baseline conditions remain valid as per the 'Baseline Conditions' section 8.4 in the updated **Chapter 8: Ecology and Ornithology** (document reference 6.1.8/PS-063).

## Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects

- 3.41. The updated cumulative assessment has identified 17 developments (see Table 2.1) which could potentially result in cumulative impacts upon the regions biodiversity and nature conservation value.
- 3.42. Cumulative effects on biodiversity can occur when nearby development causes significant changes in the nature conservation value of the local ecology and in combination may cause cumulative effects such as,
- Removing the majority of a particular habitat in an area, or
  - Removing alternative foraging or breeding habitat for a particular species, or
  - Creating a new area of habitat which in combination may create new habitat that then allows a particular species to expand its range and the population to increase.
- 3.43. Calculations presented within the submitted ES Ecology and Ornithology Chapter (document reference 6.1.8/PS-063) identified how cumulative solar developments, when combined with Heckington Fen, would cover approximately 7,000ha of land, which is representative of a loss of approximately 1.5% of the farmland habitat in Lincolnshire. This loss could have impacts upon a reduced habitat resource for ground nesting birds including both Skylark and Yellow Wagtail, both of which have been recorded at Heckington Fen.
- 3.44. The projects identified in **Table 2.1** will all result in overall loss of arable farmland in the region and therefore have potential to reduce opportunities for nesting or foraging by ground nesting birds. Furthermore, several of the developments specifically identify ground nesting birds as requiring mitigation to ensure no impacts occur. These schemes include Cottam, West Burton and Gate Burton DCOs. It is considered that in isolation the Proposed Development has incorporated a strategy of avoidance, retention and mitigation to ensure that impacts and effects upon the sites identified ecological receptors have been either minimised or fully avoided.
- 3.45. The following paragraphs assess the likelihood of a residual adverse cumulative effect on ecology or ornithology. Whilst not all of the projects identified in **Table 2.1** have mitigation proposals that are currently in the public domain as many are in at pre-app or scoping stages in the DCO process it is assumed for the purpose of this cumulative assessment that the need for sufficient mitigation has either been set out in existing, or will be provided in forthcoming, Environmental Statements and that these mitigation strategies will ensure each individual project would not result in residual adverse effects for ecology or ornithology.
- 3.46. Therefore, it is also assumed that no project listed would result in a residual adverse cumulative effect on ecology or ornithology. As such, it is considered that the proposed cumulative developments will also not have a significant adverse effect on the ecological



receptor of ground nesting birds, or the habitat required by the ground nesting bird population.

## Mitigation and Enhancement

- 3.47. No further mitigation and enhancement measures are anticipated, to those set out in the **Chapter 8: Ecology and Ornithology** (document reference 6.1.8/PS-063).

## Residual Cumulative Effects

- 3.48. The residual cumulative effects of the Proposed Development upon ground nesting birds (inc. Skylark and Yellow Wagtail) remain as per the conclusions drawn in the 'Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects' in the Ecology and Ornithology section of this document (paragraph 3.41-3.46) and in the **Chapter 8: Ecology and Ornithology** (document reference 6.1.8/PS-063).

## Conclusion

- 3.49. In conclusion, **no significant cumulative effects** resulting from the assessment of the projects listed in **Table 2.1** of this document are anticipated during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases of the proposed development.

# Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage

## Introduction

- 3.50. This section of the document provides an update regarding the potential cumulative effects in combination with the Proposed Development, in relation to Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage.

## Assessment Approach

- 3.51. Consideration and a review of all shortlisted cumulative projects as per **Table 2.1** of this document has been undertaken as part of this cumulative effects assessment update. The methodology set out in **Chapter 9: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage** (document reference 6.1.9/PS-O64) applies.

## Baseline Conditions

- 3.52. The description of baseline conditions remains valid, as set out in **Chapter 9: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage** (document reference 6.1.9/PS-O64).

## Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects

- 3.53. Other projects will be subject to compliance with local and national and where relevant local policies and therefore required to demonstrate (amongst other matters) that flood risk is not increased, that the surface water drainage regime and surface water quality are not adversely affected and that groundwater aquifers are not affected. Without demonstrating compliance, DCO consent (or planning permission, as relevant) would not be granted and construction could not commence. On this basis, **no significant cumulative effects** resulting from the shortlisted projects in **Table 2.1** of this document are anticipated during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases.

## Mitigation and Enhancement

- 3.54. No mitigation and enhancement measures are required in regard to cumulative effects.

## Residual Cumulative Effects

- 3.55. There will be no residual cumulative effects in respect of Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage and the conclusions of **Chapter 9: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage** (document reference 6.1.9/PS-O64) are unchanged.

## Conclusion

- 3.56. In conclusion, it is anticipated there will be no cumulative effects with other projects resulting from the assessment of the shortlist of projects listed in **Table 2.1** of this document during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases. Therefore a '**not significant**' determination applies.



## Cultural Heritage

### Introduction

- 3.57. This section of this document provides an update of the potential cumulative effects for the Proposed Development, in relation to Cultural Heritage.

### Assessment Approach

- 3.58. Consideration and a review of all shortlisted cumulative projects as per **Table 2.1** of this document has been undertaken as part of this cumulative effects assessment update.
- 3.59. The same 'Assessment Methodology' in **Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage** (document reference 6.1.10, APP-063) applies.

### Baseline Conditions

- 3.60. The baseline conditions remain valid as per the 'Baseline Conditions' in **Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage** (document reference 6.1.10, Revision 2).

### Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects

- 3.61. Four projects that were considered in **Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage** (document reference 6.1.10, APP-063) are no longer shortlisted for cumulative assessment (see Section 2).
- 3.62. Six projects (No. 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 of **Table 2.1**) in the updated cumulative shortlist were not previously considered in **Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage** (document reference 6.1.10, APP-063). Cumulative effects for both archaeology and built heritage are anticipated only in relation to Beacon Fen Energy Park (No. 12). Of the remaining schemes, none will have an effect on the archaeological or built heritage resource of the land being considered for the Proposed Development; and none are anticipated to have an effect on heritage assets considered sensitive to the Proposed Development through change to setting.
- 3.63. The Beacon Fen Energy Park Scoping Report does not provide any detailed commentary on that scheme's potential cultural heritage sensitivities. However, Figure 1.3 of the Scoping Report shows that the Beacon Fen Energy Park Order Limits intersect with the Proposed Development's Order Limits and also that there is overlap in the Zones of Theoretical Visibility for the two schemes.
- 3.64. The Beacon Fen Energy Park Cable Route corridor crosses the following components of the Proposed Development:
- Access tracks to the east of South Forty Foot Drain;
  - A c.520m length/c.60m width of the cable route near West Low Grounds; and
  - All access tracks, cable route, and point of connection south of Bicker Drove and at the Bicker Fen Substation.

- 3.65. These are areas that have not yet been fully evaluated by the Proposed Development's own archaeological trial trenching. However, no significant archaeological remains are anticipated on the basis of the results of the desk-based assessment and a geophysical survey undertaken on behalf of the Heckington Fen Proposed Development. The **Outline Written Scheme of Investigation – Mitigation** (document reference 7.14 / APP-245) makes provision for/commitment to mitigation should archaeological remains of interest be encountered by the forthcoming works. The residual effect is expected to be no more than minor harm to significance.
- 3.66. Should archaeological remains of interest (also) be encountered by potential archaeological investigations carried out for the Beacon Fen Energy Park, mitigation would similarly be required. It is not possible to attribute a residual effect at this stage, but if it were likewise minor harm to significance, there would be a minor cumulative effect.
- 3.67. The Zone of Theoretical Visibility for the Beacon Fen Energy Park, provided as Figure 1.3 of the Beacon Fen Scoping Report, indicates that the scheme would be visible from three heritage assets assessed for the Proposed Development in **Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage** (document reference 6.1.10, APP-O63):
- Roman Settlement of Holme House, a Scheduled Monument;
  - South Kyme Tower, a Grade I Listed Building;
  - Mill Green Farmhouse, a non-designated heritage asset.
- 3.68. For the Proposed Development, minor harm to Mill Green Farmhouse has been identified – arising through change to landscape character of part of its historic agricultural landholding as experienced in designed views from the primary (south-facing) elevation of the asset across the northern part of the Energy Park. Meanwhile there appears to be no historical or direct visual association between Mill Green Farmhouse and the land proposed for Beacon Fen Energy Park. As such, it is considered that Beacon Fen does not contribute through setting to the significance of Mill Green Farmhouse, and so any intervisibility of Beacon Fen Energy Park and the asset would be largely incidental. No cumulative effect is anticipated.
- 3.69. For the Proposed Development, it is considered that neither the Energy Park site nor the Cable Route contribute through setting to the significance of the Roman Settlement. Although no setting assessment for this asset is yet publicly available for Beacon Fen Energy Park, there are considered to be no possible cumulative effects with the Proposed Development as no harm has been anticipated from the Proposed Development.
- 3.70. For the Proposed Development, some visibility of the Energy Park site is anticipated in certain views from and towards South Kyme Tower. This is considered largely coincidental of the flat, low-lying landscape context. Given, too, the long-ranging nature of the views and the present-day landscape character, much changed from when the tower was built and in use, it is considered that the Energy Park does not contribute through setting to the significance of South Kyme Tower.
- 3.71. Although no setting assessment for this asset is yet publicly available for Beacon Fen Energy Park, Figure 1.3 of the Beacon Fen Energy Park Scoping Report indicates there will be intervisibility of this scheme and South Kyme Tower. Regardless of whether this does or does not equate to harm to the significance of the asset, there are considered to be no cumulative

effects with the Proposed Development as no harm has been anticipated from the Proposed Development.

- 3.72. In summary, a minor cumulative effect (not significant) has been identified for archaeology in relation the areas where the offsite cable route for Beacon Fen Energy cross sections of the Offsite Cable Route Corridor for the Heckington Fen Proposed Development. No cumulative effects have been identified for built heritage in relation to any scheme listed in **Table 2.1**.

## Mitigation and Enhancement

- 3.73. No additional mitigation measures are proposed for the potential buried archaeological resource within the part of the Heckington Fen Cable Route shared by Beacon Fen Energy Park.
- 3.74. The 'Mitigation' section title in Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage (document reference 6.1.10, APP-063) remains valid and unchanged.

## Residual Cumulative Effects

- 3.75. The residual cumulative effects remain as per the conclusions drawn in the 'Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects' in the Cultural Heritage section of this document (paragraphs 3.34–3.45).

## Conclusion

- 3.76. In conclusion, **no significant cumulative effects** resulting from the assessment of the projects listed in **Table 2.1** of this document are anticipated during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.

## Socio-Economics

### Introduction

- 3.77. This section determines the likely cumulative socio-economic effects of the Proposed Development.
- 3.78. This assessment identifies the socio-economic baseline in relation to key economic and social variables (as is presented in Section 11.4 in ES **Chapter 11- Socio Economics** [document reference 6.1.11/PS-O67]). It then examines the potential effects that could occur, both direct and indirect, resulting from the Proposed Development and those Cumulative Schemes which are scoped into the assessment, during construction (short term effects), operation (long term effects), and decommissioning (short term effects).

### Assessment Approach

- 3.79. Of the seventeen Cumulative Projects presented within **Table 2.1** Cumulative Projects Shortlist, a total of nine have been scoped into the assessment in respect of potential cumulative socio-economic effects. **Table 3.2** lists those Cumulative Projects that have been scoped into the assessment. The scope of the cumulative assessment also has considered the administrative area in which each of the cumulative scheme is located in comparison to the Proposed Development combined with the potential for overlap of effects within the context of the socio-economic assessment and scale of considered study area. As such, those schemes located within North Kesteven and Boston districts are scoped into the assessment; all others are scoped out.
- 3.80. It is noted that Cumulative Project no. 16 listed in **Table 2.1** of this report, Lincolnshire Reservoir, is located within NKDC. However, it has been scoped out due the fact that, following a desk-top search, there is currently no information publicly available regarding socio-economic effects or assumptions of a scheme of this nature and scale that could be used in the cumulative effects assessment. Therefore, any analysis would be extremely high level and not, in our professional opinion, considered sufficiently robust.
- 3.81. The cumulative assessment approach aims to enable a robust assessment whilst also presenting a realistic consideration of the cumulative effects at the local scale (North Kesteven and Boston districts). **Table 3.3** presents the assumptions on which the cumulative assessment in respect of socio-economic effects has been undertaken.
- 3.82. Where possible, definitive information regarding estimated jobs, obtained through a review of publicly available documentation on the National Infrastructure Planning website or local authority planning portals, whichever is applicable to each cumulative scheme.
- 3.83. Where quantified information is not available, assumptions are made. Assumptions made are dependent on the potential effect in consideration with the aim of presenting a worst-case assessment of each potential effect.
- 3.84. In terms of assessment of significance, the approach remains as stated within ES Chapter 11 [PS-O67] (see paras 11.3.4 to 11.3.6, and inclusive of Tables 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3).

**Table 3.2- Cumulative Project Shortlist – Scoped into Socio-Economic assessment**

<b>Site ref</b>	<b>Ti er</b>	<b>Name of Scheme</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Vicarage Drove</b> Approved with conditions 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2022.  (B/21/0443)
<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Land West of Cowbridge Road, Bicker Fen, Boston</b>  Approved with conditions 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023
<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Boston Alternative Energy Facility</b>  Granted Development Consent 6th July 2023
<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Land at Little Hale Fen</b>  Application submitted 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 and under determination
<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park</b>  Scoping Submitted and Response Published August 2022
<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Beacon Fen Energy Park</b>  Scoping Submitted and Response Published May 2023
<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Springwell Solar Farm</b>  Scoping Submitted and Response Published May 2023
<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Fosse Green Energy</b>  Scoping Submitted and Response Published July 2023
<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane, Sleaford</b>  Application submitted 28th November 2023- awaiting determination.

**Table 3.3- Socio-Economic assessment – cumulative effects assumptions**

Scheme phase	Potential effect	Worst Case Assumptions
Construction	Employment	Unless information is publicly available regarding construction jobs generated by the cumulative scheme, it is assumed that 0 jobs are generated at the local scale to contribute to a worst-case scenario in respect of employment.
	Economic contribution	Unless information is publicly available regarding GVA generated by the construction phase of the cumulative scheme, it is assumed that £0 GVA is generated to contribute to a worst-case scenario in respect of economic contribution.
	Accommodation demand	In the absence of definitive publicly available information regarding each considered Cumulative Site, and based on a review of the number of construction workers generated as a result of a solar farms previously assessed by Pegasus, benchmarking process undertaken of similar scale schemes in the UK, as well as information provided by prospective construction contractors, an estimate of 1 job per MW has been used as the basis of assessment in respect of Accommodation demand. It is assumed that the construction phases align with that of the Proposed Development, and the number of workers requiring accommodation during the construction phase of the Cumulative Scheme also aligns with those needing accommodation during construction phase of the Proposed Development, i.e., up to 75% workers seeking accommodation in either Serviced or Non-Serviced Accommodation. This enables a worst-case assessment to be undertaken in terms of Accommodation Demand.

Scheme phase	Potential effect	Worst Case Assumptions
Operation	Employment	Unless information is publicly available regarding operational jobs generated by the cumulative scheme, it is assumed that 0 jobs are generated at the local scale to contribute to a worst-case scenario in respect of employment.
	Economic contribution	Unless information is publicly available regarding GVA generated by the operational phase of the cumulative scheme, it is assumed that £0 GVA is generated to contribute to a worst-case scenario in respect of economic contribution.
	Business rates	Unless information is publicly available regarding business rates generated by the operational phase of the cumulative projects, it is assumed that £0 is generated to contribute to a worst-case scenario.
Decommissioning	Employment	Unless information is publicly available regarding decommissioning jobs generated by the cumulative scheme, it is assumed that 0 jobs are generated at the local scale to contribute to a worst-case scenario in respect of employment.
	Economic contribution	Unless information is publicly available regarding GVA generated by the decommissioning phase of the cumulative scheme, it is assumed that £0 GVA is generated to contribute to a worst-case scenario in respect of economic contribution.
	Accommodation demand	In the absence of definitive publicly available information regarding each considered Cumulative Site, and based on a review of the number of decommissioning workers generated as a result of a solar farms previously assessed by Pegasus, benchmarking process undertaken of similar scale schemes in the UK, as well as information provided by prospective construction contractors and the Applicant, an estimate of 0.5 FTE jobs



Scheme phase	Potential effect	Worst Case Assumptions
		<p>per MW has been used as the basis of assessment in respect of Accommodation demand during decommissioning. It is assumed that the decommissioning phases align with that of the Proposed Development, and the number of workers requiring accommodation during the construction phase of the Cumulative Scheme also aligns with those needing accommodation during decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development, i.e., up to 75% workers seeking accommodation in either Serviced or Non-Serviced Accommodation. This enables a worst case assessment to be undertaken in terms of Accommodation Demand.</p>

## Baseline Conditions

- 3.85. For information on baseline conditions please refer to Section 11.4 in ES Chapter 11 [PS-067].

## Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects

### Significance of the Cumulative Construction Phase Effects

#### Employment

- 3.86. Estimated jobs created as a result of the construction phase are publicly available for two of the Cumulative Schemes located within North Kesteven administrative area: Boston Alternative Energy Facility estimated to generate between 250–300 (250 is used because it is the lowest estimated number of jobs and therefore presents a worst case scenario), Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park estimated to generate 126 on site construction phase jobs. An assumption is made regarding the remaining Cumulative Schemes located within North Kesteven that 0 jobs are generated at the local scale so as to contribute a worst-case scenario in respect of cumulative employment effects during the construction phase. The known 376 on-site construction phase jobs generated by two of the cumulative schemes combined with the number of on-site construction phase jobs generated by the Proposed Development is 812.
- 3.87. The significance of cumulative construction phase effect in respect of employment is assessed as follows:
- The sensitivity of the receptor (employment in construction and other sectors of the economy in North Kesteven and Boston) is assessed as being **medium**, in line with the

criteria set out in Table 11.1. Construction employment represents around 7% of total employment in North Kesteven and 3.7% in Boston.

- The magnitude of the impact is assessed as **medium**, in line with the criteria in Table 11.2. A total of 812 on-site construction phase jobs are created by the Proposed Development (436 jobs) and Cumulative Schemes for which estimated job numbers are publicly available (376). This represents a moderate increase in the number of new employment opportunities for local residents, for a temporary period of time.
- The significance of the temporary cumulative effect in respect of employment is therefore considered to be **moderate beneficial** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **significant** in EIA terms.

#### Contribution to Economic Output

3.88. Unless information is publicly available regarding GVA generated by the construction phase of the cumulative scheme, it is assumed that £0 GVA is generated to contribute to a worst-case scenario in respect of economic contribution. Other than the Proposed Development, there is no information publicly available for the cumulative schemes with regard to economic contribution. Therefore, it is assumed that total GVA supported by all cumulative schemes totals at least £190.6million, equivalent to £76.2million per annum.

3.89. The significance of cumulative construction phase effect in respect of contribution to economic output is assessed as follows:

- The sensitivity of the receptor in North Kesteven and Boston is assessed as being **medium**, in line with the criteria set out in Table 11.1. GVA in the North Kesteven construction sector increased 26% between 2010 and 2020 and 83.3% in Boston in the same time period.
- The magnitude of the impact is assessed as **high**, in line with the criteria in Table 11.2. The £190.6million in GVA generated over the 30-month build timeframe (current prices), equivalent to £76.2million per annum. This would cause a large uplift in construction GVA in both North Kesteven and Boston (North Kesteven annual construction GVA amounts to £243million, therefore a 31.4% uplift is estimated, and Boston construction GVA amounts to £61million, therefore a 125% uplift is estimated).
- The significance of the temporary cumulative effect in respect of economic output is therefore considered to be **major beneficial** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **significant** in EIA terms.

#### Accommodation Demand

3.90. The approach to Accommodation Demand applied within ES Chapter 11 [PS-067] for the Proposed Development in isolation is applied in respect of cumulative effects assessment. It is estimated that, based on Ready Reckoners in respect of Leakage defined by the Additionality Guide (2014), between 50% and 75% of benefits of the construction period will go to people living outside of the local area when considering baseline characteristics of North Kesteven and Boston economies. By association, it can be estimated that between 50% and 75% of construction workers will need to be sourced from outside of the local area. For a worst-case scenario, it is assumed that 75% of workers will be sourced from outside the local area and will require accommodation for the duration of the construction period.

- 3.91. For those schemes where estimated construction workers are publicly available (Proposed Development 436 workers, Boston Alternative Energy Facility 250 workers, and Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park 126 workers), it is possible to estimate the proportion of the workers that will require accommodation based on the assumed 75% Leakage (Proposed Development 327 workers, Boston Alternative Energy Facility 188 workers, and Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park 95 workers).
- 3.92. Assumptions regarding all other Cumulative Projects scoped into the assessment are applied as per **Table 3.3** earlier in this section to ascertain the potential worst-case scenario in terms of the number of workers requiring accommodation during the construction period.
- 3.93. **Table 3.4** summarises the assumptions made regarding FTE jobs and proportion needing accommodation during the construction phase for the Proposed Development and all Cumulative Projects scoped into the assessment.

**Table 3.4: Cumulative assessment assumptions – Accommodation demand during construction phase**

Cumulative Scheme	Proposal summary	Number of FTE jobs generated during construction (Publicly known / Estimated)	Assumed number of workers needing accommodation during construction phase
Proposed Development – Heckington Fen (data publicly known)	See ES Chapter 4 for full detail	436	327
Vicarage Drove (data estimated)	49.9MW solar farm	50	38
Land West of Cowbridge Road, Bicker Fen, Boston (data estimated)	49.9MW solar farm	50	38
Boston Alternative Energy Facility (data publicly known)	DCO energy from waste facility	250	188
Land at Little Hale Fen	49.9 MW solar farm	50	38

(data estimated)			
Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park (data publicly known)	250MW Solar Farm	126	95
Beacon Fen Energy Park (data estimated)	400MW solar farm	400	300
Springwell Solar Farm (data estimated)	800MW solar farm	800	600
Fosse Green Energy (data estimated)	320MW solar farm	320	240
Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane (data estimated)	49.9MW solar farm	50 <sup>9</sup>	38
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,532</b>	<b>1,899</b>

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<sup>9</sup> The Construction Traffic Management Plan (1<sup>st</sup> December 2023) for Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane (NKDC reference: 23/1419/FUL), lists a 'maximum of up to 40 construction workers are anticipated to be on site during peak times during the construction period'. The current assessment uses an estimate of 50 construction workers, and therefore a worst case scenario is assessed. The figure is not updated to 40 workers as the change will not affect the conclusions drawn for the cumulative assessment of relevant projects in regard to socio-economics.

- 3.94. **Table 3.4** indicates that, based on an assumed 75% Leakage, there is estimated to be 1,899 construction workers requiring accommodation in Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation in North Kesteven and Boston as a result of the Proposed Development and Cumulative Projects.
- 3.95. **Table 3.5** shows that, following accommodation of the 1,899 construction workers, in addition to the assumed occupancy rate of Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation, there would be surplus capacity in five of the twelve months of the year in North Kesteven, with deficits for the other seven months.
- 3.96. **Table 3.6** shows accommodation of all 1,899 construction workers within the available Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation bedspaces within Boston, in addition to assumed occupancy. The table shows that there would be surplus capacity in three of the twelve months of the year, with deficits for the other nine months.
- 3.97. **Table 3.7** shows the Boston and North Kesteven available Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation bedspaces combined, following accommodation of the 1,899 construction workers, and applying assumed occupancy rates. The table shows that there would be surplus capacity in all months of the year other than August, during which there is a projected deficit of just 14 bedspaces.
- 3.98. A key consideration in assessing the cumulative impact of a Proposed Development is considering the likelihood of this effect occurring within a cumulative timescale. The likelihood of cumulative schemes gaining DCO consent and secondly the likelihood that their construction, operation and decommissioning timescales will overlap with the Proposed Development are all valid considerations when determining the *likelihood of effect*. As shown within **Table 3.2**, 5No. of the schemes considered within this socio-economic assessment are Tier 2 or Tier 3 projects. The projected timescales which have been used to complete this cumulative assessment are taken from the publicly available documents.
- 3.99. None of the Tier 2/3 schemes have yet been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate or (for the case of TCPA applications) the Local Planning Authority for determination. As a result, no assessment of these schemes, both technically and against policy, can take place to determine the likelihood of them gaining consent. In addition, none of the applicants have any legal obligation to comply with the timescales they are currently presenting within the public domain as all are in the pre-submission phases of development. It is the professional judgement of the socio-economic technical experts that the likelihood of effect of these Tier 2 and 3 schemes being submitted, consented, built, operated and decommissioned in the same timescales as the Heckington Fen development are very low.
- 3.100. This likelihood of effect has been taken into account when determining the magnitude of impact of the cumulative impact of the construction phases.
- 3.101. Considering the above, the significance of construction phase accommodation demand effects is assessed as follows:
- The sensitivity of the receptor in North Kesteven and Boston is assessed as being **medium**, in line with the criteria set out in Table 11.1 of ES Chapter 11 [PS-O67]. Tourism is a growing sector in both of the Districts and wider area.
  - The magnitude of the impact is assessed as **low**, in line with the criteria in Table 11.2 of ES Chapter 11 [PS-O67]. There will be a change in terms of the use of the existing

amenities. This is particularly noted when considering the potential worst-case scenario of all 1,899 workers requiring accommodation within either North Kesteven or Boston district alone, as opposed to the demand being split between the two districts. When considering the combined effect of demand being spread between both North Kesteven and Boston, only one month of a twelve-month period are estimated to be in deficit in terms of accommodation demand. However, when considering the magnitude of impact, consideration has to be given to both the possible impacts of cumulative development but also the likelihood of effect of these cumulative impacts occurring. As can be seen from the paragraphs above the likelihood of effects from these possible impacts occurring at the same time as the construction phase of the Proposed Development are very low.

- The significance of the temporary effect is therefore considered to be **minor to moderate adverse** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

3.102. In reality, the assessment shown here in respect of cumulative accommodation demand during the construction phase is extremely worst case, and the realistic outlook is likely to be limited in comparison, so much as to avoid any deficit in terms of available bedspaces as a result of accommodating construction workers for the Proposed Development and considered Cumulative Projects.

3.103. The key reasons for this are as follows:

- The number of workers is estimated based on absolute worst-case assumptions. Furthermore, in respect of the Proposed Development in isolation, from a worst-case perspective we are assuming that 436 workers would be required for the whole 30-month construction period, when in reality a peak of 400 on-site workers is likely for a period of up to 6 months, and no more than 150 workers for the remaining 24 months. This is likely to be a similar pattern between peak and non-peak construction workers for the other schemes scoped into the assessment.
- The assumed Leakage of 75% of workers being outsourced from the local districts is again absolute worst case. An Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan (document reference 7.12 / APP-067) has been prepared and submitted with the application. The final detailed (OSCESP) will endeavour to ensure that the contractor will source as many workers as possible from within North Kesteven and Boston districts.
- It is unlikely that Town and County Planning Authority (TCPA) sized schemes would need to source 75% of their workers from outside the local area. Therefore, although an absolute worst-case scenario is assessed, it is more realistic to expect that a lower proportion of workers would be sourced from outside the local area and therefore fewer workers would require accommodation during the construction periods.
- It is highly unlikely that workers would be accommodated in just one of the districts. The more realistic outlook is that accommodation requirements of workers would be spread between the two districts of North Kesteven and Boston.
- It is highly unlikely that the construction programme for all of the nine Cumulative Projects and the Proposed Development will exactly align and therefore the realistic demand on accommodation is not expected to be as pronounced as is shown in **Tables 3.5 – 3.7** and as described in paras 3.98 – 3.103 of this report.



**Table 3. 5: Assumed occupancy of Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation including housing of workers during the construction phase for North Kesteven (based on 2022 data)**

	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation bedspaces	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455
Actual number of bedspaces occupied	1,009	1,165	1,509	1,852	1,975	2,144	2,319	2,325	2,079	1,749	1,405	1,068
Construction workers requiring accommodation	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899
Occupancy rate inclusive of construction workers	0.84	0.89	0.99	1.09	1.12	1.17	1.22	1.22	1.15	1.06	0.96	0.86
Actual number of bedspaces occupied	2,908	3,064	3,408	3,751	3,874	4,043	4,218	4,224	3,978	3,648	3,304	2,967
Available bedspaces following housing of accommodation workers	547	391	47	-296	-419	-588	-763	-769	-523	-193	151	488





**Table 3.6: Assumed occupancy of Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation including housing of workers during the construction phase for Boston (based on 2022 data)**

	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation bedspaces	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588
Actual number of bedspaces occupied	546	635	991	1,347	1,461	1,606	1,791	1,833	1,528	1,203	847	583
Construction workers requiring accommodation	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899
Occupancy rate inclusive of construction workers	0.94	0.98	1.12	1.25	1.30	1.35	1.43	1.44	1.32	1.20	1.06	0.96
Actual number of bedspaces occupied	2,445	2,534	2,890	3,246	3,360	3,505	3,690	3,732	3,427	3,102	2,746	2,482
Available bedspaces following housing of accommodation workers	143	54	-302	-658	-772	-917	-1,102	-1,144	-839	-514	-158	106



**Table 3.7: Assumed occupancy of Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation including housing of workers during the construction phase (based on North Kesteven 2019 data and Boston 2022 data)**

	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation bedspaces	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043
Actual number of bedspaces occupied	1,555	1,800	2,500	3,199	3,436	3,750	4,110	4,158	3,608	2,952	2,252	1,650
Construction workers requiring accommodation	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899	1,899
Occupancy rate inclusive of construction workers	0.57	0.61	0.73	0.84	0.88	0.93	0.99	1.00	0.91	0.80	0.69	0.59
Actual number of bedspaces occupied	3,454	3,699	4,399	5,098	5,335	5,649	6,009	6,057	5,507	4,851	4,151	3,549
Available bedspaces following housing of accommodation workers	2,589	2,344	1,644	945	708	394	34	-14	536	1,192	1,892	2,494

## Significance of the Cumulative Operational Phase Effects

### Employment Impact

- 3.104. There are only three schemes for which information regarding operational jobs is available: the Proposed Development (6.5 jobs), Land West of Cowbridge Road (3.5 jobs), and Boston Alternative Energy Facility (72 jobs). Therefore, based on this available information, it is estimated that there will be 82 operational jobs generated and retained within the North Kesteven and Boston workforce.
- 3.105. There is no publicly available information regarding operational jobs for the other Cumulative Schemes located within North Kesteven. As such, in order to assess a worst-case scenario, no additional operational jobs at the local scale are assumed related to any other Cumulative Projects beyond those referred to in para 3.61.
- 3.106. The significance of the cumulative operational phase effect in respect of employment has been assessed as follows:
- The sensitivity of the receptor (labour market of North Kesteven and Boston) is considered to be **medium**, in line with the criteria set out in Table 11.1 of ES Chapter 11 [PS-067].
  - The magnitude of the impact is identified as being **low**, in line with the criteria in Table 11.2 of ES Chapter 11 [PS-067]. The number of on-site jobs created in the operational phase (82) would represent a small increase in current employment levels in North Kesteven and Boston, but the employment supported by the operational phase will be long-term.
  - The significance of the cumulative operational effect in terms of employment is therefore considered to be **minor to moderate beneficial** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

### Contribution to Economic Output

- 3.107. No information regarding economic contribution during the operational phase of any of the Cumulative Schemes within North Kesteven is publicly available at this time. Therefore, in order to assess a worst-case scenario, it is assumed that the GVA generated for North Kesteven and Boston by the Proposed Development and Cumulative Projects is that which is calculated for the Proposed Development in isolation. As such, as an absolute worst case, GVA is estimated to be around £815,137 per annum, allowing for multiplier effects<sup>10</sup>, and over the 40-year operational lifespan of the Proposed Development the GVA generated is estimated to be around £18.1million (present value<sup>11</sup>). In reality, the contribution to economic output is expected to be far greater than this as a result of the Proposed Development and Cumulative Projects.

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<sup>10</sup> For the GVA estimate, the same multipliers used are the same as the construction GVA multipliers outlined above.

<sup>11</sup> Where future benefits are calculated over a longer timeframe, they have been discounted to produce a present value. This is the discounted value of a stream of either future costs or benefits. A standard discount rate is used to convert all costs and benefits to present values. Using the Treasury's Green Book, the recommended discount rate is 3.5% up to 30 year and 3% thereafter.

3.108. The significance of the operational phase effect in respect of contribution to economic output has been assessed as follows:

- The sensitivity of the receptor in North Kesteven and Boston is considered to be **medium**, in line with the criteria set out in Table 11.1 of ES Chapter 11 [PS-067].
- The magnitude of the impact is identified as being **low**, in line with the criteria in Table 11.2 of ES Chapter 11 [PS-067]. The annual GVA generated by the Proposed Development once operational of £815,137 and £18.1million (present value) over the 40-year operational lifespan. This would cause an uplift in GVA in both North Kesteven and Boston (North Kesteven annual GVA amounts to £2.8billion, therefore a 0.03% uplift is estimated, and Boston GVA amounts to £1.5billion, therefore a 0.06% uplift is estimated).
- The significance of the operational effect is therefore considered to be **minor to moderate beneficial** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

#### Business Rates

3.109. No information regarding business rates during the operational phase of any of the Cumulative Schemes within North Kesteven or Boston is publicly available at this time. Therefore, in order to assess a worst-case scenario, it is assumed that the business rates generated for North Kesteven and Boston by the Proposed Development and Cumulative Projects is that which is calculated for the Proposed Development in isolation. It is estimated that the solar project element of the proposed scheme could generate up to £1.3million per annum in business rates<sup>12</sup>. Over the intended 40-year lifespan of the scheme, business rates generated could total around £29.3million (present value).

3.110. The significance of the operational phase effect in respect of business rates has been assessed as follows:

- The sensitivity of the receptor in North Kesteven is considered to be **medium**, in line with the criteria set out in Table 11.1 of ES Chapter 11 [PS-067].
- The magnitude of the impact is identified as being **medium**, in line with the criteria in Table 11.2 of ES Chapter 11 [PS-067]. Given agricultural land and buildings are exempt from business rates, and on the basis that the much of the land on which the Cumulative Projects are to be constructed are arable agricultural land whereby no business rates revenue would be generated, the additional revenue would represent an uplift on current activities.
- The significance of the operational effect is therefore considered to be **moderate beneficial** in North Kesteven, which is **significant** in EIA terms.

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<sup>12</sup> Based on information on price per MW of £6,450 in 2017 sourced from Photovoltaic Memorandum of Agreement.

## Significance of the Cumulative Decommissioning Phase Effects

### Employment

- 3.111. Economic benefits will arise through the provision of temporary jobs during the decommissioning phase in respect of the Proposed Development and Cumulative Schemes.
- 3.112. It is estimated that there will be around 218 workers on-site during the decommissioning phase for the Proposed Development, 250-300 for Boston Alternative Energy Facility (250 used because it is the lowest estimated number of jobs and therefore presents a worst case) and assumed to be 126 for Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park. The number of decommissioning jobs for the other Cumulative Projects. Therefore, an assumption of 0 jobs for these schemes is used as a worst case.
- 3.113. The estimated total decommissioning jobs generated by the Proposed Development and cumulative schemes is 594 direct jobs on-site during the 18-month decommissioning phase.
- 3.114. As such, the significance of cumulative decommissioning phase effect in respect of employment is assessed as follows:
- The sensitivity of the receptor (employment in construction (assumed most relevant in respect of decommissioning workforce) and other sectors of the economy in North Kesteven and Boston) is assessed as being **medium**, in line with the criteria set out in Table 11.1 of ES Chapter 11 [PS-O67].
  - The magnitude of the impact is assessed as **medium**, in line with the criteria in Table 11.2 of ES Chapter 11 [PS-O67]. The 594 on-site direct jobs assumed to be supported by the decommissioning phase represent a moderate increase in the number of new employment opportunities for local residents, for a temporary period of time.
  - The significance of the temporary cumulative effect in respect of employment is therefore considered to be **moderate beneficial** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **significant** in EIA terms.

### Contribution to Economic Output

- 3.115. Similarly, to the Construction phase, information regarding the economic contribution of the decommissioning phase is only available for the Proposed Development. Therefore, to follow the same worst-case scenario it is assumed that the economic contribution for the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development in isolation is the total economic contribution. The overall GVA impact associated with the Decommissioning phase is estimated at £57.1million over the 18-month decommissioning phase, equivalent to £38.1million per annum.
- 3.116. As such, the significance of decommissioning phase effect in respect of contribution to economic output is assessed as follows:
- The sensitivity of the receptor in North Kesteven and Boston is assessed as being **medium**, in line with the criteria set out in Table 11.1 of ES Chapter 11 [PS-O67].
  - The magnitude of the impact is assessed as **medium**, in line with the criteria in Table 11.2 of ES Chapter 11 [PS-O67]. The £57.1million over the 18-month decommissioning

timeframe (current prices), equivalent to £38.1million per annum. This would cause a moderate uplift in (construction-related) GVA in both North Kesteven and Boston (North Kesteven annual construction GVA amounts to £243million, therefore a 15.7% uplift is estimated, and Boston construction GVA amounts to £61million, therefore a 62.5% uplift is estimated).

- The significance of the temporary cumulative effect in respect of contribution to economic output is therefore considered to be **moderate beneficial** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **significant** in EIA terms.

#### Accommodation Demand

- 3.117. The approach to Accommodation Demand applied within ES Chapter 11 [PS-067] for the Proposed Development in isolation is applied in respect of cumulative effects assessment. It is estimated that, based on Ready Reckoners in respect of Leakage defined by the Additionality Guide (2014), between 50% and 75% of benefits of the decommissioning period will go to people living outside of the local area when considering baseline characteristics of North Kesteven and Boston economies. By association, it can be estimated that between 50% and 75% of decommissioning workers will need to be sourced from outside of the local area. For a worst-case scenario, it is assumed that 75% of workers will be sourced from outside the local area and will require accommodation for the duration of the decommissioning period.
- 3.118. For those projects where estimated decommissioning workers are publicly available, or otherwise construction workers are available and assumed to be applicable to apply to the decommissioning phase also, it is possible to estimate the proportion of the workers that will require accommodation based on the assumed 75% Leakage. As such, those projects where number of workers are known include the Proposed Development (218 workers), Boston Alternative Energy Facility (250 workers), and Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park (126 workers), and following application of 75% Leakage the number of workers needed accommodating during the decommissioning phase relating to these Projects is estimated to be 447 (Proposed Development 164 workers, Boston Alternative Energy Facility 188 workers, and Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park 95 workers).
- 3.119. Assumptions regarding all other Cumulative Projects scoped into the assessment are applied as per Table 3.2 earlier in this section to ascertain the potential worst-case scenario in terms of the number of workers requiring accommodation during the construction period.
- 3.120. It is noted that those Cumulative Projects whose publicly available information indicates that their operational phases are up to 40 years (same as that of the Proposed Development) are scoped into the cumulative accommodation demand assessment for the decommissioning phase. Any that are above this lifespan are scoped out. This relates to one of the Cumulative Projects, Beacon Fen Energy Park, for which an operational lifespan of 60 years is proposed. It is assumed that, even in the worst case, the decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development would not overlap with that of Beacon Fen Energy Park.
- 3.121. **Table 3.8** summarises the assumptions made regarding FTE jobs and proportion needing accommodation during the construction phase for the Proposed Development and all Cumulative Projects scoped into the assessment.

**Table 3.8: Cumulative assessment assumptions – Accommodation demand during decommissioning phase**

Cumulative Scheme	Proposal summary	Number of FTE jobs generated during decommissioning (Publicly known / Estimated)	Assumed number of workers needing accommodation during decommissioning phase
Proposed Development – Heckington Fen (data publicly known)	See ES Chapter 4 for full detail	218	164
Vicarage Drove (data estimated)	49.9MW solar farm	25	19
Land West of Cowbridge Road, Bicker Fen, Boston (data estimated)	49.9MW solar farm	25	19
Boston Alternative Energy Facility (data publicly known)	DCO Solar project	250	188
Land at Little Hale Fen (data estimated)	49.9 MW solar farm	25	19
Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park (data publicly known)	250MW Solar Farm	126	95
Springwell Solar Farm (data estimated)	800MW solar farm	400	300

Fosse Green Energy (data estimated)	320MW solar farm	160	120
Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane (data estimated)	49.9MW solar farm	25	19
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,254</b>	<b>943</b>

- 3.122. **Table 3.8** indicates that, based on an assumed 75% Leakage, there is estimated to be 943 decommissioning workers requiring accommodation in Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation in North Kesteven and Boston as a result of the Proposed Development and Cumulative Projects.
- 3.123. **Table 3.9** shows that, following accommodation of the 943 decommissioning workers in addition to the assumed occupancy rate of Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation in North Kesteven, there would be surplus capacity in all months of the year.
- 3.124. **Table 3.10** shows that, following accommodation of the 943 decommissioning workers in addition to the assumed occupancy rate of Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation in Boston, there would be surplus capacity ten months of the year, with the months from July and August experiencing deficits.
- 3.125. **Table 3.11** shows the Boston and North Kesteven available Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation bedspaces combined, following accommodation of the 943 decommissioning workers in addition to the assumed occupancy rates. **Table 3.11** shows that there would be surplus capacity in all months of the year.
- 3.126. A key consideration in assessing the cumulative impact of a Proposed Development is considering the likelihood of this effect occurring within a cumulative timescale. The likelihood of cumulative schemes gaining DCO consent and secondly the likelihood that their construction, operation and decommissioning timescales will overlap with the Proposed Development are all valid considerations when determining the *likelihood of effect*. As shown within **Table 3.2**, 5No. of the schemes considered within this socio-economic assessment are Tier 2 or Tier 3 projects. The projected timescales which have been used to complete this cumulative assessment are taken from the publicly available documents.
- 3.127. None of the Tier 2/3 schemes have yet been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate or (for the case of TCPA applications) the Local Planning Authority for determination. As a result, no assessment of these schemes, both technically and against policy, can take place to determine the likelihood of them gaining consent. In addition, none of the applicants have any legal obligation to comply with the timescales they are currently presenting within the public domain as all are in the pre-submission phases of development. It is the professional judgement of the socio-economic technical experts that the likelihood of effect of these Tier 2 and 3 schemes being submitted, consented, built, operated and decommissioned in the same timescales as the Heckington Fen development are very low.



- 3.128. When considering the magnitude of effect, consideration has to be given to both the possible impacts of cumulative development but also the likelihood of effect of these cumulative impacts occurring. As can be seen from the paragraphs above the likelihood of effects from these possible impacts occurring at the same time as decommissioning of the Proposed Development are very low.
- 3.129. This likelihood of effect has been taken into account when determining the magnitude of impact of the cumulative impact of the decommissioning phase.
- 3.130. The significance of cumulative decommissioning phase accommodation demand effect is assessed as follows:
- The sensitivity of the receptor in North Kesteven and Boston is assessed as being **medium**, in line with the criteria set out in Table 11.1 of ES Chapter 11 [PS-O67]. Tourism is a growing sector in both of the Districts and wider area.
  - The magnitude of the impact is assessed as **low**, in line with the criteria in Table 11.2 of ES Chapter 11 [PS-O67]. There will be a change in terms of use of the existing amenities. This is particularly pronounced when considering the potential worst case scenario of all 943 workers requiring accommodation Boston district alone, as opposed to the demand being split between the two districts. When considering the combined effect of demand being spread between both North Kesteven and Boston, there remains surplus capacity in all twelve months of a year, but there is also surplus identified for a worst case scenario if all workers are accommodated within North Kesteven district alone. However, when considering the magnitude of effect, consideration has to be given to both the possible impacts of cumulative development, but also the likelihood of effect of these cumulative impacts occurring. As can be seen from the paragraphs above the likelihood of effects from these possible impacts occurring at the same time as the decommissioning of the Proposed Development are very low.
  - The significance of the temporary cumulative effect in respect of accommodation demand is therefore considered to be minor to moderate adverse in North Kesteven, which is **not significant** in EIA terms.
- 3.131. In reality, the assessment shown here in respect of cumulative accommodation demand during the decommissioning phase is extremely worst case, and the realistic outlook is likely to be limited in comparison, so much as to avoid any deficit in terms of available bedspaces as a result of accommodating construction workers for the Proposed Development and considered Cumulative Projects. The key reasons for this are as follows:
- The number of workers is estimated based on absolute worst case assumptions. Furthermore, in respect of the Proposed Development in isolation, from a worst case perspective we are assuming that 218 workers would be required for the whole 18-month decommissioning period, when in reality the peak on-site workers is likely for an estimated period of up to 6 months, and a far lower number of workers for the remaining 12 month period. This is likely to be a similar pattern between peak and non-peak decommissioning workers for the other schemes scoped into the assessment.
  - The assumed Leakage of 75% of workers being outsourced from the local districts is again absolute worst case. An Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan (document reference 7.12 / APP-O67) has been prepared and submitted with the application. The final detailed CEMP will endeavor to ensure that the construction



contractor will source as many workers as possible from within North Kesteven and Boston districts.

- It is unlikely that Town and County Planning Authority (TCPA) sized schemes would need to source 75% of their workers from outside the local area. Therefore, although an absolute worst-case scenario is assessed, it is more realistic to expect that a lower proportion of workers would be sourced from outside the local area and therefore fewer workers would require accommodation during the decommissioning periods.
- It is very unlikely that workers would be accommodated in just one of the districts. The more realistic outlook is that accommodation requirements of workers would be spread between the two districts of North Kesteven and Boston.
- It is highly unlikely that the decommissioning programmes for all of the eight Cumulative Projects and the Proposed Development will exactly align and therefore the realistic demand on accommodation is not expected to be as pronounced as is shown in **Tables 3.9 – 3.11** and as described in paras 3.126 – 3.131 of this report.
- The number of workers is estimated based on absolute worst-case assumptions. Furthermore, the assumed Leakage of 75% of workers being outsourced from the local districts is again absolute worst case.



**Table 3.9: Cumulative assessment – assumed occupancy of Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation in North Kesteven including housing of decommissioning workers (based on 2022 data)**

	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation bedspaces	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455	3,455
Actual number of bedspaces occupied	1,009	1,165	1,509	1,852	1,975	2,144	2,319	2,325	2,079	1,749	1,405	1,068
Decommissioning workers requiring accommodation	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943
Occupancy rate inclusive of decommissioning workers	0.57	0.61	0.71	0.81	0.84	0.89	0.94	0.95	0.87	0.78	0.68	0.58
Actual number of bedspaces occupied	1,952	2,108	2,452	2,795	2,918	3,087	3,262	3,268	3,022	2,692	2,348	2,011
Available bedspaces following housing of decommissioning workers	1,503	1,347	1,003	660	537	368	193	187	433	763	1,107	1,444



**Table 3.10: Cumulative assessment – assumed occupancy of Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation in Boston including housing of decommissioning workers (based on 2022 data)**

	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation bedspaces	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588	2,588
Actual number of bedspaces occupied	546	635	991	1,347	1,461	1,606	1,791	1,833	1,528	1,203	847	583
Decommissioning workers requiring accommodation	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943
Occupancy rate inclusive of decommissioning workers	0.58	0.61	0.75	0.88	0.93	0.98	1.06	1.07	0.95	0.83	0.69	0.59
Actual number of bedspaces occupied	1,489	1,578	1,934	2,290	2,404	2,549	2,734	2,776	2,471	2,146	1,790	1,526
Available bedspaces following housing of decommissioning workers	1,099	1,010	654	298	184	39	-146	-188	117	442	798	1,062



**Table 3.11: Cumulative assessment – assumed occupancy of Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation in North Kesteven and Boston combined including housing of decommissioning workers (based on 2022 data)**

	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Serviced and Non-Serviced Accommodation bedspaces	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043
Actual number of bedspaces occupied	1,555	1,800	2,500	3,199	3,436	3,750	4,110	4,158	3,608	2,952	2,252	1,650
Decommissioning workers requiring accommodation	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943	943
Occupancy rate inclusive of decommissioning workers	0.41	0.45	0.57	0.69	0.72	0.78	0.84	0.84	0.75	0.64	0.53	0.43
Actual number of bedspaces occupied	2,498	2,743	3,443	4,142	4,379	4,693	5,053	5,101	4,551	3,895	3,195	2,593
Available bedspaces following housing of decommissioning workers	3,545	3,300	2,600	1,901	1,664	1,350	990	942	1,492	2,148	2,848	3,450

## Mitigation and Enhancement

- 3.132. Adverse effects are predicted in relation to Accommodation Demand during construction and decommissioning phases. This is specific to the absolute worst-case scenario of all workers being accommodated within either North Kesteven or Boston, and only during particular months of a twelve-month period when capacity rates are higher due to baseline tourism and visitor levels.
- 3.133. In reality, the assessment shown here in respect of cumulative accommodation demand during the construction and decommissioning phases is extremely worst case, and the realistic outlook is likely to be limited in comparison, so much as to avoid any deficit in terms of available bedspaces as a result of accommodating workers for the Proposed Development and considered Cumulative Projects. The key reasons for this are as follows:
- The number of workers is estimated based on absolute worst-case assumptions. Furthermore, in respect of the Proposed Development in isolation, from a worst case perspective we are assuming that 218 workers would be required for the whole 18-month decommissioning period, when in reality the peak on-site workers is likely for an estimated period of up to 6 months, and a far lower number of workers for the remaining 12 month period. This is likely to be a similar pattern between peak and non-peak decommissioning workers for the other schemes scoped into the assessment.
  - The assumed Leakage of 75% of workers being outsourced from the local districts is again absolute worst case. An Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan (OSCESP) (document reference 7.12 / APP-O67) has been prepared and submitted with the application. The final detailed OSCESP will endeavour to ensure that the construction contractor will source as many workers as possible from within North Kesteven and Boston districts.
  - It is unlikely that Town and County Planning Authority (TCPA) sized schemes would need to source 75% of their workers from outside the local area. Therefore, although an absolute worst-case scenario is assessed, it is more realistic to expect that a lower proportion of workers would be sourced from outside the local area and therefore fewer workers would require accommodation during the decommissioning periods.
  - It is very unlikely that workers would be accommodated in just one of the districts. The more realistic outlook is that accommodation requirements of workers would be spread between the two districts of North Kesteven and Boston.
  - It is highly unlikely that the construction or decommissioning programmes for all of the considered Cumulative Projects and the Proposed Development will exactly align and therefore the realistic demand on accommodation is not expected to be as pronounced as is shown in **Tables 3.5 – 3.7** and **Table 3.9–3.11** as described in paras 3.98 – 3.103 related to Accommodation Demand effects during the construction phase and paras 3.126 – 3.131 related to Accommodation Demand effects during the decommissioning phase of this report.
  - The number of workers is estimated based on absolute worst-case assumptions. Furthermore, the assumed Leakage of 75% of workers being outsourced from the local districts is again absolute worst case

## Residual Cumulative Effects

3.134. The residual cumulative effects are as follows:

- Construction phase:
  - Employment – **moderate beneficial** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **significant** in EIA terms.
  - Economic contribution – **major beneficial** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **significant** in EIA terms.
  - Accommodation demand – **minor to moderate adverse** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **not significant** in EIA terms.
- Operational phase:
  - Employment – **minor to moderate beneficial** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **not significant** in EIA terms.
  - Economic contribution – **minor to moderate beneficial** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **not significant** in EIA terms.
  - Business rates – **moderate beneficial** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **significant** in EIA terms.
- Decommissioning phase:
  - Employment – **moderate beneficial** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **significant** in EIA terms.
  - Economic contribution – **major beneficial** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **significant** in EIA terms.
  - Accommodation demand – **minor to moderate adverse** in North Kesteven and Boston, which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

## Conclusion

3.135. There will be beneficial effects in relation to employment and economic contribution during all development stages, and business rates during the operational phase. The assessment has been made on publicly known information, which is limited, and otherwise assumes a worst case scenario in terms of jobs, GVA and business rates generated. As such, the beneficial cumulative socio-economic effects identified are considered to be worst case and compressed; the realistic beneficial socio-economic cumulative effects relating to employment, economic contribution and business rates will be greater than what is presented this assessment. Accommodation Demand effect during the construction and decommissioning phases is predicted to be minor to moderate adverse but is not significant.



Even then, this is an absolute worst case scenario, and the realistic outlook is likely to be much more limited in comparison.



## Noise and Vibration

### Introduction

- 3.136. This section will present an update to the cumulative noise and vibration effect assessment previously presented in the latest version of **Chapter 12 Noise and Vibration** of the ES (document reference 6.1.12/PS-069).

### Assessment Approach

- 3.137. As noted in **Chapter 12 Noise and Vibration** of the ES (document reference 6.1.12/PS-069), beyond a distance of approximately 1km, noise from construction works (within the Energy Park site, Offsite Cable Route Corridor or National Grid Bicker Fen Substation) and operational noise effects from the Proposed Development become negligible. Vibration effects are even more localised and become negligible beyond a distance of around 150 m. A distance of 1 km therefore represents the Zone of Influence for direct effects of noise and vibration from construction in terms of this topic. It remains the case that none of the projects listed in **Table 2.1** are located within such proximity from the Proposed Development that noise-sensitive receptors would be within 1km of both the Proposed Development and any of the cumulative schemes considered. There are therefore no predicted direct cumulative effects of noise and vibration from either the construction activities or operation of the Proposed Development.
- 3.138. However, construction traffic from several of the schemes considered may use the A17 simultaneously. Cumulative construction traffic levels, based on worst-case assumptions, have been reassessed based on the latest information as discussed below in the section on Transport and Access of this document. The potential noise effects of this cumulative traffic are considered in line with the methodology set out in the ES (document reference 6.1.12/PS-069 paragraph 12.3.11 and Table 12.1). The relevant noise receptors would be noise-sensitive dwellings along the A17, which are considered to have a high sensitivity to noise.
- 3.139. The prediction method of Calculation of Road Traffic Noise (CRTN)<sup>13</sup> been used to calculate the noise effects of construction-related traffic, which are assessed with reference to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB)<sup>14</sup>. On the basis that relevant road surface will be checked and maintained prior to use, significant vibration effects from traffic using the road are unlikely (although momentary vibration may be perceptible in some cases).

### Baseline Conditions

- 3.140. It remains the assumption for this assessment that baseline traffic levels on the A17 are of around 20,000 vehicles per day (including around 3000-4000 HGVs).

### Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects

- 3.141. The maximum worst-case cumulative construction traffic on the A17 is assessed to be under 300 light vehicles and under 200 heavy vehicles per average weekday. This still represents

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<sup>13</sup> HMSO Department of Transport (1988), Calculation of Road Traffic Noise (CRTN).

<sup>14</sup> Highways England (2019): Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) – LA111 – Noise and Vibration, Nov 2019.

a small proportion of the baseline traffic levels. Using the calculation methodology of CRTN, the maximum calculated increase in traffic noise for properties along the A17 would be of 0.2 dB. This remains clearly below 1 dB and therefore corresponds to a **negligible effect (not significant)**, even accounting for the sensitivity of the receptors, based on the criteria set out in Table 12.1 of the ES (document reference 6.1.12/PS-069), which were derived from the DMRB guidance.

## Mitigation and Enhancement

- 3.142. No additional mitigation is required.

## Residual Cumulative Effects

- 3.143. The potential cumulative effects of construction traffic noise were determined to be **negligible**, which is **not significant**. No other cumulative effects were identified.

## Conclusion

- 3.144. The conclusions of the ES remain applicable: **no significant** cumulative noise or vibration effects are identified.

# Climate Change

## Introduction

3.145. This section of this document provides an update of the potential cumulative effects in combination with the Proposed Development, in relation to Climate Change. In line with the EIA Regulations, the assessment considers the following:

- Emissions reduction: potential effects of the Proposed Development on emissions of GHGs; and
- Climate change adaptation: both the vulnerability of the Proposed Development to climate change and also the implications of climate change for the predicted effects of the project, as assessed by the other topic specialists ('in-combination climate effects').

## Assessment Approach

### Emissions Reduction

3.146. A review of all shortlisted cumulative projects as per **Table 2.1** of this document has been undertaken as part of this cumulative effects assessment update. All schemes were included in the assessment with the exception of 'Lincolnshire Reservoir (WA010003)' as the assessment is limited to other energy projects.

3.147. For Emissions Reduction, the methodology presented under the 'Assessment Methodology' section title in **Chapter 13: Climate Change** (document reference 6.1.13/PS-071) continues to apply.

### Climate Change Adaptation (Resilience)

3.148. A review of all shortlisted cumulative projects as per **Table 2.1** of this document has been undertaken as part of this cumulative effects assessment update.

3.149. For Climate Change Adaptation (Resilience), the methodology presented under the 'Assessment Methodology' section title in **Chapter 13: Climate Change** (document reference 6.1.13/PS-071) continues to apply.

## Baseline Conditions

### Emissions Reduction

3.150. The baseline conditions remain valid as per the 'Baseline Conditions' section for Emissions Reduction in **Chapter 13: Climate Change** (document reference 6.1.13/PS-071).

### Climate Change Adaptation (Resilience)

3.151. The baseline conditions remain valid as per the 'Baseline Conditions' section for Climate Change Adaptation (Resilience) in **Chapter 13: Climate Change** (document reference 6.1.13/PS-071).

## Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects

### Emissions Reduction

- 3.152. For Emissions Reduction, an updated cumulative effects assessment is presented below, in accordance with the 'Assessment Methodology' in **Chapter 13: Climate Change** (document reference 6.1.13/PS-071).
- 3.153. Presented below in **Table 3.12** is an updated list of other planned solar energy projects within Lincolnshire County Council area, alongside their corresponding generation capacities. Collectively, these represent an estimated 4,857.7MW of energy generation.
- 3.154. The assessment presented in **Chapter 13: Climate Change** (document reference 6.1.13/PS-071) included all GHG emissions and concluded that the effects would be **negligible to minor adverse (not significant)** for both the construction and decommissioning phases, and **moderate beneficial (significant)** for the operational phase. The same effects are anticipated for the other sites, utilising the same assessment methodology.
- 3.155. To further demonstrate the cumulative benefits of these projects, and the additional contribution of the Proposed Development, this generating capacity has been contextualised to the UK's national targets for newly installed energy generation capacity. This data was published by BEIS to show the projected requirements of newly installed electricity generating capacity for different types of generation in order to meet the national UK Net Zero Strategy (BEIS, 2021).
- 3.156. Whilst this data does not specify a projected capacity of solar projects specifically, it does project a newly installed capacity of 107,000MW across all types of renewable energy generation (including onshore and offshore wind, geothermal etc.) by 2040.
- 3.157. **Table 3.12** below shows that the contribution of the currently planned solar projects (and one energy from waste facility) in the local area is estimated to represent a minimum of 4.54% of the total national projections by 2040, and with the additional generating capacity of the Proposed Development, would increase further to represent a minimum 4.91% of the total national capacity.

**Table 3.12 Planned Projects within Lincolnshire County Council area<sup>15</sup>**

Scheme Name and Reference Number	Solar Capacity (MW)	Contribution to projected UK Renewable Capacity (%)
Vicarage Drove B/21/O443	49.9	0.05
Land West of Cowbridge Road, Bicker Fen, Boston B/22/O356 H04-0849-22	49.9	0.05

<sup>15</sup> Some of the application boundaries of the cumulative sites are cross boundary applications are therefore partially sit outside of Lincolnshire County Council. None of the submitted documents for these applications split the generation capacity down to County level, therefore within this cumulative assessment it has been assumed all generation is within Lincolnshire.

Scheme Name and Reference Number	Solar Capacity (MW)	Contribution to projected UK Renewable Capacity (%)
<b>Boston Alternative Energy Facility</b> ENO10095	80 (energy from waste)	0.07 (energy from waste)
<b>Mallard Pass Solar Farm</b> ENO10127	350	0.33
<b>Cottham Solar Project</b> ENO10133	600	0.56
<b>Gate Burton Energy Park</b> ENO10131	500	0.47
<b>West Burton Solar Project</b> ENO10132	480	0.45
<b>Land at Little Hale Fen</b> 23/1021/FUL	49.995	0.05
<b>Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm, Holbeach Bank</b> H09-0132-23	48	0.04
<b>Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park</b> ENO10126	250	0.23
<b>Tillbridge Solar Project</b> ENO10142	50	0.05
<b>Beacon Fen Energy Park</b> ENO10152	400	0.37
<b>Springwell Solar Farm</b> ENO10149	800	0.75
<b>Fosse Green Energy</b> ENO10154	350	0.33
<b>One Earth Solar Farm</b> ENO10159	750	0.70
<b>Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane, Sleaford</b> 23/1419/FUL	49.90	0.05
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>4,857.70</b>	<b>4.54</b>
Heckington Fen Energy Park	400	0.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,257.70</b>	<b>4.91</b>

- 3.158. This shows the beneficial effects of the Proposed Development and its contribution towards meeting the UK's net zero targets, and the importance of the local area to contributing to these targets on a national scale. On this basis, cumulative operational effects are considered to remain **moderate beneficial (significant)**.

#### **Climate Change Adaptation (Resilience)**

- 3.159. With respect to climate change adaptation, as outlined in paragraph 13.6.8 of **Chapter 13: Climate Change** (document reference 6.1.13/PS-071), this is a project specific consideration, namely the resilience of the project in question to climate change and the extent to which projected climate change could alter other predicted impact judgements.
- 3.160. More widely, in relation to potential interactions with other developments, and assuming the required compliance with regulatory standards and accepted good practice mitigation measures, **no significant cumulative effects** are anticipated.

#### **Mitigation and Enhancement**

- 3.161. No further mitigation and enhancement measures are anticipated, and the 'Mitigation Measures' presented under the relevant section titles for Emissions Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (Resilience), in **Chapter 13: Climate Change** (document reference 6.1.13/PS-071) remain valid and unchanged.

#### **Residual Cumulative Effects**

- 3.162. The residual cumulative effects for **Emissions Reduction** and Climate Change Adaptation (Resilience), remain as per the conclusions drawn in the 'Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects' in the **Emissions Reduction** and Climate Change Adaptation (Resilience) sections of this document (paragraph 3.64-3.65).

#### **Conclusion**

- 3.163. In conclusion:
- Cumulative effects for Emissions Reduction are considered to remain **moderate beneficial (significant)**.
  - **No significant** cumulative effects are anticipated for Climate Change Adaptation (Resilience).

## Transport and Access

### Introduction

- 3.164. This section of this document provides an update of the potential cumulative effects in combination with the Proposed Development, in relation to Transport and Access.

### Assessment Approach

- 3.165. Consideration and a review of all shortlisted cumulative projects as per **Table 2.1** of this document has been undertaken as part of this cumulative effects assessment update. Three projects (No. 3, 9 and 12 of **Table 2.1**) in the updated cumulative shortlist are identified as having a construction period which could overlap with that of the Proposed Development (2026-2028), and which could also reasonably be anticipated to use a construction route which could extend to the A17 within the vicinity of the Energy Park frontage (the study area identified at paragraph 14.3.3 of **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** (document reference 6.1.14/PS-073)). **Appendix 3** includes a summary of each of the developments listed at **Table 2.1** and for those that have not been included in this Transport and Access cumulative assessment, justification relating to why they are not included. **Appendix 3** has been based upon information available within the public domain at the time of writing.
- 3.166. **Appendix 3** also includes a summary of how the AADT and HGV numbers for sites 3, 9 and 12 have been established.
- 3.167. It should be noted that **Appendix 3** assumes that 100% of construction traffic associated with sites 3, 9 and 12 will use the A17 corridor within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. However, in reality it could only be a proportion of the total construction vehicle movements and will be likely to be impacted by where materials and equipment is sourced from. It is therefore considered that this is a robust assessment.
- 3.168. Of the sites identified at **Table 2.1**, it is anticipated that vehicles associated with the laying of the off-site cable and the connection to Bicker Fen Substation associated with sites 10 and 12 could use the A52, Cowbridge Road, Bicker Drove, Vicarage Drove. However, it is not clear from the information available which roads the cable will be accessed from and what the traffic numbers associated with these works could be. This traffic has therefore not been considered at this stage (and therefore does not form one of the assessment sites listed at **Table 3.13**).
- 3.169. This section therefore considers only links one to three (identified at Plate 4.1 of **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** (document reference 6.1.14/ PS-073)). There are no forecast cumulative effects at links four to seven at this stage, based on the information currently available within the public domain. The effects of the standalone Proposed Development at links four to seven are already considered at **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** (document reference 6.1.14/PS-073).
- 3.170. The same assessment criteria are applied in this cumulative effects assessment update, as per section 14.3 in **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** (document reference 6.1.14/PS-073).

## Baseline Conditions

- 3.171. The baseline conditions remain valid as per section 14.5 ('Baseline Conditions') in **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** (document reference 6.114/PS-073).

## Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects

### Traffic Flows

- 3.172. Table 14.9 of **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** (document reference 6.114/PS-073) confirms the AADT and HGV trips for the busiest times during the construction period of the Energy Park, off-site cable route and Bicker Fen Substation extension. These equate to an AADT of 104 vehicles and 39 HGVs at links one to three. **Appendix 3** confirms the forecast AADT and HGV trips for sites 3, 9 and 12 individually, and also the cumulative traffic impact at links one to three. This equates to an AADT of 455 vehicles including 196 HGVs. The cumulative impact at links one to three is set out in **Table 3.13**.

**Table 3.13 – 2022 plus Cumulative Total Traffic Flows**

Link		Baseline Two-Way AADT	With Heckington Fen plus Cumulative Development Total Traffic Flow	Additional Two-Way Traffic		Impact Significance	
				Total Vehs	HGVs	Total Vehs	HGVs
Link One – A17 west of proposed temporary construction access	AADT	20,373 (4,350 HGVs)	20,828 (4,546 HGVs)	455 [+2.2%]	196 [+4.5%]	Negligible	Negligible
Link Two – A17 west of proposed construction / operational access		21,307 (3,487 HGVs)	21,762 (3,683 HGVs)	455 [+2.1%]	196 [+5.6%]	Negligible	Low
Link Three – A17 east of proposed construction / operational access		21,249 (3,485 HGVs)	21,704 (3,681 HGVs)	455 [+2.1%]	196 [+5.6%]	Negligible	Low



- 3.173. The cumulative number of vehicles at all links are likely to be considered Negligible, and the number of HGVs considered Negligible at link one and Low at links two and three, when assessed against the criteria at Table 14.1 of **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** (document reference 6.1.14/PS-073) and would be on a temporary basis, and therefore in EIA terms is considered Not Significant.

#### Accidents and Safety

- 3.174. As set out in **Appendix 14.1 – Summary of Personal Injury Collisions** (document reference 6.3.14.1/APP-217) there is not considered to be any underlying safety problem within the study area.
- 3.175. Paragraphs 14.6.27 and 14.6.28 of **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** (document reference 6.1.14/PS-073) confirm that the accesses to the Proposed Development from the A17 have been designed with appropriate mitigation to operate safely and that existing junctions are not associated with any existing material highway safety patterns or problems. Construction traffic associated with sites 3, 9 and 12 is not anticipated to be required to turn within the vicinity of links one to three and will form part of the baseline traffic on the local highway network.
- 3.176. It is therefore considered that there will not be an increase in incidents associated with the temporary 30 month construction phase of the Proposed Development when considering the cumulative traffic of the scheme and that forecast to be attracted by sites 3, 9 and 12. It is considered that there will be **No Significant** effects.

#### Hazardous Loads

- 3.177. There are no dangerous or hazardous loads forecast to be associated with the construction of the Proposed Development. Site 3 did not consider hazardous and dangerous loads within its ES Chapter on Transport and Access, and site 12 has not sought to scope this into its future ES Chapter on Transport and Access. Site 9 was not subject of an Environmental Impact Assessment and does not mention hazardous or dangerous loads in its supporting transport work. It is therefore considered reasonable to assume that there will be no cumulative impacts associated with hazardous or dangerous loads and therefore that there will be **No Significant** cumulative effects.

#### Severance

- 3.178. As set out in **Table 3.13**, the change in total cumulative traffic (AADT and HGVs) is less than 10% at links one to three. The overall effect is therefore considered **Negligible (Not Significant)** in accordance with the significance criteria outlined in Table 14.1 of **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** (document reference 6.1.14/PS-073).

#### Driver Delay

- 3.179. As set out in **Table 3.13**, the change in total cumulative traffic (AADT and HGVs) is less than 10% at links one to three. The overall effect is therefore considered **Negligible (Not Significant)** in accordance with the significance criteria outlined in Table 14.1 of **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** (document reference 6.1.14/PS-073).

## Operation

- 3.180. Paragraph 14.6.38 of **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** (document reference 6.114/PS-073) confirms that the operational phase of the Proposed Development could be associated with around five vehicle trips per day (typically a 7.5 tonne van or 4x4 type vehicles). The Transport and Access Environmental Statement chapter for site 3 identifies that its operational phase could be associated with 30 HGV movements and 173 staff vehicle trips, of which it is assumed 25% could use the A17 (equating to around 44 two-way daily trips). Site 12 has not identified operational traffic numbers at this stage and site 9 suggests two to three operational trips per year. It is therefore considered that cumulatively, the Proposed Development sites 3, 9 and 12 could be associated with around 213 to 219 two-way daily vehicle movements, including 30 HGV trips.
- 3.181. The total number of cumulative operational trips are forecast to be lower than the AADT and HGVs forecast as part of the construction phase of development, which is forecast to have a negligible impact. It is therefore considered that the impacts of the operational phase of development will also be **Negligible (Not Significant)**.

## Decommissioning

- 3.182. Paragraph 14.6.41 of **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** (document reference 6.114/PS-073) confirms that the activities involved in the decommissioning process for the Energy Park are not yet known and paragraphs 14.6.42 to 14.6.46 confirm the decommissioning arrangements for the off-site cable corridor and the Bicker Fen Substation extension. Paragraph 14.6.48 of **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** (document reference 6.114/PS-073) suggests that the number of vehicles likely to be associated with the decommissioning are likely to be similar to those associated with the construction and therefore it is considered that the cumulative effects are likely to be in line with those assessed as part of the assessment of construction traffic (overall **negligible impact significance**).
- 3.183. **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** (document reference 6.114/PS-073) for site 3 does not identify traffic for the decommissioning phase but confirms that it is anticipated that 'the impacts during decommissioning will be similar in nature to those of construction with reduced traffic generation'. Site 12 has not identified decommissioning traffic numbers at this stage and site 9 also does not include traffic forecasts for decommissioning. It is considered reasonable to assume based on the information available that the total number of cumulative decommissioning trips could be similar to those forecast as part of the construction phase of development, which is forecast to have a negligible impact. It is therefore considered that the impacts of the operational phase of development will also be **Negligible**.
- 3.184. It should be noted that the assessment of decommissioning traffic assumes that all developments will be decommissioned during the same time-period. However, this would be subject to confirmation in due course, subject to when the schemes ultimately become operational.

## Mitigation and Enhancement

- 3.185. No further mitigation and enhancement measures are anticipated, and the 'Mitigation by Design' section in Chapter 14: Transport and Access (document reference 6.114/PS-073) remain valid and unchanged.

## Residual Cumulative Effects

- 3.186. It is considered that during the construction phase of the Proposed Development there will be cumulative direct, short-term, temporary effects with an overall **Negligible (adverse)** significance, and therefore **Not Significant** in EIA terms.
- 3.187. It is considered that during the operational phase of the Proposed Development there will be cumulative direct, long-term, temporary effects with an overall **Negligible (adverse)** significance, and therefore **Not Significant** in EIA terms.
- 3.188. It is considered that during the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development there will be cumulative direct, short-term, temporary effects with an overall **Negligible (adverse)** significance, and therefore **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

## Conclusion

- 3.189. In conclusion, **no significant Transport and Access cumulative effects** resulting from the assessment of the projects listed in **Table 2.1** of this document are anticipated during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases.

## Air Quality

### Introduction

- 3.190. This section of this document provides an update of the potential cumulative effects in combination with the Proposed Development, in relation to Air Quality.

### Assessment Approach

- 3.191. Consideration and a review of all shortlisted cumulative projects as per **Table 2.1** of this document has been undertaken as part of this cumulative effects assessment update.
- 3.192. The one potentially significant cumulative impact identified within **Chapter 15: Air Quality** (document reference 6.1.15/ PS-075) was traffic associated with the construction phase of the Proposed Development and cumulative development sites, which has since been revised. As such, consideration has been made to the cumulative construction traffic flows as presented in **Appendix 3- Cumulative Traffic Assessment** of this document.
- 3.193. The same policy and guidance documents that informed the 'Assessment Methodology' section as presented within **Chapter 15: Air Quality** (document reference 6.1.15/ PS-075) have been used to determine the cumulative assessment approach.

### Baseline Conditions

- 3.194. The 'Baseline Conditions' section of **Chapter 15: Air Quality** (document reference 6.1.15/ PS-075) remains valid, however there has since been additional monitoring data up to 2022 released by South Holland District Council<sup>16</sup> (SHDC).
- 3.195. The pollutant concentrations recorded in 2020 and 2021 are not considered to be representative of "normal" air quality conditions due to government enforced lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst it is expected that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic behaviours will change in the future, the impact of this on air quality long-term is currently unknown and therefore the use of 2020 and 2021 data will be omitted from any analysis but has been included for information. Data for 2022 are considered the most recent and representative data for the baseline conditions.
- 3.196. **Table 3.14** and **Table 3.15** present the most recent automatic monitoring data and passive diffusion tube data, respectively.

The most recent available monitoring data do not change the outcome of the 'Baseline Conditions' section as presented within **Chapter 15: Air Quality** (document reference 6.1.15/ PS-075) and all pollutants remain below their respective Air Quality Objectives (AQO). It should be noted that at all monitoring locations presented, pollutant concentrations decreased in 2022 when compared to the previous baseline year of 2019

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<sup>16</sup> South Holland District Council (2023) Annual Status Report 2023 – [online], (Last accessed: 23/10/2023), Available at: [http://shollandair.aeat.com/Reports/21751\\_24783\\_South\\_Holland\\_2023\\_ASR\\_v2\\_FINAL.pdf](http://shollandair.aeat.com/Reports/21751_24783_South_Holland_2023_ASR_v2_FINAL.pdf)

**Table 3.14– Automatic Monitoring Data ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )**

Automatic Monitoring Station and Distance (km) from Proposed Development (approx.)	Air Quality Objective (AQO)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>NO<sub>2</sub></b>									
CM1 (SHDC), Spalding Monkhouse School, 16.2 km, Urban Background	Annual mean ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	10.5	12.7	10.8	9.4	9.3	8.5	8.7	8.9
	Number of hours with concentrations $>200 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>									
CM1 (SHDC), Spalding Monkhouse School, 16.2 km, Urban Background	Annual mean ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	15.4	13.5	11.8	13.1	13.7	10.8	9.0	11.5
	Number of days with concentrations $> 50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0

**Table 3.15– Diffusion Tube Monitoring Data ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )**

Diffusion Tube ID	Diffusion Tube Name	Site Type	Distance from Proposed Development (km)	2019	2020	2021	2022
Heckington (NKDC)	Heckington	Kerbside	4.3	17.3	14.6	-	-
SH 11 (SHDC)	A52 Donington	Roadside	2.5	15.5	12.7	14.3	14.4

## Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects

- 3.197. The impacts of vehicle emissions (NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) associated with the construction of the Proposed Development, as well as the listed cumulative development sites, have the potential to affect existing sensitive receptors located at the roadside of the proposed construction route, along the A17, for the anticipated construction period of 30 months.
- 3.198. The Transport Consultants for the project have provided traffic flows for the construction phase of the Proposed Development and the cumulative development sites, as detailed in the Transport and Access Chapter of this Technical Note. Construction vehicles will be routed along the A17, which will also be utilised by other cumulative development sites.
- 3.199. The cumulative developments that have been considered in conjunction with the Proposed Development, due to the routing on the A17 and a crossover of the construction periods are as follows:
- Boston Alternative Energy Facility (Ref: EN010095)
  - Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm, Holbeach Bank (Ref: HO9-0132-23)
  - Beacon Fen Energy Park (Ref: EN010152).
- 3.200. Cumulatively, there are predicted to be 259 light duty vehicles (LDV) and 196 heavy duty vehicles (HDV) annual average daily traffic (AADT) flow.
- 3.201. With reference to the Environmental Protection UK (EPUK) and Institute of Air Quality Management<sup>17</sup> (IAQM) indicative screening criterion to determine potential for significant impacts of >500 LDV AADT outside of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), the predicted cumulative LDV AADT is below this criterion.
- 3.202. However, the predicted cumulative HDVs are expected to be above the EPUK and IAQM screening criterion of >100 HDV AADT outside of an AQMA.
- 3.203. With regard to the indicative criteria for the potential impacts to air quality, the EPUK and IAQM guidance states:
- "The criteria provided are precautionary and should be treated as indicative. They are intended to function as a sensitive 'trigger' for initiating an assessment in cases where there is a possibility of significant effects arising on local air quality. This possibility will, self-evidently, not be realised in many cases. The criteria should not be applied rigidly; in some instances, it may be appropriate to amend them on the basis of professional judgement, bearing in mind that the objective is to identify situations where there is a possibility of a significant effect on local air quality."*

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<sup>17</sup> Environmental Protection UK and Institute of Air Quality Management (2017), Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning For Air Quality v1.2 – [online] (Last accessed: 23/10/2023), Available at: [iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/air-quality-planning-guidance.pdf](http://iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/air-quality-planning-guidance.pdf)

- 3.204. When considering the potential for a significant impact to air quality as a result of construction traffic associated with the Proposed Development and cumulative development sites, there are other factors which should be taken into consideration.
- 3.205. Firstly, as outlined in the 'Baseline Conditions' section of **Chapter 15: Air Quality** (document reference 6.1.15/ PS-075), as well as updated in the above section, baseline concentrations are well below their respective AQOs. The annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentration recorded at passive diffusion tube SH11 in 2022, located 1.5 m from the kerb on the A52 in Donnington, was 14.4 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is 36% of the AQO. Therefore, before any exceedance of the annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> AQO is experienced an increase of 25.6 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, or 64% of the AQO, would be required, which is a considerable amount of headroom and unlikely to be achieved by the cumulative traffic flows.
- 3.206. In addition, as outlined in the 'Baseline Conditions' section of **Chapter 15: Air Quality** (document reference 6.1.15/ PS-075), Defra predicted background annual mean concentrations in the vicinity of the Proposed Development in the earliest anticipated construction year of 2025 are shown in **Table 3.16**.

**Table 3.16– Estimated annual mean background concentrations in 2025 (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)**

Pollutant	Annual Mean AQO	Background Concentration (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	As a % of AQO
NO <sub>2</sub>	40	6.7	17%
PM <sub>10</sub>	40	15.6	39%
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	20	8.3	42%

- 3.207. Given the monitored concentrations and predicted future background concentrations, in line with the EPUK and IAQM impact descriptors, a change in concentration of greater than 10% of the relevant air quality objective (a moderate adverse impact) would constitute a significant impact. This level of change is considered very unlikely in this instance given the predicted cumulative development traffic flows presented above.
- 3.208. In addition, there are a limited number of highly sensitive receptors, such as residences, situated on the A17 construction route and the majority are set back by at least 5 m. This will aid in dispersion of pollutants and reduce the contribution of the A17 at the building facades.
- 3.209. As such, there is not expected to be any change to the outcome of the 'Cumulative and In-combination Effects' section within **Chapter 15: Air Quality** (document reference 6.1.15/ PS-075). In summary, it is not considered likely that there will be **no significant adverse cumulative effects** from construction traffic associated with the Proposed Development and other cumulative development sites considered.

## Mitigation and Enhancement



- 3.210. No further mitigation and enhancement measures are anticipated, and the 'Mitigation Measures' section titles for air quality in **Chapter 15: Air Quality** (document reference 6.1.15/PS-075) remain valid and unchanged.

### **Residual Cumulative Effects**

- 3.211. There are expected to be **no residual significant cumulative** effects to air quality as a result of construction traffic, which remain the same as the conclusions drawn in the 'Cumulative and In-combination Effects' section of **Chapter 15: Air Quality** (document reference 6.1.15/PS-075).

### **Conclusion**

- 3.212. In conclusion, **no significant cumulative effects** resulting from the assessment of the cumulative impacts of the projects listed in **Table 2.1** of this document and the Proposed Development are anticipated during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases with regard to air quality.



## Land Use and Agriculture

### Introduction

- 3.213. The assessment of cumulative effects has been updated in respect of land use and agriculture to reflect both additional schemes coming forward, and the addition of information now available on other schemes under consideration.
- 3.214. In respect of any cumulative impact, it is noted at the outset that whilst large areas of agricultural land are involved in the cumulative assessment, the assessment of effect needs to focus on the areas of agricultural land that will be “lost”. That assessment draws on the definition from the IEMA Guide<sup>18</sup>. A “loss” is “a permanent, irreversible loss of one or more soil functions or soil volumes (including permanent sealing or land quality downgrading)”. (IEMA Guide, Table 3).
- 3.215. Temporary developments, IEMA Guide Table 3 records, “can result in a permanent impact if resulting disturbance or land use change causes permanent damage to soils”.
- 3.216. IEMA Guide section 7.2 also notes that “temporary development on agricultural land and soils (e.g. solar developments) which may be in operation more than 40 years, presents a risk of damage to soils not only during construction but also at decommissioning”. Therefore, the update focuses on the information in respect of those two key stages.

### Assessment Approach

- 3.217. The assessment approach is unchanged from the ES **Chapter 16: Land Use and Agriculture** (document reference 6.1.16/ APP-O69).

### Baseline Conditions

- 3.218. Baseline conditions have not altered from the ES **Chapter 16: Land Use and Agriculture** (document reference 6.1.16/ APP-O69).

### Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects

- 3.219. **Table 3.17** lists the 17 identified cumulative schemes shown within Table 2.1 and shows (if known) the land quality for each of the cumulative sites. For many of the schemes land quality information has had to rely on Provisional Agricultural Land Classification mapping as due to the individual project timelines some have not yet undertaken detailed ALC surveys, or these have not been shared within the general public domain.
- 3.220. Most of the schemes involve land provisionally shown as Grades 1 and 2 mixed with undifferentiated Grade 3. The Grade 3 areas are not broken down between Subgrades of 3a and 3b, and only site survey will enable that (plus the Grade 1 and 2) areas to be assessed currently.

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<sup>18</sup> Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guide: A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environmental Impact Assessment (February 2022)

- 3.221. Where an ALC detailed survey has not been conducted and subgrade information cannot be provided (i.e., Grade 3a/3b), the Applicant has assumed the land falls into subgrade 3a (i.e., BMV). In some instances, there is no information on the area of BMV land that will be sealed over or temporarily lost for the lifetime of the solar farm. In this situation it is stated as 'unknown' within Table 13.17. However, it is likely a minimal amount of land (equal or less than 1%) will be lost, ranging to potentially no permanent land loss as has been shown consistently across ground mounted solar projects across the UK through the TCPA process. It should be noted that the proposals for DCO applications are subject to change, particularly those in the early stages, and this will likely have an effect on figures estimated below. Information provided in this report is correct as of October 2023.
- 3.222. **Table 3.17** indicates the total Order Limit areas/ TPCA application areas and potential area of the main sites to be used (i.e., area with solar PV panels) for each project. Generally, within the DCO process, Order Limit areas given for each project include cable route corridors. The impact on the land used for the cable route is considered temporary and will not be lost from ongoing agricultural activity. Existing land uses such as arable agriculture is expected to continue on each project once the cable has been laid as seen with schemes local to Heckington Fen including the Triton Knoll and Viking Link projects.
- 3.223. Consideration has been given to the cumulative impact of using agricultural land within Lincolnshire for solar farm development.

**Table 3.17: Cumulative Lincolnshire Land Use**

No.	Name of Scheme	Area of Site/ Order Limits (ha)	Area of Solar PV panels (excluding cable route corridor) (ha)	Temporary change of use of BMV land within the Solar PV panel area (ha and %)	Sealed over or loss of BMV land within the Solar PV panel area (ha and %) for the duration of the Proposed Development
1	<b>Vicarage Drove</b>	80 ha	80ha	80ha (100%)	0.8ha (1%)
2	<b>Land West of Cowbridge Road, Bicker Fen, Boston</b>	110 ha	110ha	110ha (100%)	1.1ha (1%)
3	<b>Boston Alternative Energy Facility</b>	26.8 ha	Provisional Grade 1: 26.8ha (100%) – energy from waste	n/a	n/a
4	<b>Mallard Pass Solar Farm</b>  This application is split over Lincolnshire and	852 ha  (327.4ha of the order limits is	531ha	216ha (41%)  101ha  (12% within Lincolnshire County)	4.2ha (0.7 <sup>19</sup> %)

<sup>19</sup> Data taken from Mallard Pass submitted documentation (REP3-031) – which states that in ES Chapter 12, Table 12.1 (APP-042) 4.2ha of BMV land within the site will be lost.

No.	Name of Scheme	Area of Site/ Order Limits (ha)	Area of Solar PV panels (excluding cable route corridor) (ha)	Temporary change of use of BMV land within the Solar PV panel area (ha and %)	Sealed over or loss of BMV land within the Solar PV panel area (ha and %) for the duration of the Proposed Development
	Rutland County Council's areas	within Lincolnshire)			
5	<b>Cottam Solar Project<sup>20</sup></b>	1451 ha	1179ha (across Cottam sites 1,2,3a and 3b)	4haha (0.3%)	4ha (0.3%) <sup>21</sup>
6	<b>Gate Burton Energy Park<sup>22</sup></b>	824 ha	652ha	73.6ha (11%)	2ha (0.3%)
7	<b>West Burton Solar Project<sup>23</sup></b>	886ha	757.8ha (across West Burton 1, 2 and 3 sites)	199.5ha (26.4%)	2ha (0.3%)
8	<b>Land at Little Hale Fen</b>	77 ha	77ha	77ha (100%)	0.7ha (1%)
9	<b>Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm, Holbeach Bank</b>	152 ha	152ha	152ha (100%)	1.52ha (1%)
10	<b>Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park<sup>24</sup></b>	350 ha	280ha	0ha (0%) <sup>25</sup>	0ha (0%)
11	<b>Tillbridge Solar Project<sup>26</sup></b>	Entire Order Limits not	900	68ha (7.5%)	11ha (1.2%)

<sup>20</sup> Information taken from 6.2.9 ES Chapter Soils and Agriculture (APP/ 054) of Cottam Solar Project Fam DCO application.

<sup>21</sup> REP\_O10 of Cottam submitted documents to the ExA, Table 19.2 and paragraph 19.7.7 states that 47.9ha of land will be used for the substation, BESS and access tracks which will not be used for the continued agricultural use during the lifetime of the Scheme. Of this 4ha is BMV which will be used for access tracks. This Gate Burton Interrelationship Report has been drafted in collaboration with the applicant for Tillbridge Solar.

<sup>22</sup> Information taken from 3.1 Environmental Statement Volume 1 Chapter 12: Socio Economics and Land Use (APP/ 021) of Gate Burton Energy Park DCO application. These areas remain accurate and have been cross referenced against the submissions made at the various Deadlines within the ExA hearing process for the Gate Burton Application.

<sup>23</sup> Information taken from 6.2.9 Environmental Statement Chapter 19: Soils and Agriculture (APP/057) of West Burton Solar Project DCO application.

<sup>24</sup> Information taken from Scoping Report of Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park DCO application.

<sup>25</sup> Total area of Order Limits identified as Grade 3b from Detailed Site Survey (paragraph 70, page 11 of Scoping Report)

<sup>26</sup> Information taken from two sources: Chapter 14 Socio-Economics and Land Use of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) on the Tillbridge Solar Project Applicant website Interim detailed ALC survey report has been undertaken for the areas of predicted BMV land take. REP5-O42 from the Gate Burton submitted documents to the ExA: Interrelationship Report

No.	Name of Scheme	Area of Site/ Order Limits (ha)	Area of Solar PV panels (excluding cable route corridor) (ha)	Temporary change of use of BMV land within the Solar PV panel area (ha and %)	Sealed over or loss of BMV land within the Solar PV panel area (ha and %) for the duration of the Proposed Development
		known as cable route corridor to be determined.			
12	<b>Beacon Fen Energy Park<sup>27</sup></b>	Unknown <sup>28</sup>	280ha	149.88ha (28.3%)	1.5ha (0.3%)
13	<b>Springwell Solar Farm<sup>29</sup></b>	1702 ha	1702ha <sup>30</sup>	Estimated 1517ha (89%) <sup>31</sup>	15ha (0.9%)
14	<b>Fosse Green Energy</b>	Entire Order Limits not known as cable route corridor to be determined.	1003ha	Estimated 1003ha (100%) <sup>32</sup>	10ha (0.1%)
15	<b>One Earth Solar Farm</b> This application is split over	Estimation of 1500 ha	1500ha across Lincolnshire and	1455ha (97%) <sup>34</sup> across Lincolnshire and	2.5ha (0.2%)

states that total area of the Tillbridge is site 1,400ha with 900ha developable area and 500ha for ecology, landscape & heritage offsets. The Gate Burton Interrelationship Report has been drafted in collaboration with the applicant for Tillbridge Solar.

<sup>27</sup> Information taken from Scoping Report of Beacon Fen Energy Park DCO application. ALC survey has been undertaken of solar area.

<sup>28</sup> Scoping Report estimated total areas as 1,036ha. In the summer 2023, the Applicant confirmed on the Beacon Fen project webpage withdrawal of 'Beacon Fen South' roughly 50% of the land for solar and storage. Area of solar PV panels and BMV area of solar PV panels is associated with 'Beacon Fen North' site.

<sup>29</sup> Information taken from Scoping Report of Springwell Solar Farm DCO application

<sup>30</sup> Scoping Report notes the 1702ha extends across the three parcels (Springwell West, Springwell Central and Springwell East). The cable route corridor does not appear to be included at this stage.

<sup>31</sup> Detailed ALC survey being undertaken at the time of the Scoping Report. Based on National level ALC data it is estimated 497ha (32.8%) is Grade 2 land, and 1020ha (67.2%) Grade 3 land. For the purpose, of this it is assumed the Grade 3 area is subgrade 3a.

<sup>32</sup> No detailed ALC survey provided in the Scoping Report. Based on National level Provisional ALC data it is a mixture of Grades 2 and 3 land. For the purpose, of this it is assumed the Grade 3 area is subgrade 3a.

<sup>34</sup> Based on National level Provisional ALC data it is estimated 1603ha (97%) is Grade 3 land, and 43ha (3%) Grade 4 land. For the purpose, of this assessment, it is assumed the Grade 3 area is subgrade 3a.

No.	Name of Scheme	Area of Site/ Order Limits (ha)	Area of Solar PV panels (excluding cable route corridor) (ha)	Temporary change of use of BMV land within the Solar PV panel area (ha and %)	Sealed over or loss of BMV land within the Solar PV panel area (ha and %) for the duration of the Proposed Development
	Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire County Council's areas		Nottinghamshire County Council areas  250ha <sup>33</sup> within Lincolnshire County	Nottinghamshire County Council areas  250ha (17%) within Lincolnshire County	
16	<b>Lincolnshire Reservoir</b>	972 ha	972ha (100%)	n/a	n/a
17	<b>Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane, Sleaford</b>	73 ha	73ha	0ha (0%) <sup>35</sup>	0ha (0%)

- 3.224. The Lincolnshire Reservoir project and the Boston Alternative Energy Project will require the land on which they are built to be permanently removed from agricultural activity. That involves a total of 998.8ha of agricultural land. No ALC soil survey work has been completed for either of these projects. The data that has been presented for these proposals show that the land is provisionally Grade 1 (Boston Alternative Energy Facility), Grade 2 and undifferentiated Grade 3 (Lincolnshire Reservoir). The proportion of BMV within the provisional Grade 3 land at the Lincolnshire Reservoir is not known.
- 3.225. This permanent removal of the land from agriculture will result in a change of use for land where the Lincolnshire Reservoir and Boston Alternative Energy Facility are proposed as both will require the land to be taken out of agriculture. As a Development Consent Order has been granted for the Boston Alternative Energy Facility the permanent loss and change of use of 26.8ha of Grade 1 land was deemed acceptable within the planning balance. The acceptability of the potential loss of 972ha of BMV agricultural land for the Lincolnshire Reservoir will have to be assessed when detailed environmental assessment has taken place. There is no public information at this time on when the EIA for this scheme will be published. However, construction is proposed to commence in 2029.
- 3.226. The remaining 15.No cumulative sites are proposed solar developments. From the known data that is available for these solar farm proposals, a cumulative total of 7,823ha of agricultural land is within Lincolnshire. Of this, 3,785ha is of BMV quality.
- 3.227. As detailed design has not been submitted for any of these solar farm applications it is not possible to determine a definitive area of land that will be disturbed for tracks, substations, energy storage areas (if being proposed). The assessment of the Heckington Fen Proposed Development has shown that in total there will be an estimated area of 3ha of BMV land

<sup>33</sup> Estimation of area of land within Lincolnshire County Council is estimated by Pegasus Group using ArcGIS Pro

<sup>35</sup> Total area of red line boundary identified as Grade 3b from Agricultural Land Classification Survey 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – ( NKDC reference: 23/1419/FUL)

sealed over or 'lost' for the duration of the Proposed Development. This 3ha equates to 1.1% of the BMV land within the Proposed Development being sealed over or 'lost' for the duration of the Proposed Development. As can be seen from **Table 3.17** some of the solar farm sites have high percentages of BMV land within their Order Limits and application boundaries. To allow for this the amount of land which has been assumed likely to be disturbed for tracks, substations, battery storage areas etc is expected to be 1% for any sites where the detail is not known. For the Temple Oaks Site their public documentation states that there is no BMV land within the site, so this 1% has **not** been applied for the Temple Oaks site. The combining of the known areas of BMV land that would be sealed over or lost for the duration of the proposed developments and the 1% loss from all 15No. cumulative solar sites is therefore estimated to be approximately 56.6ha of BMV land across Lincolnshire.

- 3.228. Collectively over the 15No. cumulative solar farms there could be a temporary disturbance of up to 56.6ha of BMV land. This disturbance will be temporary and will in most cases be restored fully at decommissioning, such that there is no permanent loss. When the estimated area of 3ha of BMV land sealed over or 'lost' for the duration of the project at Heckington Fen is added, the total cumulative temporary disturbance is 59.6ha. Therefore, whilst the total exceeds 20ha and under the IEMA guide would fall into the category of major to moderate adverse effects, further consideration needs to be given to this figure. The cumulative ES assessment then takes this headline figure of 59.6ha and considers it against the total area of BMV within Lincolnshire. Across Lincolnshire there is estimated to be 402,900ha (71.2%) of BMV land<sup>36</sup>. The temporary change of 59.6ha of BMV land is equivalent of 0.01% of BMV land in Lincolnshire. When this temporary change (i.e. not permanent sealing or downgrading) is placed into context with the BMV resource within the County, the cumulative effect would be **not significant** in EIA terms.
- 3.229. The use of land for solar energy production is usually undertaken in combination with an ongoing agricultural use, most often in the form of grazing of sheep. This combined land use is now common practice across the UK. Therefore, there is not likely to be a significant change in the land use for these cumulative solar schemes, with some form of agricultural activity likely to be remaining on the solar sites for their operational lifetimes.
- 3.230. There may be a change in the type of crops produced and agricultural enterprises undertaken on the land used by the operators of the cumulative solar farm sites, but the way land is farmed is not subject to planning control. How the land is farmed is a management choice of the landowner. It can be influenced by market factors. Economic factors are a significant driving force, but disease control and limitations, personal choices, rotational limitations, and other factors all influence the choice of cropping, and hence the type of agricultural use (e.g. cereals, sheep, grass etc). There is no requirement, or financial encouragement from Government, to farm agricultural land in a particular way for producing food. This was reiterated by DEFRA in December 2022 in the Government's stated position on food security, which stated that *"the UK has a large and highly resilient food supply chain. Our high degree of food security is built on supply from diverse sources: strong domestic production as well as imports through stable trade routes."* Therefore, utilising areas of agricultural land (both BMV and poor quality) assessed with the short-listed cumulative solar farm sites does not result in any significant adverse impact, either environmental or economic.

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<sup>36</sup> Table 16.4 of Chapter 16: Land Use and Agriculture (Document Reference: 6.1.16/ REP2-028)

- 3.231. Most Solar PV sites are temporary developments and are therefore reversible. This is the case for all of the solar sites assessed within the cumulative assessment. To that extent there is no permanent “loss” of agricultural land from these solar developments, by way of sealing or downgrading. It is predicted that it is likely to be capable of restoring all land within the cumulative solar farms, back to comparable ALC quality on decommissioning, such that very little, if any, BMV land will be permanently lost. This would be achieved through the implementation of Soil Management Plans for the construction and decommissioning of the cumulative solar farms. Therefore, no predicted adverse impact of the decommissioning process for the cumulative solar farm sites.
- 3.232. The updated cumulative sites assessment has assessed as far as reasonably possible, based on the limitations in the data available the Tier 2 and 3 sites, has considered the loss of agricultural land from the operation of the cumulative sites. This has shown that the operation of the 15No. cumulative solar sites would have low magnitude of change on the BMV resource which has medium sensitivity within Lincolnshire. It can therefore be concluded that cumulative impact for the solar farms on the loss of BMV land in Lincolnshire would have a **minor to moderate effect** which is **not a significant impact**. The cumulative assessment has shown that the permanent loss of 998.8ha BMV land for the Lincolnshire Reservoir and the approved Boston Alternative Energy Facility would result in a major adverse significant impact on the loss of BMV land within Lincolnshire.

## Mitigation and Enhancement

- 3.233. Due to the standalone nature of the Lincolnshire Reservoir there is no mitigation or enhancement that the Proposed Development can offer to reduce this significant cumulative impact. The proposal for the Lincolnshire Reservoir is in its very early stages as shown in Appendix 2.3 (document reference: 6.3.2.3/ ExA.ESTN-Cumulative-D2.V1) with to date no Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Many factors will need to be assessed to determine if this proposed location is a suitable site for a reservoir.
- 3.234. Even if all the proposed cumulative solar farms and the Proposed Development were not granted consent the retention of approximately 60.3ha of BMV land in Lincolnshire would not have a direct effect on reducing the BMV lost from the development of the Lincolnshire Reservoir site. The impact of the Lincolnshire Reservoir would still be a major adverse permanent effect and therefore be a significance impact as a standalone project.
- 3.235. Details on the final design of the solar farms are not available currently. However, reasonable mitigations would be to apply similar design principles to those used at Heckington Fen. These design principles aim to minimise, where reasonably possible, the use of BMV land for structures such as access tracks, onsite substation, operational compounds and EES areas. Such design considerations will minimise the areas of land sealed off and lost for the lifetime of the proposed cumulative solar developments. It would also be expected that each of these solar farms will be required to draft, and follow, a Soil Management Plan for construction, operation and decommissioning. The details within the Outline Soil Management Plan (document reference 7.15) would be agreed with Natural England, as per Heckington Fen, to ensure that the necessary precautions are in place to protect the soil’s structure throughout the phases of the solar developments.
- 3.236. Other cumulative solar farms which are using BMV land may choose to operate ongoing agricultural practices on the land, such as pastoral farming in the form of sheep grazing, to enable ongoing agricultural practices to co-exist with energy generation from solar panels.



Such a mitigation is being proposed at Heckington Fen and this measure is being secured via the draft DCO.

## **Residual Cumulative Effects**

- 3.237. The residual cumulative effect is **not significant**, except for the Lincolnshire Reservoir which potentially could be significant due to the permanent loss of over 900ha of BMV land if it was granted consent

## **Conclusion**

- 3.238. The additional cumulative sites result in greater land use change, but that is not an environmental impact.
- 3.239. There are no additional significant cumulative impacts.



## Glint and Glare

### Introduction

- 3.240. This section of this document provides an update of the potential cumulative effects in combination with the Proposed Development, in relation to Glint and Glare.

### Assessment Approach

- 3.241. Consideration and a review of all shortlisted cumulative projects as per **Table 2.1** of this document has been undertaken as part of this cumulative effects assessment update.
- 3.242. From **Table 2.1**, only Site 12, 'Beacon Fen Energy Park' required further assessment.
- 3.243. In order to assess the cumulative Glint and Glare effects, the same 'Assessment Methodology' has been applied as is set out in **Chapter: 17 Glint and Glare** (document reference 6.1.17/APP-070) of the submitted ES.

### Baseline Conditions

- 3.244. The baseline conditions, as set out in the 'Baseline Conditions' section of **Chapter: 17 Glint and Glare** (document reference 6.1.17/APP-070), remain valid.

### Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects

- 3.245. Cumulative sites in **Table 2.1** that were identified as lying in excess of 5km from the Energy Park, have been considered but in each case were eliminated as receptors with potential intervisibility to both sites were very limited, and at these distances, no cumulative glint effects are expected.
- 3.246. The ForgeSolar computer model can only directly model cumulative effects for solar developments that are located completely within 5km of the Energy Park. Although some of the southern sections of the Beacon Fen site are less than 5km from the Heckington Fen site, the majority of that proposed development lies more than 5km from the Energy Park and cannot be directly assessed within the computer model.
- 3.247. In the absence of mitigation at the Energy Park, cumulative glint effects would theoretically be possible where glint from other solar developments and other reflective surfaces in the environment collectively affect the same receptor. However, since the Energy Park at Heckington Fen is appropriately screened to prevent most impacts at surrounding ground-based receptors, and given the flat expansive landscape within which it is situated, it should be possible to eradicate almost all glint effects, except possibly from a few upper storey windows with views down into the Energy Park. With almost all glint effects from the Energy Park screened from the assessed receptors, cumulative effects cannot occur as a result of interaction with other glint sources.
- 3.248. In the case of cumulative glint effects from Beacon Fen, both the Proposed Development and the Beacon Fen development are to be well screened and, as a result of this screening, glint effects are not predicted. Therefore, there will be no cumulative glint at receptors near either site, and cumulative impacts are assessed as being negligible and **Not Significant**.

- 3.249. In relation to aviation receptors, the direct glint risk posed to aircraft and air traffic control towers from the development of the Energy Park has been assessed as negligible and Not Significant. In order to receive glint, the sun and the receptor must be in alignment with the panels and glint effects will usually only persist for a short period until either the sun has moved position in the sky, or in the case of a plane, it has flown to a slightly different position in the sky, breaking the alignment. For cumulative effects to occur for a passing aircraft, the alignment between the sun, panel and aircraft must deliver glint whilst a simultaneous alignment of the sun, panels at the cumulative site and the aircraft also exists. Whilst this is theoretically possible with differing panel angles, in practice the separation between the sites and the similarity between panel inclinations and orientations at those differing sites means that such co-alignment is highly unlikely. The risk of cumulative glint on aviation receptors from multiple solar developments is considered to be negligible and **Not Significant**.

## Mitigation and Enhancement

- 3.250. No further mitigation and enhancement measures, over and above those already proposed, are anticipated, and the 'Mitigation Measures' section of **Chapter: 17 Glint and Glare** (document reference 6.1.17/APP-070) remains valid and unchanged.
- 3.251. Other solar farms existing or consented in the area (as detailed in **Table 2.1**) are sufficiently far away that there will not be any cumulative glint effects present, even without mitigation. Once the screening mitigation has been applied to the Energy Park most receptors are predicted to receive no glint effects and so any potential for cumulative effects involving the Energy Park would cease.

## Residual Cumulative Effects

- 3.252. The residual cumulative effects of Glint and Glare, remain, negligible and Not Significant, as per the conclusions drawn in the 'Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects' in the Glint and Glare section of this document (paragraph 3.152).

## Conclusion

- 3.253. In conclusion, **no significant cumulative effects** resulting from the assessment of the projects listed in **Table 2.1** of this document are anticipated during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases.

## Miscellaneous Issues

### Introduction

- 3.254. This section of this document provides an update of the potential cumulative effects in combination with the Proposed Development, in relation to Miscellaneous Issues including: Major Accidents and Disasters, Waste, Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields, and Telecommunications, Television Reception and Utilities.

### Assessment Approach

- 3.255. Consideration and a review of all shortlisted cumulative projects as per **Table 2.1** of this document has been undertaken as part of this cumulative effects assessment update.
- 3.256. For Major Accidents and Disasters, the same shortlisted major accidents and disasters to be considered are applied in this cumulative effects assessment update, as per 'Assessment Methodology' section title in **Chapter 18: Miscellaneous Issues** (document reference 6.1.18/PS-077). These include: Health and Safety at Work, Fire, Rail accidents, Utilities failure (gas, electricity, water, sewage, oil, communications), and Criminal Damage.
- 3.257. For Waste, the same 'Assessment Methodology' section title in **Chapter 18: Miscellaneous Issues** (document reference 6.1.18/PS-077) applies.
- 3.258. For Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields, the same 'Assessment Methodology' section title in **Chapter 18: Miscellaneous Issues** (document reference 6.1.18/PS-077) applies. Electric fields are not considered as underground cables produce no external electric field. Magnetic fields are considered, but only for cabling systems above 132kV as voltages up to and including 132kV are not capable of exceeding ICNIRP exposure guidelines<sup>37</sup>. Additionally, it is pertinent to reconfirm magnetic fields are not simply added together where they may be generated by separate sources and are typically dominated by the biggest source<sup>38</sup>.
- 3.259. Six projects (No. 1, 2, 8, 10, 12 and 17 of **Table 2.1**) in the updated cumulative shortlist are identified as connecting into National Grid Bicker Fen Substation and could have potential for associated cabling interacting with the Proposed Development. However, four of the projects (No. 1, 2, 8, 17 of **Table 2.1**) are solar schemes less than 50MW, with any potential underground cabling to National Grid Bicker Fen Substation with voltages below 132 kV and are therefore discounted of any further assessment in relation to magnetic fields. Beacon Fen Energy Park and Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park as DCO projects have the potential to use a cabling system above 132 kV (although this is not confirmed in the Scoping Reports<sup>39</sup> for the two projects as the most up to date public information to be relied upon (correct as of October 2023)), and therefore as a worst-case scenario are assessed for magnetic field effects below.

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<sup>37</sup> ICNIRP (1998) ICNIRP Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to Time-Varying Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields (up to 300 GHz).

<sup>38</sup> National Grid Website (EMFs.info) (2018), Adding fields together.

<sup>39</sup> Information reviewed from the Scoping Report of Beacon Fen Energy Park and Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

- 3.260. For Telecommunications, Television Reception and Utilities, the same 'Assessment Methodology' section title in **Chapter 18: Miscellaneous Issues** (document reference 6.118/PS-077) applies.

## Baseline Conditions

- 3.261. The baseline conditions remain valid as per the 'Baseline Conditions' section titles for Major Accidents and Disasters, Waste, Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields, and Telecommunications, Television Reception and Utilities in **Chapter 18: Miscellaneous Issues** (document reference 6.118/PS-077).

## Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects

### Major Accidents and Disasters

- 3.262. Road Accidents and Safety is set out in the Transport and Access section of this document (paragraph 3.174–3.176). It is anticipated no increase in incidents are associated with the temporary 30 month construction phase of the Proposed Development.
- 3.263. As a result of the distance between the cumulative projects and the Proposed Development, **no significant cumulative effects** resulting from the shortlisted projects in **Table 2.1** of this document are anticipated during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases.

### Waste

- 3.264. As per the cumulative effects assessment for Waste in Section 18.4 of **Chapter 18: Miscellaneous Issues** (document reference 6.118/PS-077), there is potential for cumulative effects in regard to waste, for the construction and decommissioning phases in particular, if all projects on the shortlist are granted for approval and construction/ decommissioning dates overlap. Cumulative volumes of waste could create pressure on the capacity of local recycling plants or landfill sites.
- 3.265. It is expected that new industry emerging for recycling solar panels, and the resale of any operational infrastructure within this sector is likely to continue grow with the increase in approved solar farms across the UK since 2010. It is assumed waste would be adequately managed, and the revised cumulative shortlist of projects has not caused additional effects not already assessed in **Chapter 18: Miscellaneous Issues** (document reference 6.118/PS-077). Therefore, it is anticipated there will be **no significant cumulative effects** resulting from the shortlisted projects in **Table 2.1** of this document during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases.

### Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields

- 3.266. As a result of the distance between the cumulative projects and the Proposed Development, many of the shortlisted projects will not have associated cabling that interacts with the Proposed Development or connects into National Grid Bicker Fen Substation. Two projects are identified to have potential cumulative project effects in relation to magnetic fields for a cabling system of over 132 kV, including Beacon Fen Energy Park and Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park, of which are both connecting into National Grid Bicker Fen Substation.

- 3.267. As per paragraph 18.5.31 of **Chapter 18: Miscellaneous Issues** (document reference 6.1.18/PS-077), the highest EMFs produced by underground cables are located directly above the buried cables, and field strength decreases with distance from the source. A 400 kV cable buried at least 1m depth will not breach ICNIRP guidelines for occupational or public exposure, even if a receptor was standing 0m distance from the centreline of the 1m buried cable, as per the assessment of the Proposed Development's use of a 400 kV underground cabling system.
- 3.268. Beacon Fen Energy Park and Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park will also be subject to compliance with policy to bury underground cables at a suitable depth to ensure neither the occupational nor public limits will be breached in regard to magnetic field exposure, as per the Proposed Development.
- 3.269. As set out in the paragraph 3.259 of this document, magnetic fields are not added together where they may be present from multiple sources, therefore it is anticipated there will be **no significant cumulative effects** resulting from the shortlisted projects in **Table 2.1** of this document during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases.

#### **Telecommunications, Television Reception and Utilities**

- 3.270. As a result of the distance between the cumulative projects and the Proposed Development, **no significant cumulative effects** resulting from the shortlisted projects in **Table 2.1** of this document are anticipated during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases.
- 3.271. It is expected that the other cumulative projects would also have no significant effect on telecommunications and television reception and would adhere to the same mitigation as set out in Section 18.6 of **Chapter 18: Miscellaneous Issues** (document reference 6.1.18/PS-077) to reduce the risk of damaging utilities.

### **Mitigation and Enhancement**

- 3.272. No further mitigation and enhancement measures are anticipated, and the 'Mitigation Measures' section titles for Major Accidents and Disasters, Waste, Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields, and Telecommunications, Television Reception and Utilities in **Chapter 18: Miscellaneous Issues** (document reference 6.1.18/PS-077) remain valid and unchanged.

### **Residual Cumulative Effects**

- 3.273. The residual cumulative effects of Major Accidents and Disasters, Waste, Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields, and Telecommunications, Television Reception and Utilities, remain as per the conclusions drawn in the 'Assessment of Likely Cumulative Effects' in the Miscellaneous Issues section of this document.

### **Conclusion**

- 3.274. In conclusion, **no significant cumulative effects** resulting from the assessment of the projects listed in **Table 2.1** of this document are anticipated during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases.

## 4. Cumulative Effect Summary

- 4.1. A summary of the potential cumulative effects is set out in **Table 4.1**.
- 4.2. The assessment confirms that the shortlisted cumulative projects introduce one new significant cumulative effects in combination with Heckington Fen Solar Park. This cumulative effect relates to the potential cumulative effect of the loss of BMV land from the operation of the Lincolnshire Reservoir. Based on the assessment the Lincolnshire Reservoir would have this major adverse significant impact on BMV land due to its own development footprint, regardless of the cumulative sites. If un-mitigated by its own design, it would be determined with a residual major adverse significant impact. The Proposed Development would have a minor increase in the cumulative loss of BMV (by c.3ha) but the inclusion of all the other cumulative sites would not lead to a significant increase in the residual adverse impact the proposed Lincolnshire Reservoir has been assessed as having on loss of BMV land within Lincolnshire.
- 4.3. The other conclusions of the cumulative assessment within the ES for the Proposed Development remain valid and unchanged.



**Table 4.1: Summary Assessment of Updated Cumulative Project Shortlist (construction, operation and decommissioning)**

Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
<b>Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual</b>								
Construction								
Landscape Character: host LT A Reclaimed Fen and its LCA A1 Holland Reclaimed Fen	Beacon Fen Energy Park	Additionality of the proposed Off-site Cable Route Corridor	Temporary	Not Applicable	District	Major Adverse Significant	Not Applicable	Major Adverse <b>Significant</b>
Road receptors: within West Low Grounds and Bicker Fen, and around the existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation	Beacon Fen Energy Park	Additionality of the proposed Off-site Cable Route Corridor	Temporary	Not Applicable	Local	Major Adverse Significant	Not Applicable	Major Adverse <b>Significant</b>



Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
Decommissioning								
Landscape Character: host LT A Reclaimed Fen and its LCA A1 Holland Reclaimed Fen	Beacon Fen Energy Park	Additionality of the proposed Off-site Cable Route Corridor	Temporary	Not Applicable	District	Major Adverse Significant	Not Applicable	Major Adverse <b>Significant</b>
Road receptors: within West Low Grounds and Bicker Fen, and around the existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation	Beacon Fen Energy Park	Additionality of the proposed Off-site Cable Route Corridor	Temporary	Not Applicable	Local	Major Adverse Significant	Not Applicable	Major Adverse <b>Significant</b>
<b>Chapter 7 – Residential Visual Amenity</b>								
No significant effects are anticipated in regard to cumulative effects for Residential Visual Amenity.								



Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
<b>Chapter 8- Ecology and Ornithology</b>								
Ground nesting birds (including Skylark and Yellow Wagtail)	Entire Shortlist	Permanent loss of habitat	Long term  Direct	Medium  High	District	Moderate adverse  Not Significant	The provision of approximately 138ha of land capable of sustaining ground nesting bird populations, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 50ha of undeveloped land managed for biodiversity, including ground nesting birds;</li> <li>• Approximately 26ha of grassland in panel array margins, and</li> <li>• Approximately 62ha of off-site arable</li> </ul>	<b>Not Significant</b>



Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
							farmland within the Applicant's option. Within which 124 'Skylark Plots' will be incorporated into the cultivation.	
<b>Chapter 9 –Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage</b>								
No significant effects are anticipated in regard to cumulative effects for Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage .								
<b>Chapter 10- Cultural Heritage</b>								
No significant effects are anticipated in regard to cumulative effects for Cultural Heritage.								
<b>Chapter 11 – Socio-Economics</b>								
Construction								
North Kesteven	1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17 +	Increase in local employment	Short term	(1) Medium; (2) Medium	District scale	Significant Beneficial	Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan	<b>Significant Beneficial</b>



Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
and Boston districts	Proposed Development							
North Kesteven and Boston districts	1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17 + Proposed Development	Increase in economic contribution (GVA)	Short term	(1) Medium; (2) High	District scale	Significant Beneficial	None required	<b>Significant Beneficial</b>
North Kesteven and Boston districts	1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17 + Proposed Development	Increase in accommodation demand	Short term	(1) Medium; (2) Low	District scale	Not Significant	None proposed	<b>Not Significant</b>
Operation								
North Kesteven and Boston districts	1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17 + Proposed Development	Increase in local employment	Short term	(1) Medium; (2) Low	District scale	Not Significant	Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan	<b>Not Significant</b>
North Kesteven and Boston districts	1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17 + Proposed Development	Increase in economic contribution (GVA)	Short term	(1) Medium; (2) Low	District scale	Not Significant	None required	<b>Not Significant</b>



Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
North Kesteven and Boston districts	1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17 + Proposed Development	Increase in business rates	Short term	(1) Medium; (2) Medium	District scale	Significant	None required	<b>Significant</b>  Beneficial
Decommissioning								
North Kesteven and Boston districts	1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17 + Proposed Development	Increase in local employment	Short term	(1) Medium; (2) Medium	District scale	Significant Beneficial	Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan	<b>Significant</b> Beneficial
North Kesteven and Boston districts	1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17 + Proposed Development	Increase in economic contribution (GVA)	Short term	(1) Medium; (2) Medium	District scale	<b>Significant</b> Beneficial	None required	<b>Significant</b> Beneficial
North Kesteven and Boston districts	1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17 + Proposed Development	Increase in accommodation demand	Short term	(1) Medium; (2) Low	District scale	Not Significant	None proposed	<b>Not</b> <b>Significant</b>
<b>Chapter 12– Noise and Vibration</b>								



Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
Noise-sensitive receptors along the A17	All relevant schemes	Noise from cumulative construction traffic	Temporary, indirect.	Highly sensitive, negligible magnitude of effect.	Not applicable	Negligible, not significant	None	Negligible,  <b>Not Significant</b>
<b>Chapter 13- Climate Change</b>								
Global atmosphere	All projects with the exception of 'Lincolnshire Reservoir (WA010003).	Net GHG emissions as a consequence of operation of the Proposed Development in addition to other solar schemes considered	Permanent  Direct	(1) High  (2) Expressed as the change in mass of GHG emissions, in units of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e)	International	Moderate Beneficial  Significant	N/A	Moderate Beneficial  <b>Significant</b>
<b>Chapter 14 – Transport and Access</b>								
Construction								

Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
Link One – A17 west of proposed temporary construction access	Boston Alternative Energy Facility  Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm, Holbeach Bank  Beacon Fen Energy Park	Vehicular Traffic Flows	Temporary / Direct	High  Negligible	Local	<b>Not Significant</b>	Provision of a Construction Traffic Management Plan	<b>Not Significant</b>
		Accidents and Safety						
		Severance						
		Driver Delay						
		Hazardous and Dangerous Loads						
Dust and Dirt								
Link Two – A17 west of proposed construction / operational access	Boston Alternative Energy Facility  Land North of Roman	Vehicular Traffic Flows	Temporary / Direct	High  Low	Local	<b>Not Significant</b>	Provision of a Construction Traffic Management Plan	<b>Not Significant</b>
		Accidents and Safety		High				

Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
	Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm, Holbeach Bank  Beacon Fen Energy Park	Severance  Driver Delay  Hazardous and Dangerous Loads  Dust and Dirt		Negligible				
Operation								
Link One – A17 west of proposed temporary construction access	Boston Alternative Energy Facility  Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm,	Vehicular Traffic Flows  Accidents and Safety  Severance  Driver Delay  Hazardous and Dangerous Loads	Temporary / Direct	High  Negligible	Local	<b>Not Significant</b>	N/A	<b>Not Significant</b>

Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
	Holbeach Bank  Beacon Fen Energy Park	Dust and Dirt						
Link Two – A17 west of proposed construction / operational access	Boston Alternative Energy Facility  Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm, Holbeach Bank	Vehicular Traffic Flows	Temporary / Direct	High  Negligible	Local	<b>Not Significant</b>	N/A	<b>Not Significant</b>
		Accidents and Safety						
		Severance						
		Driver Delay						
		Hazardous and Dangerous Loads						
	Beacon Fen Energy Park	Dust and Dirt						



Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
Link Three – A17 east of proposed construction / operational access	Boston Alternative Energy Facility	Vehicular Traffic Flows	Temporary / Direct	High  Negligible	Local	<b>Not Significant</b>	N/A	<b>Not Significant</b>
		Accidents and Safety						
	Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm, Holbeach Bank	Severance						
	Driver Delay							
	Hazardous and Dangerous Loads							
	Beacon Fen Energy Park	Dust and Dirt						
Decommissioning								
Link One – A17 west of proposed temporary	Boston Alternative Energy Facility	Vehicular Traffic Flows	Temporary / Direct	High  Negligible	Local	<b>Not Significant</b>	Provision of a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan	<b>Not Significant</b>
		Accidents and Safety						

Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
construction access	Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm, Holbeach Bank  Beacon Fen Energy Park	Severance						
		Driver Delay						
		Hazardous and Dangerous Loads						
		Dust and Dirt						
Link Two – A17 west of proposed construction / operational access	Boston Alternative Energy Facility  Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm,	Vehicular Traffic Flows	Temporary / Direct	High  Low	Local	<b>Not Significant</b>	Provision of a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan	<b>Not Significant</b>
		Accidents and Safety						
		Severance						
		Driver Delay						
		Hazardous and Dangerous Loads						



Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
	Holbeach Bank  Beacon Fen Energy Park	Dust and Dirt						
Link Three - A17 east of proposed construction / operational access	Boston Alternative Energy Facility  Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm, Holbeach Bank	Vehicular Traffic Flows	Temporary / Direct	High  Low	Local	<b>Not Significant</b>	Provision of a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan	<b>Not Significant</b>
		Accidents and Safety						
		Severance						
		Driver Delay						
		Hazardous and Dangerous Loads						
	Beacon Fen Energy Park	Dust and Dirt						



Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
<b>Chapter 15– Air Quality</b>								
Existing sensitive receptors located on construction routes	<p>Boston Alternative Energy Facility (Ref: EN010095)</p> <p>Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm, Holbeach Bank (Ref: H09-0132-23)</p> <p>Beacon Fen Energy Park (Ref: EN010152).</p>	Potential increase in concentrations of NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> and PM <sub>2.5</sub> as a result of additional construction traffic movements	Temporary/ Direct	Not Applicable	Local	Not Significant	Mitigation measures secured in the Outline CTMP	<b>Not Significant</b>
<b>Chapter 16– Land Use and Agriculture</b>								

Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
Loss of Agricultural Land from Cumulative Solar Farms	Entire Shortlist	Loss of BMV land	Temporary, Adverse, Direct for sites 1,2,4-15 & 17  Permanent, Adverse, Direct for sites 3 & 16	(1)- High  (2) – Minor to Moderate	UK	Sites 1, 2, 4- 15 & 17 Moderate to Minor adverse- Not Significant  Sites 3 & 16 Major adverse Significant	Protection and Restoration of affected BMV land (solar farms) through Soil Management Plans for construction and decommissioning  No mitigation for Sites 3 & 16 as loss of BMV land is permanent. Site 16 is major adverse significance in its own right. Cumulative Assessment has not triggered a significant impact	Sites 1, 2, 4- 15 & 17 Minor Adverse (UK) <b>Not Significant</b>  Site 3 & 16 Major Adverse (UK) – <b>Significant</b>
<b>Chapter 17- Glint and Glare</b>								
Local ground receptors including residential, rail and road receptors.	Beacon Fen Energy Park (Ref: EN010152).	Potential for increased glint during operational phase as a result of glint from multiple sources.	N/A	N/A	Local	Negligible  Not Significant	Minimised through screening at both sites. Screening at Heckington Fen results in no glint at receptors, therefore there cannot be	Negligible  <b>Not Significant</b>



Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
							cumulative glint with Beacon Fen	
Aviation receptors	Entire list	Reflection of sunlight from panels in multiple arrays. Potential safety issues from pilot dazzle or air traffic control tower dazzle	N/A	N/A	National	Negligible  Not Significant	No mitigation employed	Negligible  <b>Not Significant</b>
<b>Chapter 18 – Miscellaneous (Major Accidents and Disasters)</b>								
Local receptors including work force, local residential, rail and road receptors.	Entire Shortlist	Increase risk of major accidents and disasters from construction, operational and decommissioning activities	Short Term – Long Term  Direct	N/A	Local	<b>Not Significant</b>	Minimising risk through appropriate risk assessments secured through the oCEMP, oOEMP, oDRP and oESSMP.	<b>Not Significant</b>
<b>Chapter 18 – Miscellaneous (Waste)</b>								

Receptor/ Receiving Environment	Relative Cumulative Projects	Description of Potential for Cumulative Effects	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity (1) and Magnitude (2) of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Cumulative Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement Measures	Residual Cumulative Effects
Local recycling plants or landfill sites	Entire Shortlist	Increased pressure on the local recycling plants or landfill sites	Medium Term  Direct	N/A	Local	<b>Not Significant</b>	Management of the potential cumulative volumes of waste would be secured through the oCEMP, oOEMP and oDRP, and a Site Waste Management Plan will be agreed prior to construction commencement.	<b>Not Significant</b>
<b>Chapter 18 – Miscellaneous (Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields)</b>								
Sensitive receptors of EMF's	Entire Shortlist	Harmful to health	Permanent  Direct	N/A	Local	<b>Not Significant</b>	N/A	<b>Not Significant</b>
<b>Chapter 18 – Miscellaneous (Telecommunications, Television Reception and Utilities)</b>								
Local receptors	Entire Shortlist	Disruption to television reception and on-site utilities	Long Term  Direct	N/A	Local	<b>Not Significant</b>	N/A	<b>Not Significant</b>



## **Appendix 1 – Cumulative Sites Long List and Shortlist (Revision 4)**



**APPENDIX 2.3- CUMULATIVE SITES LONG LIST AND SHORTLIST**

<b>Document Properties</b>		
<b>Regulation Reference</b>	Regulation 5(2)(a)	
<b>Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference</b>	EN010123	
<b>Application Document Reference</b>	6.3.2.3	
<b>Title</b>	Appendix 2.3 - Cumulative Sites Long List and Shortlist	
<b>Prepared By</b>	Heckington Fen Energy Park Project Team (Pegasus)	
<b>Version History</b>		
<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Version Status</b>
Rev 1	February 2023	Application Version
Rev 2	November 2023	Deadline 2
Rev 3	December 2023	Deadline 3
Rev 4	January 2024	Deadline 4

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Inspectorate Advice Note Seventeen (Planning Inspectorate, 2019) provides a clear and systematic approach to cumulative effects which forms the basis of the cumulative effects assessment for the Proposed Development. The approach consists of a four-stage process which is further described in **Table 1.1** below.

**Table 1.1: Summary of the four-stage process for cumulative effect assessment**

Cumulative Effect Assessment Stage	Description of Stage
Stage 1	Establish the National Significant Infrastructure Project’s Zone of Influence and identify long list of ‘other developments’.
Stage 2	Identify shortlist of ‘other developments’ for Cumulative Effects Assessment.
Stage 3	Information gathering of the ‘other developments’.
Stage 4	An assessment of the likely cumulative effects. Mitigation measures are identified (where appropriate) where an adverse cumulative effect is identified. The apportionment of effect between the Proposed Development and the ‘other developments’ is considered, e.g., whether the contribution to the effect is demonstrably related to one development or whether

1.2 An exercise has been undertaken to identify a long list, whereby, the cumulative schemes have been assessed against the four assessment stages and subsequently progressed as part of the shortlist of cumulative schemes that are considered as part of the cumulative assessment, which is presented in **Chapters 6 to 18** (document reference 6.1.6-6.1.18) of this Environmental Statement. The process used to identify this shortlist is described in Section 2.13 of **Chapter 2- EIA Methodology and Consultation** (document reference 6.1.2) of this Environmental Statement.

1.3 **Table 1.2** below presents the long list of cumulative schemes identified as relevant to the Proposed Development. Each of these have been reviewed as part of Stages 1 and 2 of the four-stage approach listed in Section 2.13 of **Chapter 2- EIA Methodology and Consultation** (document reference 6.1.2) of this Environmental Statement.

1.4 Those cumulative schemes identified to be progressed to the shortlist and reviewed against cumulative effect assessment Stages 3 and 4 are then progressed as part of the Cumulative Assessment presented in **Chapters 6 to 18** (document reference 6.1.6-6.1.18) of this Environmental Statement. For ease of reference, the shortlist of all potential cumulative developments is presented in **Table 1.3**. This information was collated prior to finalisation of the ES chapters, as required, and was up to date as of end of December 2022.

### 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

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- 1.5 Subsequent to the submission of the DCO application in February 2023, the Applicant has continued to liaise with the relevant Local and County Planning Authorities and has updated the cumulative long list and in turn the cumulative shortlist (as necessary). These revised lists are up to date as of January 2024, to allow for the collation of data and assessments prior to the finalisation of the technical disciplines update of the cumulative effects assessment. This update has been presented as an addendum to the ES in **ES Technical Note- Updated Information on Cumulative Projects** (document reference ExA.ESTN-Cumulative-D4.V1).
- 1.6 Revision 1 of the **ES Technical Note- Updated Information on Cumulative Projects** was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate at Deadline 2 as agreed with the Examining Authority after Issue Specific Hearing 2 on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023. At Deadline 3, this document was updated to a Revision 3 after North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) provided two additional cumulative projects to be considered by the Applicant subsequent to the request at Issue Specific Hearing 4 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 from the Applicant to be provided with any new, relevant projects in the ongoing cumulative assessment updates. At Deadline 4, this document was updated to a Revision 4 with project statuses updated (where required). The most notable change was an existing cumulative project on the Shortlist (Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane, Sleaford) was updated to a Tier 1 project. No new cumulative projects were added to the Long List or Shortlist.
- 1.7 Where information has been unavailable on the relevant planning portals, this has been specified within **Table 1.2**.

Table 1.2- Cumulative Sites Long List

No.	Project Planning Reference /	Shortened Name and Brief Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
	<b>PINS</b>											
1	EN010133	Cottam Solar Project - three electricity generating stations, each with anticipated capacity in excess of 50MW	43.4km north-west	Application submitted and not yet determined. Examination commenced 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2023, expected to close March 2024	1	No	Yes	Potential for overlap - predicted start of construction 2024-2026	Potential for overlap - predicted start of operation 2026	Potential for overlap	Due to the size and nature of this scheme it is proposed to include as part of the cumulative scenario due to the potential for cumulative impacts relating to loss/change of use of agricultural land at a regional level.	Yes
2	EN010131	Gate Burton Energy Park - generation, storage and export of up to 500 (MW) electrical generation capacity	48.5km north-west	Application submitted and not yet determined. Examination closed on 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	1	No	Yes	Potential for overlap- predicted start of construction 2025-2028	Potential for overlap- predicted start of operation 2028	Potential for overlap	Due to the size and nature of this scheme it is proposed to include as part of the cumulative scenario due to the potential for cumulative impacts	Yes

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

No.	Project Planning Reference	Shortened Name and Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
											relating to loss/change of use of agricultural land at a regional level.	
3	EN010132	West Burton Solar Project - four electricity generating stations, each with anticipated capacity in excess of 50MW	41.1km north-west	Application submitted and not yet determined. Examination Commenced November 2023, expected to close May 2024	1	No	Yes	Potential for overlap-predicted start of construction 2024-2026	Potential for overlap-predicted start of operation 2026	Potential for overlap	Due to the size and nature of this scheme it is proposed to include as part of the cumulative scenario due to the potential for cumulative impacts relating to loss/change of use of agricultural land at a regional level.	Yes
4	EN010127	Mallard Pass Solar Farm - generation capacity of greater than 50 MW.	33.2km south-west	Application Submitted and not yet determined. Examination closed November 2023  This is over 2No. County Council's with approximate	1	No	Yes	Potential for overlap-predicted start of construction 2026-2028	Potential for overlap-predicted start of operation 2028	Potential for overlap	Due to the size and nature of this scheme it is proposed to include as part of the cumulative scenario due to the potential for cumulative impacts	Yes

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

No.	Project Planning Reference	Shortened Name and Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
				ly 12% of the Site within Lincolnshire							relating to loss/change of use of agricultural land at a regional level.	
5	EN010095	Boston Alternative Energy Facility (BAEF) - 102MWe gross (80MWe exportable) energy from waste facility with light weight aggregates wharf, waste reception and storage	11.7km west	Application determined and granted development consent on the 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	1	No	Yes	2022	2026	N/A	Due to the size and nature of this scheme it is proposed to include as part of the cumulative scenario due to the potential for cumulative impacts relating to loss/change of use of agricultural land at a regional level.	Yes
6	EN010126	Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park - 250MW Solar Farm, accompanied by 400MWh Battery Energy Storage System	18.1km south-west The Offsite Cable Route Corridor connects into Bicker Fen Substation and are in close proximity (less than 1km)	Scoping Report submitted and Response Published August 2022	2	No	Yes	Potential for overlap	Potential for overlap	Potential for overlap	Due to the size and nature of this scheme it is proposed to include as part of the cumulative scenario due to the potential for cumulative impacts	Yes

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

No.	Project Planning Reference	Shortened Name and Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
											relating to loss/change of use of agricultural land at a regional level.	
7	EN010130	Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind (Generating Station)- offshore wind farm and associated offshore and onshore infrastructure including offshore and onshore high voltage electricity cables, onshore and offshore electricity substation(s), connection(s) to the National Grid and ancillary and temporary works.	54km north-east to the site boundary off the coast of Lincolnshire. Proposed Cable Route Corridor to Weston Marsh <sup>1</sup> (north of Spalding) is 10.58km east of the Order Limits for the Offsite Cable Route Corridor for Heckington Fen.	Scoping Report submitted and Response Published Sept 2022.  PEIR and Formal Public Consultation commenced in June 2023. Formal consultation has refined grid connection search area.	2	Offshore wind farm outside ZOI.  Indicative grid connection search area following refined area is outside ZOI for all disciplines.	Yes	Potential for overlap-predicted start of construction 2026-2030	Potential for overlap-predicted start of operation 2030	Potential for overlap	The offshore wind farm is outside of the cumulative ZOI for all disciplines and the likelihood of cumulative impacts is considered low. The indicative onshore cable route is now also outside the cumulative ZOI. As now both elements are outside of the cumulative ZOI for all disciplines it is proposed to exclude as part of the cumulative scenario.	No

<sup>1</sup> Information taken from 6.1.3 Project Description chapter of PEIR of the Outer Dowsing Applicant project website. An update was provided under 'News' section of the project website on the 10/08/23 that only the Weston Marsh options (Weston Marsh South and Weston Marsh North) would be pursued, and the Lincolnshire Node option within the PEIR would no longer be pursued.

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

No.	Project Planning Reference	Shortened Name and Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
8	EN010142	Tillbridge Solar Project- generation capacity of greater than 50 MW.	47.7km north-west	Scoping Report submitted and Response Published in November 2022. Statutory Consultation from 30 May to 11 July 2023. Targeted Statutory Consultation being undertaken between 14 December 2023 and 25 January 2024.	2	No	Yes	Potential for overlap-predicted start of construction 2025-2027	Potential for overlap-predicted start of operation 2027	Potential for overlap	Due to the size and nature of this scheme it is proposed to include as part of the cumulative scenario due to the potential for cumulative impacts relating to loss/change of use of agricultural land at a regional level.	Yes
9	EN010152	Beacon Fen Energy Park <sup>2</sup> Solar Generation and Battery Storage Project with generating capacity of approximately 600MW and similar capacity for energy storage	3.3km north-west of the Energy Park Site The Offsite Cable Route Corridor of this project and Heckington Fen intersect. The area of	Scoping Report Submitted and Response Published in June 2023. Statutory Consultation expected to commence on 22	2	Yes	Yes	Potential for overlap	Potential for overlap	Potential for overlap	Due to the size and nature of this scheme it is proposed to include as part of the cumulative scenario due to the potential for cumulative	Yes

<sup>2</sup> At the time of writing this report, Beacon Fen Energy Park has not submitted a DCO application. The only available documentation on the National Infrastructure Planning website for Beacon Fen Energy Park is the Scoping Report. A Beacon Fen Energy Park project website has been set up by Low Carbon with non-statutory consultation material available (May- June 2023) providing the most up to date design evolution information.



**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

**2. EIA Methodology and Consultation**

No.	Project Planning Reference	Shortened Name and Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
			the possible crossing is on land south of Forty Foot Drain	January 2024.							impacts for Landscape & Visual, Transport & Access and a loss/change of use of agricultural land at a regional level.	
10	EN010149	Springwell Solar Farm generation capacity and storage capacity of greater than 50 MW.	15.5km north west at its closest point to the main site of the Springwell Solar Farm	Scoping Report Submitted and Response Published in May 2023. Statutory Consultation commenced on 11 January 2024.	2	No	Yes	Potential for overlap	Potential for overlap	Potential for overlap	Due to the size and nature of this scheme it is proposed to include as part of the cumulative scenario due to the potential for cumulative impacts relating to loss/change of use of agricultural land at a regional level.	Yes
11	EN010154	Fosse Green Energy – 320-350MW Solar Farm, accompanied by 480MWh Battery Energy Storage System	28.3km northwest at its closest point to the main site of the Fosse Green Energy project	Scoping Report Submitted and Response Published in July 2023	2	No	Yes	Potential for overlap	Potential for overlap	Potential for overlap	Due to the size and nature of this scheme it is proposed to include as part of the cumulative scenario due	Yes

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

No.	Project Planning Reference	Shortened Name and Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
											to the potential for cumulative impacts relating to loss/change of use of agricultural land at a regional level.	
12	EN010159	One Earth Solar Farm <sup>3</sup> 740MW Solar Farm, accompanied by 480MWh Battery Energy Storage System	42.4km northwest at its closest point to the main site of One Earth Solar Farm  This is over 2No. County Council's with approximately 17% of the Site within Lincolnshire	Pre-application (to date no Scoping Report submitted)	3	No	Yes	Potential for overlap	Potential for overlap	Potential for overlap	Due to the size and nature of this scheme it is proposed to include as part of the cumulative scenario due to the potential for cumulative impacts relating to loss/change of use of agricultural land at a regional level.	Yes
13	WA010003	Lincolnshire Reservoir	6.9km west at its closest point to the main Reservoir site	Pre-application (to date no Scoping Report has	3	No	Yes	No construction - is currently proposed to commence	Potential for overlap	Not applicable as reservoir would not be decommissioned	Due to the size and nature of the scheme it is proposed to	Yes

<sup>3</sup> Only S51 advice is currently available via National Infrastructure Planning website. Details presented within this longlist have been obtained via One Earth Solar Farm website where they are currently completing their 1st phase of consultation, which concludes on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023. [www.oneearth solar farm.co.uk](http://www.oneearth solar farm.co.uk)

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

**2. EIA Methodology and Consultation**

No.	Project Planning Reference	Shortened Name and Brief Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
				been submitted). Expected submission of application to be September 2025				2029			include it as part of the cumulative scenario as there are potential for operational cumulative impacts.	
14	EN010162	Great North Road Solar Park	43km west at its closest point	Pre-application Scoping Report submitted November 2023	3	No	No	Potential for overlap – no construction timeline confirmed	Potential for overlap – no operation timeline confirmed	Potential for overlap – no decommissioning timeline confirmed	The project is outside of the zone of influence as it is an NSIP scheme not within Lincolnshire. Therefore due to distance it is unlikely to have significant impact in relation the Proposed Development.	No
<b>Boston Borough Council</b>												
15	B/22/0198	Construction and installation of a 132kV underground electrical cable to connect Bicker Solar Farm to Bicker Fen Substation	Within in site boundary	Planning permission granted 23/09/22	1	Yes – all disciplines	Yes	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap.	N/A	N/A	Due to the scale and nature of the scheme cumulative impacts with the Proposed Development are considered	No

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

No	Project Planning Reference	Shortened Name and Brief Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
											unlikely.	
16	B/22/0356	Land West of Cowbridge Road, Bicker Fen, Boston-Proposed development of a photovoltaic solar array, grid connection, access improvement works & ancillary development on land at Bicker Fen, Boston and South Holland	5.3km south of main site. Adjacent to south-east corner of the site boundary cable route.	Planning permission granted 21/07/23	1	Yes- all disciplines	Yes	Construction timeline unclear as application only recently determined – potential for overlap.	Timeline unclear – expected to overlap.	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap.	Due to the nature of the scheme and the distance from the Proposed Development it is included within the cumulative scenario.	Yes
17	B/21/0443	Vicarage Drove Solar Farm - Proposed construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm, battery storage and associated infrastructure,	Adjacent to south- west corner of the site boundary (cable route)	Planning permission granted 17/02/2022	1	Yes – all disciplines	Yes	Construction Timeline unclear – As TCPA construction needs to start within 3 years of granting planning consent (by Feb 2025) - potential for overlap.	Timeline unclear – expected to overlap.	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap.	Due to the nature of the scheme and the distance from the Proposed Development it is included within the cumulative scenario.	Yes
18	B/20/0161	Land off St Swithins Close - Approval of reserved matters (appearance, access, landscaping, layout & scale) following outline approval B/16/0463 for residential development of up	2km southeast	Approved with conditions 17/02/2021	1	Yes – all disciplines bar noise and RVAA	Yes	Anticipated scheme will be built before construction of the Proposed Development.	N/A	N/A	Development is not of a nature or scale which is considered to have significant effects in combination with the	No

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

No.	Project Planning Reference	Shortened Name and Brief Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
		to 40 dwellings									Proposed Development.	
198	B/21/0277	Swan Lake Lodges, Boston Road - Erection of 57no. holiday lodges and retention of 1no. existing holiday lodge (58no. total), erection of storage building and creation of internal access roads and excavation of a pond	3.25km east	Approved with conditions 01/04/2022	1	Yes - air quality, hydrology, heritage, glint and gale, transport, ecology (international sites)	Yes	Anticipated scheme will be built before construction of the Proposed Development.	N/A	N/A	Development is not of a nature or scale which is considered to have significant effects in combination with the Proposed Development.	No
20	B/20/0115	Approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) following outline approval B/17/0244 (Residential development of up to 41 market and affordable dwellings)	2km east	Approved with conditions 03/07/2020	1	Yes - all disciplines bar noise and RVAA	Yes	Anticipated scheme will be built before construction of the Proposed Development.	N/A	N/A	Development is not of a nature or scale which is considered to have significant effects in combination with the Proposed Development.	No
21	B/21/0413	Land at Middlegate Road West - Re-plan and re-design of the housing layout within phases 2 & 3 (154 dwellings) on parts of the site previously approved under B/18/0039 (for the erection of up to 195 dwellings); including	9.5km south-east	Not yet determined	3	Yes - International designated sites (ecology)	Yes	Construction timeline unclear as application pending - potential for overlap.	N/A	N/A	Development is not of a nature or scale which is considered to have significant effects in combination with the Proposed	No

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

No.	Project Planning Reference	Shortened Name and Brief Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
		provision of 13 additional units (to create a combined total of 208 dwellings) and revisions to proposed house types									Development.	
22	B/19/0383	Land at Station Road/Spalding Road - Residential development of 256 dwellings	8.5km south-east	Approved with conditions 10/09/2021	1	Yes - International designated sites (ecology)	Yes	Anticipated scheme will be built before construction of the Proposed Development.	N/A	N/A	Development is not of a nature or scale which is considered to have significant effects in combination with the Proposed Development.	No
23	B/20/0293	Land at 31-33, London Road - Residential development consisting of 41 dwellings,	9.1km south-east	Approved with conditions 18/12/2020	1	Yes - International designated sites (ecology)	Yes	Anticipated scheme will be built before construction of the Proposed Development.	N/A	N/A	Development is not of a nature or scale which is considered to have significant effects in combination with the Proposed Development.	No
24	B/19/0317	Land off Station Road -Erection of 31 dwellings	9.7km south-east	Approved with conditions 20/01/2020	1	Yes - International designated sites	Yes	Anticipated scheme will be built before construction of the	N/A	N/A	Development is not of a nature or scale which is considered to have	No

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

No.	Project Planning Reference	Shortened Name and Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
						(ecology)		Proposed Development.			significant effects in combination with the Proposed Development.	
<b>South Holland District Council</b>												
25	H08-1335-21	Land off Spalding Road – Residential development of 28 dwellings.	8.2km south-east	Approved with conditions 18/11/22	1	Yes – International designated sites (ecology)	Yes	Construction timeline unclear as application pending – potential for overlap.	N/A	N/A	Development is not of a nature or scale which is considered to have significant effects in combination with the Proposed Development.	No
26	H08-1256-21	Land off York Gardens Gosberton Proposed residential development of 96 and pedestrian link	7.3km south-east	Pending approval	3	Yes – International designated sites (ecology)	Yes	Construction timeline unclear as application pending – potential for overlap.	N/A	N/A	Development is not of a nature or scale which is considered to have significant effects in combination with the Proposed Development.	No
27	H08-0744-21	Land off High Street Gosberton – Residential development of 46 units.	8km south-east	Approved 31/01/2022	1	Yes – International designated sites (ecology)	Yes	Anticipated scheme will be built before construction of the	N/A	N/A	Development is not of a nature or scale which is considered to have	No

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

No.	Project Planning Reference	Shortened Name and Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
								Proposed Development.			significant effects in combination with the Proposed Development.	
28	H04-1029-20	Land west of Malting Lane, Donington – erection of 32 dwellings.	3km south	Approved 02/11/2021	1	Yes – air quality, hydrology, heritage, glint and gale, transport, ecology (international sites)	Yes	Anticipated scheme will be built before construction of the Proposed Development.	N/A	N/A	Development is not of a nature or scale which is considered to have significant effects in combination with the Proposed Development.	No
29	H04-0268-20	Land west of Malting Lane, Donington – residential development of 40 dwellings	3km south	Approved 02/11/2021	1	Yes – air quality, hydrology, heritage, glint and gale, transport, ecology (international sites)	Yes	Anticipated scheme will be built before construction of the Proposed Development.	N/A	N/A	Development is not of a nature or scale which is considered to have significant effects in combination with the Proposed Development.	No
30	H04-0849-22	Land West of Cowbridge Road, Bicker Fen, Boston-Proposed development of a photovoltaic solar array, grid connection, access	5.3km south of main site.  Adjacent to southeast corner of the site boundary	Approved 25/08/22	1	Yes- all disciplines	Yes	Construction timeline unclear as application in Boston Borough Council was only recently	Timeline unclear – expected to overlap.	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap.	Due to the nature of the scheme and the distance from the Proposed Development it is included	Yes



# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

No.	Project Planning Reference /	Shortened Name and Brief Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
		improvement works & ancillary development on land at Bicker Fen, Boston and South Holland	cable route.					approved – potential for overlap.			within the cumulative scenario.	
31	H09-0132-23	Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm, Holbeach Bank, Spalding Proposed 48MW ground mounted solar development with associated infrastructure	19.7km southwest of Bicker Fen substation	Pending Approval – submitted February 2023	1	No	Yes	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap.	N/A	N/A	Due to the nature of this scheme it is proposed to include as part of the cumulative scenario due to the potential for cumulative impacts relating to loss/change of use of agricultural land at a regional level.	Yes
	<b>North Kesteven District Council</b>											
32	20/0741/FUL	Land East Of Welchman Way - Erection of 33 affordable houses along with associated infrastructure	3.9km east	Approved 27/10/2020	1	Yes – air quality, hydrology, heritage, glint and gale, transport, ecology (internatio	Yes	Anticipated scheme will be built before construction of the Proposed Development.	N/A	N/A	Development is not of a nature or scale which is considered to have significant effects in combination with the	No

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

**2. EIA Methodology and Consultation**

No.	Project Planning Reference /	Shortened Name and Brief Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
						nal sites)					Proposed Development.	
33	23/1021/FUL	Land at Little Hale Fen- Proposed solar farm (up to 49.995MW generating capacity)	4.6km north-east	Application submitted - and validated 15/09/23	1	Yes - air quality, hydrology, heritage, glint and gale, transport, ecology (international sites)	Yes	As not yet determined timeline unclear - potential for overlap.	As not yet determined timeline unclear - potential for overlap.	As not yet determined timeline unclear - potential for overlap.	. As not yet determined timeline for this is unclear, and this scheme is considered within the cumulative scenario.	Yes
34	14/1034/EIAS CR	Land At Ewerby Thorpe - Erection of solar array with generating capacity of up to 28 MW	4.1km north-west	Not EIA Development The Red Line boundary is within the DCO Order Limits for Beacon Fen Energy Park. It is therefore, determined that the TCPA application will not be brought forward and can be removed from the cumulative longlist	3	Yes - air quality, hydrology, heritage, glint and gale, transport, ecology (international sites)	Yes	Timeline unclear - potential for overlap.	Timeline unclear - potential for overlap.	Timeline unclear - potential for overlap.	Formal application for this scheme has yet to be made. Land area is within the Beacon Fen Energy Park boundary and so this TCPA site will not progress	No

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

No	Project Planning Reference	Shortened Name and Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
35	19/0863/FUL	Land to the North of White Cross Lane - solar farm (32MW)	8.4km west	Approved 07/10/2019 - construction completed, confirmed via telephone call with planning agent. 23/0873/VA RCON - application submitted in July 23 to vary site design to built form.	1	Yes - International designated sites (ecology)	Yes	It is believed that construction was taking place in June 2023. Construction process is completed as has been confirmed via discussions in October 2023 with Planning Agent	N/A	N/A	Due to the site now being operational it is included within the baseline environment of assessments and will no longer be assessed as a cumulative site	No
36	19/0060/FUL	Land South Of Gorse Lane - Solar PV park (circa 20MW electricity generating capacity)	11km west	Approved 11/04/2019 - Unclear if construction has started - discharge conditions approved Construction commenced - site now Operational	1	No	Yes	This scheme has been constructed	N/A	N/A	Due to the site now being operational it is included within the baseline environment of assessments and will no longer be assessed as a cumulative site	No
37	23/1419/FUL	Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane, Sleaford Installation of a	10.5km east	Application submitted 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023-	1	No	Yes	Timeline unclear - potential for overlap.	Timeline unclear - potential for	Timeline unclear - potential for overlap.	Due to the nature of the scheme and the distance from the	Yes

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

No.	Project Planning Reference /	Shortened Name and Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
		49MW ground mounted solar facility		awaiting determination  Screening Request submitted 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 – determined no- EIA					overlap.		Proposed Development it is included within the cumulative scenario.	
38	21/0786/EIAS CR	Land West of Walcot off Braceby Road, Walcot, Sleaford  Proposed Solar Farm (up to 50MW capacity) and associated Infrastructure	18.3km southwest	Screening Request submitted 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2021- determined no-EIA  Discussion with Planning Agent for the site in October 2023 stated that this site was no longer being progressed to a planning application	3	No	Yes	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap.	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap.	Due to the nature of the scheme and distance of the site, plus the confirmation from the Planning Agent that this Site is no longer progressing the site is not included within the cumulative scenario	No
39	22/1376/FUL	Produce World Ltd Moor Lane Swinderby Lincoln Lincolnshire LN6 9LX	35.5km north-west	EIA not required. Pending approval-	2	No	No	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap	Development is not within close proximity	No

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

No.	Project Planning Reference /	Shortened Name and Brief Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
		Erection of 132 dwellings with associated outbuildings/garages and landscaping/open space and affordable housing and including conversion of existing (retained) building to shop and offices		application submitted October 2022							which is considered to have significant effects in combination with the Proposed Development.	
	<b>East Lindsey District Council</b>											
<b>40</b>	S/152/01297/22	Land west of Mallows Lane and north of Pymoor Lane, Main Road, Sibsey- Installation of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm with battery storage; along with continued agricultural use, ancillary infrastructure and security fencing, CCTV, landscaping, bunding, ecological enhancements and associated works. Construction of a vehicular access	15.3km north-east	Approved 19/12/22	1	No	No	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap.	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap.	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap.	Due to the nature of this scheme and it being outside of the cumulative ZOI for all discipline the likelihood of cumulative impacts is considered low and does not warrant further consideration.	No
	<b>South Kesteven</b>											

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

**2. EIA Methodology and Consultation**

No.	Project Planning Reference /	Shortened Name and Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
	<b>District Council</b>											
41	S22/1815	Land at Washdyke Farm Billingborough Road Folkingham Lincolnshire NG34 0EZ - Request for an EIA Screening Opinion for a 27MW Solar Farm	13.9km south-west	EIA not required	3	No	No	Timeline unclear - potential for overlap.	Timeline unclear - potential for overlap.	Timeline unclear - potential for overlap.	Formal application for this scheme has yet to be made. Due to the nature of this scheme and it being outside of the cumulative ZOI for all discipline the likelihood of cumulative impacts is considered low and does not warrant further consideration.	No
42	S23/1845	Land North Of Welby Grantham Lincolnshire - Request for an EIA Screening for a 46 MW solar farm with battery storage	20.5km south-west	EIA not required	3	No	No	Timeline unclear - potential for overlap.	Timeline unclear - potential for overlap.	Timeline unclear - potential for overlap.	Formal application for this scheme has yet to be made. Due to the nature of this scheme and it being outside of the cumulative ZOI for all discipline the likelihood of cumulative impacts is considered	No

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

**2. EIA Methodology and Consultation**

No.	Project Planning Reference	Shortened Name and Description	Approximate Distance to Proposed Development	Status	Tier	Within Zone of Influence	Progress to Stage 2	Temporal Overlap			Scale and Nature of Development Likely to have a Significant Impact	Progress to Stage 3/4
								Construction (2026-2028)	Operation (2027-2068)	Decommissioning (2067-2068)		
											low and does not warrant further consideration.	
43	S23/2199	Ash Tree Solar Farm, Land at High Dyke Road, Londonthorpe 49.9MW solar scheme and 25MW of battery storage	22.7km south-west	Application Submitted November 2023- Awaiting Decision.	1	No	No	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap.	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap.	Timeline unclear – potential for overlap.	Due to the nature of this scheme and it being outside of the cumulative ZOI for all discipline the likelihood of cumulative impacts is considered low and does not warrant further consideration.	No

**Table 1.3- Cumulative Sites Shortlist**

	<b>Name of Scheme</b>	<b>LPA</b>	<b>NSIP</b>	<b>Reference Number</b>	<b>Size of Scheme</b>	<b>Distance from Application Site</b>
<b>Tier 1 Sites</b>						
<b>1</b>	Vicarage Drove – Approved	BBC <sup>4</sup>	No	B/21/0443	49.9MW	c. 4.5km south of the Energy Park Site at its closest point but adjacent to the the proposed extension to the substation at Bicker Fen
<b>2</b>	Land West of Cowbridge Road, Bicker Fen, Boston- - Approved	BBC SHC <sup>5</sup>	No	B/22/0356 H04-0849-22	49.9MW	c. 5.3km south of the Energy Park Site at its closest point to main site, but adjacent to the site boundary cable route
<b>3</b>	Boston Alternative Energy Facility - Approved July 2023	PINS- BBC	Yes	EN010095	50MW + (NSIP)	c. 11.7km west of the Energy Park Site at its closest point
<b>4</b>	Mallard Pass Solar Farm- Application Submitted Examination Completed in November 2023	PINS - SKDC <sup>6</sup>	Yes	EN010127	50MW + (NSIP)	c.33.2km south-west of the Energy Park Site at its closest point
<b>5</b>	Cottam Solar Project – Application Submitted Examination Commenced September 2023, expected to close 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	PINS- BDC <sup>7</sup> & WLDC	Yes	EN010133	50MW + (NSIP)	c. 43.4km north-west of the Energy Park Site at its closest point
<b>6</b>	Gate Burton Energy Park - Application Submitted Examination Completed January 2024	PINS – BDC <sup>3</sup> & WLDC <sup>8</sup>	Yes	EN010131	50MW + (NSIP)	c.48.5km north-west of the Energy Park Site at its closest point
<b>7</b>	West Burton Solar Project - Application Submitted	PINS – BDC <sup>3</sup> & WLDC	Yes	EN010132	50MW + (NSIP)	c.41.1km north-west of the Energy Park Site at its closest point

<sup>4</sup> Boston Borough Council

<sup>5</sup> South Holland District Council

<sup>6</sup> South Kesteven District Council

<sup>7</sup> Bassetlaw District Council and West Lindsey District Council

<sup>8</sup> West Lindsey District Council



## ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

### 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

	Examination Commenced November 2023					
8	Land at Little Hale Fen - Proposed Solar Farm 49.995MW generating capacity	NKDC <sup>9</sup>	No	23/1021/FUL	49.995MW	c. 4.6km north-east of the Energy Park Site at its closest point
9	Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm, Holbeach Bank	SHDC	No	H09-0132-23	48MW	c. 19.7km southwest of Bicker Fen substation
17 <sup>10</sup>	Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane, Sleaford	NKDC	No	23/1419/FUL	49.9MW	c.10.5km east of the Heckington Fen Energy Park at its closest point
<b>Tier 2 Sites</b>						
10	Temple Oaks- Scoping Submitted and Response Published August 2022	PINS - SKDC, NKDC, BBC, SHC	Yes	EN010126	50MW + (NSIP)	c.18.1 km south-west of the Energy Park Site at its closest point
11	Tillbridge Solar Project - Scoping Submitted and Response Published November 2022	PINS- BDC & WLDC	Yes	EN010142	50MW + (NSIP)	c. 47.7km north-west of the Energy Park Site at its closest point
12	Beacon Fen Energy Park- Scoping Response Submitted	PINS - NKDC & BBC	Yes	EN010152	50MW + (NSIP)	c. 3.3km north west of the Energy Park Site. The Offsite Cable Route Corridor of this project and Heckington Fen intersect. The area of the possible crossing is south of the South Forty Foot Drain.
13	Springwell Solar Farm - Scoping Submitted and Response Published May 2023 Formal consultation commenced	PINS- NKDC	Yes	EN010149	50MW + (NSIP)	c. 15.5km north west of the Heckington Fen Energy Park Site at its closest point

<sup>9</sup> North Kesteven District Council

<sup>10</sup> Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane, Sleaford; this project is now a Tier 1 and removed as a Tier 3 project. The numbering of this project remains as '17' to maintain consistency in the use of the number in the 'ES Technical Note- Cumulative Projects'.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

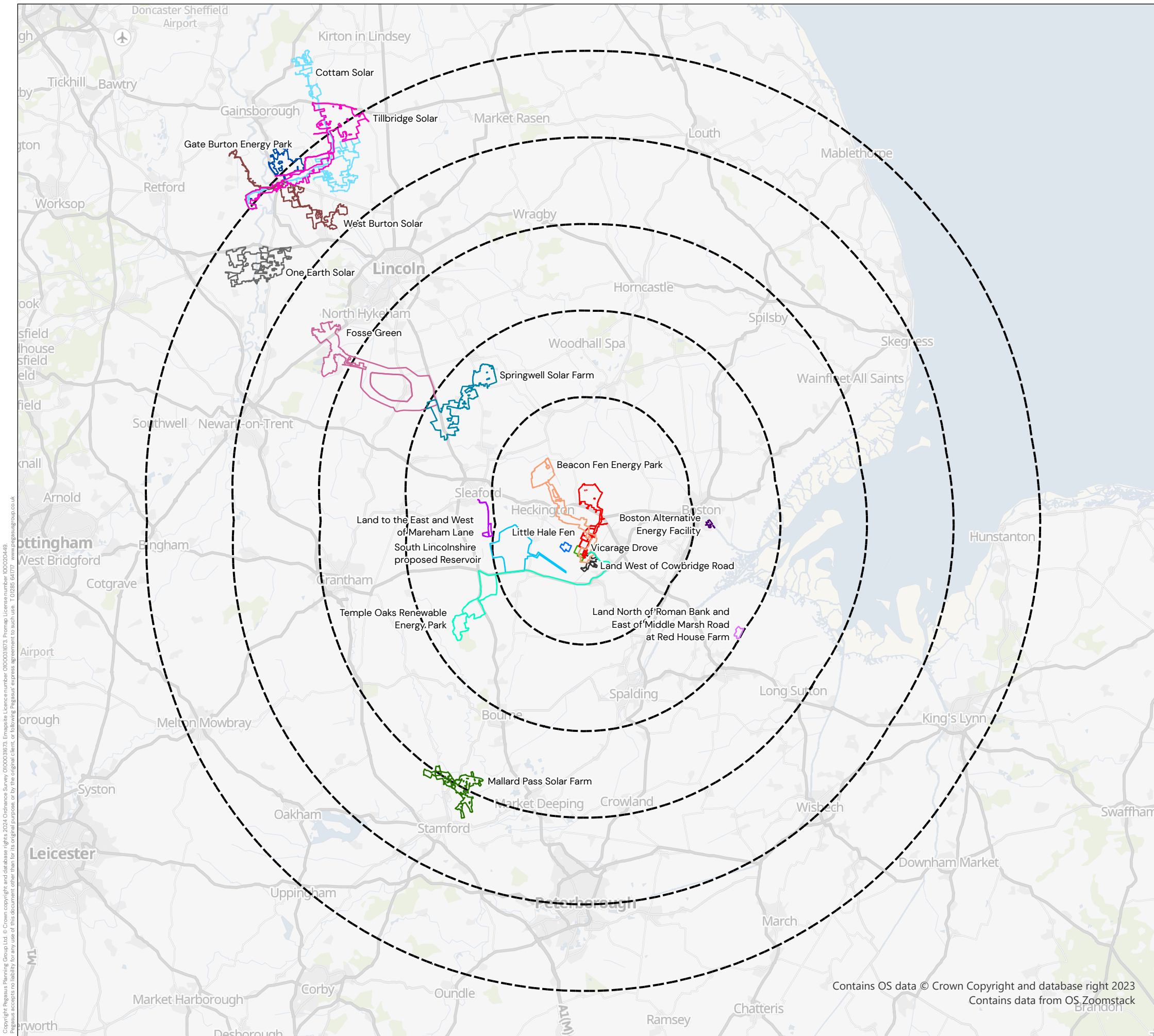
### 2. EIA Methodology and Consultation

	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2024						
<b>14</b>	Fosse Green Energy - Scoping Submitted and Response Published July 2023	PINS - NKDC	Yes	EN010154	50MW + (NSIP)	c. 28.3km north west of the Heckington Fen Energy Park Site at its closest point	
<b>Tier 3 Sites</b>							
<b>15</b>	One Earth Solar Farm- pre application	PINS- NSDC <sup>11</sup> , BDC, WLDC	Yes	EN010159	50MW + (NSIP)	c. 42.4km northwest of the Heckington Fen Energy Park Site at its closest point.	
<b>16</b>	Lincolnshire Reservoir – pre application	PINS - NKDC	Yes	WA010003	50 million cubic metre (m <sup>3</sup> ) reservoir and water treatment works	c.6.9km west of the Offsite Grid Route at its closest point.	

<sup>11</sup> Newark and Sherwood District Council



## **Appendix 2- Figure 2.2a- Cumulative Plan – Shortlisted (Regional Context) (Revision 3)**



- KEY**
- Order Limits
  - Radii Rings 10km-50km
  - Vicarage Drove [B/21/0443]
  - Land West of Cowbridge Road, Bicker Fen, Boston- Full Planning Application awaiting decision [H04-0849-22 - South Holland District Council] [B/22/0356 - Boston Borough Council]
  - Boston Alternative Energy Facility (EN010095)
  - Mallard Pass Solar Farm (EN010127)
  - Cottam Solar Project (EN010133)
  - Gate Burton Energy Park (EN010131)
  - West Burton Solar Project (EN010132)
  - Land at Little Hale Fen - Screening 21/1337/EIASCR
  - Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm, Holbeach Bank
  - Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park (EN010126)
  - Tillbridge Solar Project (EN010142)
  - Beacon Fen Energy Park (EN010152)
  - Springwell Solar Farm (EN010149)
  - Fosse Green (EN010154)
  - One Earth Solar (EN010159)
  - Lincolnshire Reservoir (WA010003)
  - Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane, Sleaford- 23/1419/FUL

DCO Document Reference: 6.2.2  
 APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)  
 REV 5

**FIGURE 2.2a CUMULATIVE SITES- SHORTLISTED (REGIONAL CONTEXT)**

DATE	SCALE	SHEET	REVISION
11/01/2024	1:450,000@A3	-	H

DRAWING NUMBER  
 P20-2370\_13H

0 10 km

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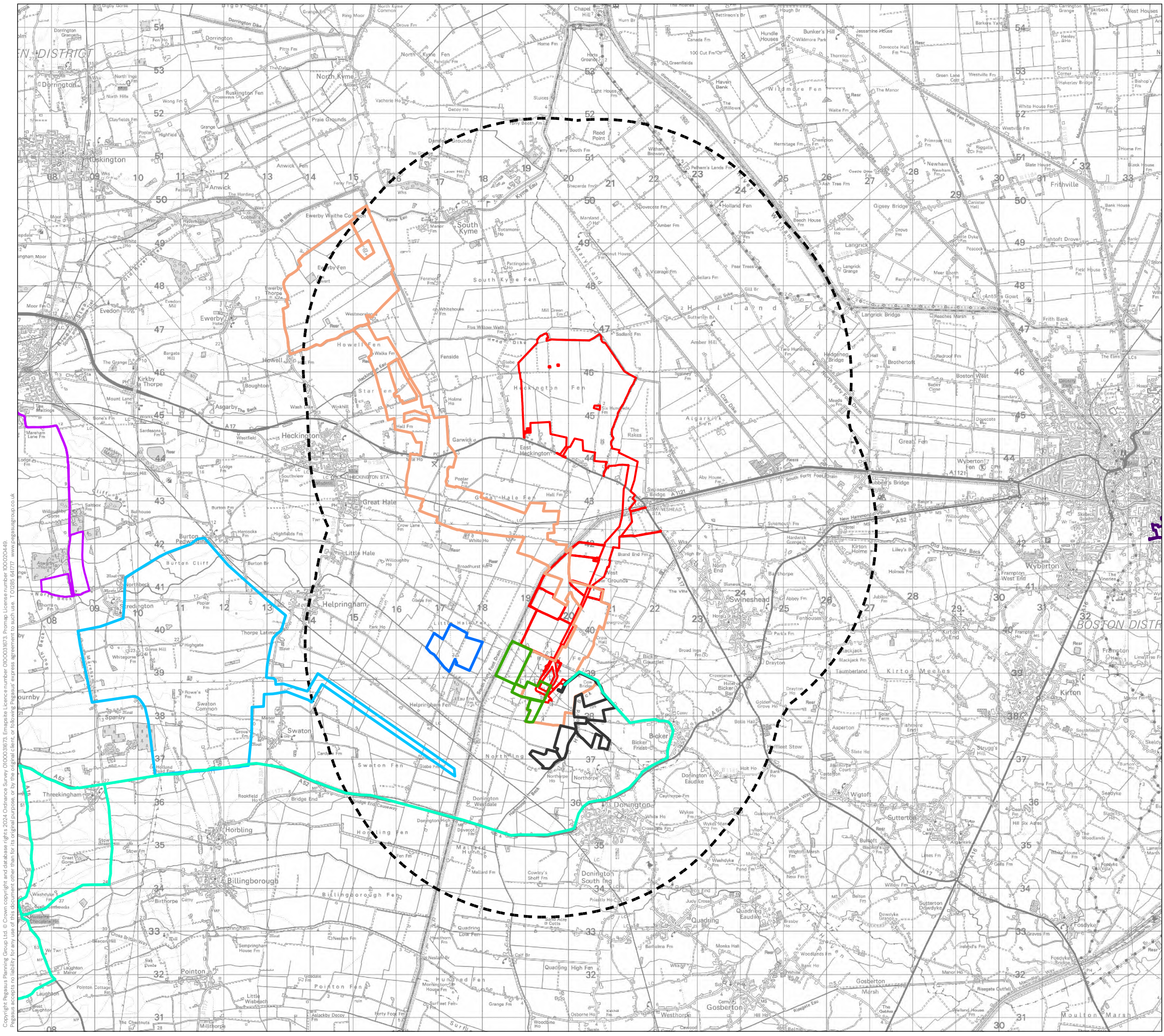


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## **Appendix 2- Figure 2.2b- Cumulative Plan - Shortlisted (Local Context) (Revision 3)**





- KEY**
- Order Limits
  - 5km Buffer
  - Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park (EN010126)
  - Beacon Fen Energy Park (EN010152)
  - Boston Alternative Energy Facility (EN010095)
  - Land at Little Hale Fen - Screening 21/1337/EIASC
  - Vicarage Drove [B/21/0443]
  - Land West of Cowbridge Road, Bicker Fen, Boston - Full Planning Application awaiting decision [HO4-0849-22 - South Holland District Council] [B/22/0356 - Boston Borough Council]
  - Lincolnshire Reservoir (WAO10003)
  - Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane, Sleaford- 23/1419/FUL

DCO Document Reference: 6.2.2  
 APFP Regulation: 5(2)(a)  
 REV 5

**FIGURE 2.2b CUMULATIVE SITES - SHORTLISTED (LOCAL CONTEXT)**

DATE	SCALE	SHEET	REVISION
11/01/2024	1:90,000@A3	-	I

DRAWING NUMBER  
 P20-2370\_211



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## **Appendix 3 – Cumulative Traffic Assessment (Revision 2)**

Reference	Site	Construction Route	Construction Timescale	Construction Traffic AADT (LGV)	Construction Traffic AADT (HGV)
<b>Heckington Fen</b>				<b>65</b>	<b>39</b>
B/21/0443	Vicarage Drove	Construction period not forecast to overlap. Application suggests June 2023 – November 2023. Construction period must start before Feb 2025 to comply with planning permission, therefore assuming six month construction period works would be complete by 2026.			
H04-0849-22/ B/22/0356	Land West of Cowbridge Road, Bicker Fen, Boston	Construction period not forecast to overlap. Application suggests 2023-2024.			
EN010095	Boston Alternative Energy Facility	Vehicles could travel via either A16 north or via A16 south to A17/A1. Proportion of vehicles anticipated to use A17.	Construction traffic estimates suggest construction will be between March 2021-December 2025. However, the DCO was not granted until mid-2023 and the Developer's agent has confirmed that works will not start until January 2024 (i.e. as a minimum construction will be pushed back by circa 2 years and 10 months). Therefore, for the cumulative assessment it has been assumed that the same volumes of traffic will be required on the road network but with construction commencing in 2024.	94 <sup>1</sup>	87 <sup>2</sup> (maximum)
EN010127	Mallard Pass Solar Farm	Construction traffic via A1. Not required to travel along A17 study area.			
EN010133	Cottam Solar Project	Located north of site. Assuming construction materials will be imported at Goole/Immingham traffic will not be required to travel along the A17 study area.			

<sup>1</sup> Royal Haskoning DHV Environmental Statement paragraph 19.7.24. Assumed 25% of total staff vehicle trips will use A52 Liqueurpond Street and will continue to A17.

<sup>2</sup> Royal Haskoning DHV Environmental Statement Appendix 19.3 'Traffic Assignment on Indicative Construction Programme'. External source (within Lincolnshire) trips for 2023 week 23. External source (outside of Lincolnshire) trips are assumed to route via the A52 to the A1.



EN010131	Gate Burton Energy Park	Located north of site. Assuming construction materials will be imported at Goole/Immingham traffic will not be required to travel along the A17 study area.			
EN010132	West Burton Solar Project	Located north of site. Assuming construction materials will be imported at Goole/Immingham traffic will not be required to travel along the A17 study area.			
23/1021/FUL	Land at Little Hale Fen	Construction period not forecast to overlap. Application (DAS paragraph 1.4.5) suggests site will be operational by 2025.			
H09-0132-23	Land North of Roman Bank and East of Middle Marsh Road at Red House Farm, Holbeach Bank	Vehicles will access/egress via A17 south of Heckington Fen (near Holbeach). Proportion of vehicles anticipated to use A17 within vicinity of Heckington Fen site.	Not confirmed and not yet determined. Assuming three years from permission to construct, could overlap (6-7 month construction period).	60 <sup>3</sup> (maximum)	10 <sup>4</sup> (maximum)
EN010126	Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park	Site located to west of A15 so unlikely to use A17 for construction traffic.			
EN10142	Tillbridge Solar Project	Located north of site. Assuming construction materials will be imported at Goole/Immingham traffic will not be required to travel along the A17 study area.			
EN010152	Beacon Fen Energy Park	Assumed from either the A17 in the south or from the A153 in the east.	Construction anticipated to commence in 2026/2027 for (24-36 months) (Scoping Note para 2.7.2). Overlap anticipated.	40 <sup>5</sup> (average)	60 <sup>6</sup> (average)
EN010149	Springwell Solar Farm	Located north of site. Assuming construction materials will be imported at Goole/Immingham traffic will not be required to travel along the A17 study area.			
EN010154	Fosse Green	Located north of site. Assuming construction materials will be imported at Goole/Immingham traffic will not be required to travel along the A17 study area.			
EN010159	One Earth Solar	Located north of site. Assuming construction materials will be imported at Goole/Immingham traffic will not be required to travel along the A17 study area.			
WAO10003	Lincolnshire Reservoir	Construction period not forecast to overlap. Anticipated to commence in 2029.			

<sup>3</sup> Newell Edwards Transport Statement dated 08/09/2022 paragraph 5.3.4.

<sup>4</sup> Newell Edwards Transport Statement dated 08/09/2022 paragraph 5.3.5.

<sup>5</sup> Wardell Armstrong Scoping Report dated April 2023 paragraph 2.6.2. Number of trips stated has been halved given the southern parcel is no longer anticipated to be brought forward.

<sup>6</sup> Wardell Armstrong Scoping Report dated April 2023 paragraph 2.6.2. Number of trips stated has been halved given the southern parcel is no longer anticipated to be brought forward.

	Land to the East and West of Mareham Lane, Sleaford	Located to west of site. Construction Traffic Management Plan for the development dated 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2023 (NKDC reference: 23/1419/FUL) details routing of all construction and operational vehicle traffic will enter the site from Mareham Lane via the A52. Therefore, traffic will not be required to travel along the A17 study area.
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<b>Total (including Heckington Fen)</b> <b>*Sites where a proportion of traffic is likely to use A17 have been assumed at 100% of traffic using this route.</b> <b>* Where applicable, maximum traffic has been assumed but it is unlikely that maximum periods will overlap.</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>196</b>
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Key

Cumulative impact assessed
No cumulative impact based on construction period
No cumulative impact based on location

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