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# **SCOPING OPINION:**

## **Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park**

**Case Reference: EN010126**

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Adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) pursuant to Regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

**10 August 2022**



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 On 01 July 2022, the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) received an application for a Scoping Opinion from Ridge Clean Energy (the Applicant) under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) for the proposed Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park (the Proposed Development). The Applicant notified the Secretary of State (SoS) under Regulation 8(1)(b) of those regulations that they propose to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Proposed Development and by virtue of Regulation 6(2)(a), the Proposed Development is 'EIA development'.
- 1.0.2 The Applicant provided the necessary information to inform a request under EIA Regulation 10(3) in the form of a Scoping Report, available from:  
  
<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010126-000020>
- 1.0.3 This document is the Scoping Opinion (the Opinion) adopted by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS. This Opinion is made on the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, reflecting the Proposed Development as currently described by the Applicant. This Opinion should be read in conjunction with the Applicant's Scoping Report.
- 1.0.4 The Inspectorate has set out in the following sections of this Opinion where it has / has not agreed to scope out certain aspects / matters on the basis of the information provided as part of the Scoping Report. The Inspectorate is content that the receipt of this Scoping Opinion should not prevent the Applicant from subsequently agreeing with the relevant consultation bodies to scope such aspects / matters out of the ES, where further evidence has been provided to justify this approach. However, in order to demonstrate that the aspects / matters have been appropriately addressed, the ES should explain the reasoning for scoping them out and justify the approach taken.
- 1.0.5 Before adopting this Opinion, the Inspectorate has consulted the 'consultation bodies' listed in Appendix 1 in accordance with EIA Regulation 10(6). A list of those consultation bodies who replied within the statutory timeframe (along with copies of their comments) is provided in Appendix 2. These comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion.
- 1.0.6 The Inspectorate has published a series of advice notes on the National Infrastructure Planning website, including [Advice Note 7: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping \(AN7\)](#). AN7 and its annexes provide guidance on EIA processes during the pre-application stages and advice to support applicants in the preparation of their ES.
- 1.0.7 Applicants should have particular regard to the standing advice in AN7, alongside other advice notes on the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process, available from:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

- 1.0.8 This Opinion should not be construed as implying that the Inspectorate agrees with the information or comments provided by the Applicant in their request for an opinion from the Inspectorate. In particular, comments from the Inspectorate in this Opinion are without prejudice to any later decisions taken (e.g. on formal submission of the application) that any development identified by the Applicant is necessarily to be treated as part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) or Associated Development or development that does not require development consent.



## 2. OVERARCHING COMMENTS

### 2.1 Description of the Proposed Development

(Scoping Report paragraphs 29-61)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.1.1	n/a	Description requirements	<p>The description of the Proposed Development within the Scoping Report is relatively high level (at this stage) which limits the level of detail possible in the Inspectorate's comments. In particular, the Inspectorate notes that the locations of the principle development components within the application site remain to be confirmed and approximate dimensions of the battery energy storage facility, which is likely to be a more prominent feature of the Proposed Development, have not been provided.</p> <p>The Applicant should be aware that the description of the Proposed Development provided in the ES must be sufficiently certain to meet the requirements of the EIA Regulations. The ES must include a description of the Proposed Development and make reference to the design, size and locations of each element, including maximum heights, design parameters and limits of deviation. The description should be supported (as necessary) by figures, cross sections and drawings which should be clearly and appropriately referenced.</p>
2.1.2	n/a	Demolition	<p>The need for demolition is only referenced in Appendix B: Historic Environment. The ES should report on the location and extent of demolition works and assess impacts from these works on aspects such as noise, vibration, air quality and waste arisings.</p>
2.1.3	n/a	Potential for ongoing agricultural use	<p>The Scoping Report states that much of the site is arable and pasture land. Details should be included within the ES of how much land may be kept in use for arable and pasture uses. The description should</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			include reference to proposed grazing densities for sheep, where relevant to ensure that any biodiversity gain is not offset by overgrazing.
2.1.4	Paragraphs 4,29,41	Construction compounds	The ES should provide details regarding the number, location and dimensions of construction compounds and details of what will happen to them after the development is completed. Details of any reinstatement if previously grassland or opportunities for habitat enhancements should be documented.
2.1.5	Paragraph 43	Construction lighting	The Scoping Report describes operational lighting but does not explain any construction lighting requirements. Taking into account the largely rural location of the Proposed Development, the effects of construction lighting and any security lighting on human and ecological receptors should be assessed and likely significant effects should be reported in the ES.
2.1.6	Paragraph 6	National Grid Pipeline	The ES should contain details of how the Proposed Development will be designed to take into account the National Grid gas pipeline. Details of the location of the pipeline, buffer strips and any mitigation measures required should be documented in the ES.
2.1.7	n/a	Cumulative Impacts	The ES should include an assessment of cumulative effects related to impacts from other proposed solar developments in particular the potential for cumulative effects at Bicker Fen National Grid Bulk Supply Point where a number of schemes are proposing to connect.
2.1.8	n/a	Decommissioning	A number of aspects in the Scoping Report refer to decommissioning but no detail is provided, the ES should clearly set out how decommissioning is to be assessed and any components which may remain following decommissioning. The Inspectorate would expect to

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			see decommissioning secured through the inclusion of an Outline Decommissioning Plan or similar submitted with the Application.

## 2.2 EIA Methodology and Scope of Assessment

(Scoping Report - General)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.2.1	n/a	Overarching EIA Methodology	<p>The Scoping Report does not contain an overarching EIA methodology. The ES should contain a chapter/section describing the broad principles of the methodology that will be adopted in the ES, including the approach that will be used to identify, evaluate and mitigate likely significant environmental effects. Details should be provided of how the significance of an effect is determined, based on an assessment of magnitude of effect and sensitivity of the receptor.</p> <p>The ES should explain how cumulative effects have been assessed and identify other proposed developments which have been included within a Cumulative Impacts Assessment.</p>
2.2.2	n/a	Baseline	<p>It is noted that a number of surveys have been undertaken which have informed the Scoping Report however these have not been included or appended to the Scoping Report. Any information relied upon for the assessments in the ES should be appended to the ES in order for the Inspectorate to gain a full understanding of issues.</p>
2.2.3	n/a	Mitigation Plans	<p>The Scoping Report refers to a number of mitigation plans which will be provided with the application documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction Traffic Management Plan;</li> </ul>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP);</li> <li>• Landscape and Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan;</li> <li>• Flood Risk Assessment; and</li> <li>• Drainage Strategy.</li> </ul> <p>The draft mitigation plans provided with the application should be sufficiently detailed to demonstrate how significant effects will be avoided or reduced and the ES should clearly demonstrate how the implementation of these plans will be secured.</p>
2.2.4	Plate 2 and paragraph 28	Grid connection route	<p>Plate 2 of the Scoping Report shows the two options for the grid connection route; Route A and Route B, but this is difficult to understand due to both routes being shown in the same colour and points where the lines cross over one another.</p> <p>It appears that a section of Route B exiting the site to the village of Laughton may use farm access tracks rather than roads, though this is not clear with the plan provided at Plate 2.</p> <p>The final route for the grid connection should be clearly described and shown in the ES. Any land additional to land in the highway which may be required for the construction or operation of the cable corridor should be identified. Any reinstatement works should also be described.</p>
2.2.5	n/a	Air Quality Management Areas	<p>Details regarding the locations of any Air Quality Management Areas relative to the site are not included in the Scoping Report. The ES should provide information to explain the locations of AQMAs relative to the Proposed Development and any potential impacts the Proposed Development may have on them, for example, proposed routes of construction traffic.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.2.6	Appendix D paragraph 1.32	Residues and emissions	The Scoping Report refers to dust being released during construction. There is no assessment of air quality effects within the Scoping Report or proposed in the ES. The ES should consider the potential for releases of pollutants to air through the demolition and construction phases, such as emissions from vehicles and dust with reference to relevant industry standard screening criteria such as those provided by the Institute of Air Quality Management. Significant effects should be reported in the ES and details of mitigation measures and how they are to be secured should be provided.
2.2.7	Appendix E	Mitigation and monitoring	The Scoping Report references human health in Appendix E but provides no other information relating to human health impacts. The Inspectorate considers that an assessment of effects on human health should be included within the ES. The detailed scope of assessment should be determined with relevant consultation bodies (e.g. UKHSA).
2.2.8	Appendix D	Major accidents and disasters	The Scoping Report refers to accidents and safety in Appendix D: Transportation. However, the Scoping Report provides no further consideration of major accidents and/or disasters. The ES should address the risks to human health and the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters to the extent that it is relevant to the nature of the development. This is in addition to the consideration of road traffic accidents that has already been proposed in relation to the assessment of transport and traffic effects. The Inspectorate considers that specific reference should be made to the potential for fires to give rise to significant effects (particularly in relation to battery storage compounds).
2.2.9	n/a	Climate change	The ES should contain a separate chapter/section that considers the effects of the development on climate change and its contribution to the UK transition to net zero emissions.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.2.10	n/a	Land contamination and unexploded ordnance (UXO)	Part of the site was formerly part of an RAF base. This means that there is potential for pollution sources to be present within the site (including hydrocarbons and UXO). The ES should identify the risk of creating new pathways of effect and the disturbing UXO through piling activities and include an assessment of likely sources of ground contamination present on site.
2.2.11	n/a	Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)	The Scoping Report provides no consideration of EMF. Whilst there are limited receptors within proximity to the development, the ES should address the risks to human health arising from EMF to the extent that it is relevant to the nature of the development, taking into account relevant technical guidance, and where significant effects are likely to occur.
2.2.12	n/a	Transboundary	<p>The Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS has considered the Proposed Development and concludes that the Proposed Development is unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or cumulatively on the environment in a European Economic Area State. In reaching this conclusion the Inspectorate has identified and considered the Proposed Development's likely impacts including consideration of potential pathways and the extent, magnitude, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impacts.</p> <p>The Inspectorate considers that the likelihood of transboundary effects resulting from the Proposed Development is so low that it does not warrant the issue of a detailed transboundary screening. However, this position will remain under review and will have regard to any new or materially different information coming to light which may alter that decision.</p> <p>Note: The SoS' duty under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>The Inspectorate's screening of transboundary issues is based on the relevant considerations specified in the Annex to its Advice Note Twelve, available on our website at <a href="http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/">http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/</a></p>
2.2.13	n/a	Waste	<p>Solar developments are typically considered to be 30 to 40 year developments with panel degradation cited as a limiting factor on project lifespan. On that basis, the Inspectorate considers that some panels may need to be replaced during the operational life of the project. The ES should include an assessment of the likely impact of component replacement (e.g. batteries and panels) and outline what measures, if any, are in place to ensure that these components are able to be diverted from the waste chain. The ES should assess the likely significant effects from waste at decommissioning to the extent possible at this time. A Decommissioning Plan should be agreed with the Local Planning Authority. The Inspectorate would expect to see this secured through the inclusion of an Outline Decommissioning Plan or similar with the Application. The ES should clearly set out how decommissioning is to be assessed and any components which may remain following decommissioning.</p>
2.2.14	Appendix A paragraph 5	National Forest	<p>The Scoping Report states that part of the site is located within the National Forest. The Forestry Commission has commented that the site is part of the Public Forest Estate, as such, Forestry England should be consulted on the Proposed Development and its implications for future forestry plans.</p>

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT COMMENTS

#### 3.1 Landscape and Visual

(Scoping Report paragraphs 72-74 and Appendix A)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.1	n/a	n/a	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.2	Appendix A paragraph 17	National Character Areas	National Character Areas are not identified in the landscape and visual assessment baseline or as sensitive receptors. The ES should identify, locate and assess impacts on National Character Areas where significant effects are likely to occur.
3.1.3	Appendix A paragraph 19	Study Area	The scoping report states that the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) study area extends up to 3.5km from the centre of the site; extending 2km from the site boundary. The ES should justify the extent of the study area (which should also include the grid connection corridor and perimeter fencing) with reference to recognised professional guidance and the extent of the likely impacts, informed by fieldwork and relevant models or approaches such as the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). Effort should be made to agree the study areas with relevant consultation bodies.
3.1.4	Appendix A paragraph 28	Mitigation	The Scoping Report states that the LVIA will identify the landscape and visual mitigation and enhancement measures to be embedded into the siting, design, construction, operation and decommissioning of this proposed development. The ES should explain how these measures have avoided significant effects. Where the avoidance of a



ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			likely significant effect is reliant upon mitigation measures, these should be described within the ES along with the proposed methods by which they will be secured through the Development Consent Order (DCO). Where a measure is locationally specific, a plan may assist understanding. The ES should also consider the potential for mitigation measures to impact on other environmental aspects, e.g. landscape planting impacts on archaeology.
3.1.5	Appendix A paragraph 34	Zone of Theoretical Visibility	Paragraph 34 of the Scoping Report provides details regarding the ZTV. The Inspectorate considers that central inverters should be included within ZTV1 or ZTV2 to ensure maximum parameters are assessed.
3.1.6	Appendix A paragraph 37	Viewpoints	The selection of viewpoints should be discussed and, where possible, agreed with relevant consultation bodies.

### 3.2 Historic Environment

(Scoping Report paragraph 75 and Appendix B)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.1	Anticipated effects	Impacts on listed buildings	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out effects on the Grade I listed Churches of St. Andrew, Pickworth and St. Andrew, Folkingham which are located c. 2km and 2.2km north and northwest of the Study Site respectively. The Scoping Report states that the churches share no intervisibility with the site. It is acknowledged that the Proposed Development may have some effect on the wider setting of these listed buildings, it has been assessed as having little to no impact on their significance.</p> <p>The Applicant is also seeking to scope out effects on the Grade I listed Church of St. Peter, Lenton which is located c. 1.8km west of the Study Site boundary, due to the distance from the site, lack of intervisibility and lack of functional links to the site.</p> <p>At this stage, the extent of the ZTV has not yet been established and therefore potential impacts cannot be fully understood. Therefore, in this absence of this information, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out.</p>
3.2.2	Anticipated effects	Impacts on Non-Designated Built Heritage Assets	<p>The Scoping Report seeks to scope out further assessment on a number of non-designated heritage assets, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owens Barn Farm, The Warren and South Lodge, located between 300 – 920 metres north of the northern boundary; and</li> <li>• Laughton Lodge and the Unnamed Farmstead 740m east of the eastern boundary.</li> </ul> <p>At this stage, the extent of the ZTV has not yet been established and therefore potential impacts cannot be fully understood. Therefore, in</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			this absence of this information, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.3	Introduction	Study Area	The Scoping Report states that the study area used in this assessment is a 1km buffer from the site boundary, and up to 2.2km in cases where it has been determined that the asset may have greater sensitivity. The Inspectorate considers that the ES should also assess the potential for effects on designated and non-designated heritage assets along the cable route options, to assess for adverse effects from trenching activities and associated easements, which may result in permanent vegetation clearance in some areas. The study area should be agreed with relevant stakeholders.
3.2.4	Baseline conditions	Study Area	The ES should contain a plan/s to confirm the location of the designated and non-designated heritage assets found within the site boundary and study area.
3.2.5	n/a	Effects on RAF Folkingham	The Scoping Report states that there is potential for effects on and a moderate level of harm to the significance of the upstanding remains of RAF Folkingham and therefore they will be further assessed and reported in the ES. The Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment states that aerial photography suggests that further remains may exist below ground level. Therefore the ES should also assess the potential for buried remains to be present at the site.
3.2.6	Anticipated effects	Further investigations and mitigation	The Scoping Report states that further archaeological investigations may be required, dependant on the outcome of the geophysical survey. The Inspectorate considers that trial trenching is likely to be required within the study area and that the extent of trial trenching

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			following geophysical surveys should be agreed with relevant consultation bodies, where possible, and reported in the ES. The ES should report on any landscape scale archaeological effects that may arise. The ES should explain any mitigation measures that may be required to avoid any adverse effects on archaeology.

### 3.3 Ecology and Ornithology

(Scoping Report paragraph 76 and Appendix C)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.1	n/a	N/A	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.2	n/a	Confidential Annexes	Public bodies have a responsibility to avoid releasing environmental information that could bring about harm to sensitive or vulnerable ecological features. Specific survey and assessment data relating to the presence and locations of species such as badgers, rare birds and plants that could be subject to disturbance, damage, persecution, or commercial exploitation resulting from publication of the information, should be provided in the ES as a confidential annex. All other assessment information should be included in an ES chapter, as normal, with a placeholder explaining that a confidential annex has been submitted to the Inspectorate and may be made available subject to request.
3.3.3	Baseline Information Desk Study	Study Area	The Scoping Report states that a 20km search area will be used as a study area to search for internationally designated sites. The ES should identify Special Areas of Conservation within 30km, where bats are noted as a qualifying interest.
3.3.4	n/a	Veteran Trees	The ES should identify any veteran trees present within the Proposed Development area and assess any likely significant effects arising from all phases of the proposed development.
3.3.5	n/a	Ancient Woodland	The Inspectorate notes that data for ancient woodland is currently being updated. As such, the ES should include the most up to date

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			evidence regarding ancient woodland as identified in updated surveys by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership.
3.3.6	Extended Phase 1 scope	Dormice	The Scoping Report does not explain whether dormice are present or absent within the study area. The ES should assess impacts on dormice where significant effects are likely to occur.
3.3.7	Baseline Information Desk Study	Study Area	<p>The Scoping Report states that a desk study is being undertaken to provide information on the ecological interest of the Proposed Development site, its surrounds and the grid connection route.</p> <p>Figure 1 of Appendix C provides the breeding bird survey area and winter bird survey area which do not include the proposed grid connection routes. For clarity the ES should clearly detail the relevant ecological study/survey areas which should incorporate the final grid connection route. The ES should assess impacts to ecological receptors from the grid connection route where significant effects are likely to occur.</p>
3.3.8	Field surveys	Breeding and wintering bird surveys	The ES should explain any regional scale effects of the Proposed Development and other nearby developments on bird populations due to the proposed change in land use.
3.3.9	Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey	Fish Species	The Scoping Report makes reference to a number of ponds and wet ditches being present on and around the site. As such the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey should include the potential for fish species, such as eel to be affected by construction activities such as trenching.
3.3.10	n/a	Impacts on barn owls	The Scoping Report states that four breeding bird surveys were carried out in 2021 and a further six are being carried out in 2022. No details are provided regarding the time of day that surveys have been undertaken, it is therefore possible that certain species such as barn owl may not be detected. The ES should assess impacts on barn owl

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			during construction as well as operation and this should include impacts from habitat loss, disturbance and lighting.

### 3.4 Transport

(Scoping Report paragraph 77-78 and Appendix D)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.1	n/a	n/a	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.2	Appendix D Paragraph 25	Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding (WCH) receptors	The Scoping Report states that there are numerous PRoW in proximity to the site. Surveys should be undertaken to provide baseline data in relation to the use of the PRoWs affected by the Proposed Development and the ES should provide a figure clearly depicting the location of said PRoWs. The ES should assess impacts to PRoW and on WCH receptors from the Proposed Development such as the need for temporary closures or diversions, where significant effects are likely to occur.
3.4.3	Appendix D Paragraph 36	Construction Impacts	<p>The Scoping Report states that both central inverters and string inverters are currently being considered for the Proposed Development. The number of units required for each design choice varies from 80 units for central inverters and 960 units for string converters, although they are different sizes, and this may result in differing numbers of HGV movements.</p> <p>The ES assessment of impacts to Traffic and Access and the accompanying Transport Assessment (TA) should be based on the relevant worst-case having regard to any parameters applicable to the Proposed Development, including the choice of infrastructure.</p>



ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.4	Appendix D paragraph 1.9	Baseline	<p>The Scoping Report states that a comprehensive package of traffic counts are to be commissioned, the scope of which are to be agreed with the local highways authority. Evidence of consultations such be provided and any agreements, where relevant.</p> <p>The ES should confirm the locations where traffic counts have been undertaken, explain why these locations were selected and confirm the dates that the counts were undertaken.</p>
3.4.5	Appendix D paragraph 1.14	Methodology	<p>The Scoping Report makes reference to a number of guidance documents but lacks specific detail regarding the proposed assessment methodological approach. The ES should clearly explain the methodology used to undertake the transport and access assessment, identifying the specific guidance documents which have been utilised for the assessment. The ES should explain how the methodological approach has been agreed with the local highways authority, where possible.</p>
3.4.6	n/a	Transport Statement	<p>The ES should provide a Transport Statement prepared in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance on Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements (March, 2014). In addition, due to the proximity of the site to the Strategic Road Network, the Transport Statement should be produced in accordance with DfT Circular 02/2013: The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development.</p>

### 3.5 Noise

(Scoping Report paragraph 79 and Appendix E)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.5.1	Appendix E section 3.8	Assessment of construction noise	The Planning Inspectorate is not content that the Scoping Report has provided the information required to justify that the construction of the Energy Park infrastructure in the solar array area is unlikely to give rise to significant effects. Whilst appropriate working methods and construction hours may reduce impacts, the Inspectorate would expect to see further information provided on construction techniques, locations, routes, machinery and duration to rule out the likelihood for significant effects to occur. The assessment should cover the potential for the proposed cable route to give rise to likely significant noise effects.
3.5.2	Appendix E paragraph 3.8	Noise from traffic movements during construction	In the absence of information to demonstrate that traffic movements will not exceed relevant thresholds for further assessment (e.g. 30% increase in traffic or HGV numbers or 10% increase in sensitive areas), the Inspectorate is not content to scope out traffic movements during construction. The ES should provide information on trip generation, traffic routing, noise emissions and distances from receptors including any measures that are to be secured to avoid or reduce likely significant effects.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.5.3	n/a	Noise emissions during the decommissioning phase	The Scoping Report does not explain whether an assessment of noise for the decommissioning phase will be provided. The ES should clearly set out how impacts from noise are to be assessed for the decommissioning phase.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.5.4	n/a	Vibration effects during construction and decommissioning	The Scoping Report does not refer to vibration impacts during construction and decommissioning. Effects on human receptors have not been considered and there is no commitment to ensure vibration levels remain below relevant threshold criteria. The ES should include an assessment of significant effects from vibration, including the installation of the grid connection on human receptors, in line with relevant British Standards, where they are likely to occur.
3.5.5	Appendix E	Operational noise assessment methodology	The noise appendix, whilst including useful modelling, lacks clarity regarding the actual operational noise assessment methodology to be adopted to determine whether effects are likely to be significant. The ES should provide an assessment in accordance with BS4142:2014 or provide evidence to demonstrate that significant noise effects from the Proposed Development are unlikely.
3.5.6	Appendix E section 4.2	Modelling Scenarios	<p>The modelling scenarios included in the noise appendix only consider the use of string inverters. Paragraph 36 of the Scoping Report states that both central inverters and string inverters are currently being considered for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Since central inverters may be used on the site the noise assessment should consider the noise emissions from such inverters and provide an assessment of operational noise effects, using a worst-case scenario where there is uncertainty.</p>

### 3.6 Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk

(Scoping Report Paragraph 80 and Appendix F)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.6.1	Appendix F paragraph 3.7	Artificial waterbodies	The scoping report rules out impacts from reservoir flooding on the basis of the Environment Agency Reservoir flood map and from other artificial waterbodies (canals) on the basis of distance from such sites. The Inspectorate is content that an assessment of flooding from artificial waterbodies can be scoped out of the ES.
3.6.2	Appendix F paragraph 3.8	Groundwater	Impacts from groundwater flooding are proposed to be scoped out on the basis that information in the groundwater susceptibility map in the 2017 SFRA indicates that the proposed site is located in an area classified as being at less than 25% susceptible to ground water flooding. There are two reports of ground water flooding in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and these have both been in urban areas. The Inspectorate agrees that impacts from groundwater flooding may be scoped out. However, the ES should assess the effects of piling, cable trenching and piling on groundwater flow and infiltration rates where significant effects are likely to occur.
3.6.3	Appendix F paragraph 3.9	Water main and sewers	Impacts from sewer flooding are scoped out on the basis that the Risk of Hydraulic Sewer Flood Map in the 2017 SFRA indicates that the proposed site is categorised as 0, the lowest risk and that because the Proposed Development is in a rural location there are unlikely to be sewers onsite. There is no information to confirm this statement and due to the past use of the site as a RAF base the Inspectorate considers there is potential for water and sewer assets to be located on site and in locations where the grid connection will be constructed. Therefore the Inspectorate considers that the potential impacts from sewer flooding should be considered. The impact on the water and

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			sewer network within the site and along the cable corridor should also be assessed and any detailed design or mitigation measures which may be required to avoid adverse effects should be addressed.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.6.4	Appendix F paragraph 3.3.1	Climate change projections	The Flood Risk and Drainage section of the Scoping Report references climate change allowances but does not explain how they will be considered in the ES assessment. The ES and associated Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) should use the latest climate change projections available at the point of submission and explain how they have been applied. Effort should be made to agree the approach with the relevant consultation bodies.
3.6.5	Appendix F paragraphs 3.6 and 4.0	Surface water	<p>The Scoping Report highlights the need to consider the impact of increased surface water run-off during operation. The Inspectorate considers that impacts on water quality as a result of soil erosion due to increased runoff should be assessed in the ES where significant effects are likely. The Applicant should append a draft/outline copy of the Surface Water Drainage Strategy to the ES and/or demonstrate how its delivery will be secured through the DCO.</p> <p>The Scoping Report refers to a number of drainage ditches being present on the site. The ES should explain the effects the Proposed Development may have on the function of these ditches. It would also be helpful for the ditches to be depicted on a plan showing their location relative to the elements of the Proposed Development. It may be necessary for further investigations to be undertaken regarding the potential for unmapped drainage systems which may be present on site and the impacts which may result if these are disturbed.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.6.6	3.8	Cable trenching	The Scoping Report states that cable trenching will be used. No further detail is included. The ES should assess the effects of trenching on groundwater flow and infiltration rates where significant effects are likely to occur. The ES should describe the number, locations and types of watercourse crossings required for the Proposed Development and assess impacts where significant effects are likely to occur. Effort should be made to agree the approach and appropriate location(s) with the relevant consultees and should drilling fluid be used in construction, a plan to mitigate the effects of breakout should be produced, submitted and secured in the application.
3.6.7	n/a	Surveys	The Flood Risk and Drainage section of the Scoping Report does not discuss surveys which may be undertaken to inform the ES. Although the nearest watercourse is located 2km to the west of the site, there are a number of ditches and ponds present on site. The ES should assess the potential for adverse effects on water quality unless it can demonstrate that there would be no pathways of effect for water quality.
3.6.8	n/a	Agricultural field drains	The ES should assess the potential for piled foundations to impact on the existing agricultural field drainage network, including the risk of localised areas of water logging.
3.6.9	n/a	Water Framework Directive	The ES should include an assessment of the potential impact from the proposed Development on Water Framework Directive (WFD) waterbodies.

### 3.7 Glint and Glare

(Scoping Report Paragraphs 81 - 86)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.1	n/a	n/a	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.2	86	Mitigation measures	Paragraph 86 of the Scoping Report states that mitigation measures for Glint and Glare ' <i>will be proposed where necessary</i> ', with no further reference as to what these measures could be. The ES should include a description of all proposed mitigation and state how these measures will be secured.
3.7.3	n/a	Fixed vs tilted solar panels	The ES should include a full comparison of impacts of tilting versus fixed solar panels unless the detailed design has reached a point where the proposed panel type is confirmed. Should tilted solar panels be selected, glint and glare potential in relation to the degree/orientation and any pivot of the panel should also be considered within the ES.

### 3.8 Socio-Economics

(Scoping Report Paragraphs 87 - 105)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.8.1	n/a	n/a	No matters have been proposed to be scoped out of the assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.8.2	Paragraph 70	Loss of agricultural land	The Scoping Report states that the land within the boundary of the Proposed Development has been identified as Grade 3b (moderate quality), including some non-agricultural land. The ES should quantify the amount of agricultural land that will be lost as a result of the project, particularly any Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land, demonstrating how a sequential approach to land take has been adopted. The Inspectorate advises that the assessment in the ES should also refer to the guidance within Natural England (NE) Technical Information Note TIN049: Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile land, 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition (2012).
3.8.3	Paragraph 88	Census data - baseline	The first phase of data from Census 2021 was published in June 2022. This, and any subsequent census data published during the production of the ES, should be used to inform baseline data and the ES assessment.
3.8.4	n/a	Impacts on Temple Wood Burial Ground	The Inspectorate does not consider that the Scoping Report provides enough information regarding the potential for impacts on Temple Wood Burial Ground, located directly adjacent to the south-eastern site boundary. The ES should clearly describe the relationship between the Proposed Development and Temple Wood Burial Ground



ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			and assess impacts to the burial ground and persons attending the burial ground where significant effects may occur.
3.8.5	n/a	Severance issues	The ES should assess the impacts during construction and operation of potential severance issues for farmers and other landowners. Measures should be included within the dDCO to ensure farmer's and other landowner's ability to access crops and livestock. Given the expansive area of the site, it may be helpful for a Farm Impact Questionnaire to be carried out to establish all business which currently operate from the site. Accordingly, these potential effects should be assessed and reported in the ES for all phases of the Proposed Development.
3.8.6	Paragraph 102	Cumulative economic impacts	The ES should assess the cumulative economic impacts of the Proposed Development alongside other similar NSIP schemes proposed for the area, such as Cottam, West Burton, Gate Burton and Heckington Fen, including the loss of agricultural land and crop production.



## APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

TABLE A1: PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES<sup>1</sup>

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The Health and Safety Executive	Health and Safety Executive
The National Health Service Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant Clinical Commissioning Group	NHS Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Natural England	Natural England
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	Historic England
The relevant fire and rescue authority	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service
The relevant police and crime commissioner	Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner
The relevant parish council(s) or, where the application relates to land [in] Wales or Scotland, the relevant community council	Aslackby and Laughton Parish Council
	Bicker Parish Council
	Billingborough Parish Council
	Donington Parish Council
	Folkingham Parish Council
	Horbling Parish Council
	Osbournby Parish Council
	Swaton Parish Council
The Environment Agency	The Environment Agency

<sup>1</sup> Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations')

<b>SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
The Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
The Relevant Highways Authority	Lincolnshire County Council
The relevant strategic highways company	National Highways
The relevant internal drainage board	Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board
United Kingdom Health Security Agency, an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care	United Kingdom Health Security Agency
The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate
The Forestry Commission	The Forestry Commission
The Secretary of State for Defence	Ministry of Defence

**TABLE A2: RELEVANT STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS<sup>2</sup>**

<b>STATUTORY UNDERTAKER</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
The relevant Clinical Commissioning Group	NHS Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group
The National Health Service Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant NHS Trust	East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Railways	Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
	Highways England Historical Railways Estate
Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
Universal Service Provider	Royal Mail Group

<sup>2</sup> 'Statutory Undertaker' is defined in the APFP Regulations as having the same meaning as in Section 127 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
Homes and Communities Agency	Homes England
The relevant Environment Agency	The Environment Agency
The relevant water and sewage undertaker	Anglian Water
The relevant public gas transporter	Cadent Gas Limited
	Last Mile Gas Ltd
	Energy Assets Pipelines Limited
	ES Pipelines Ltd
	ESP Networks Ltd
	ESP Pipelines Ltd
	ESP Connections Ltd
	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
	Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
	GTC Pipelines Limited
	Independent Pipelines Limited
	Indigo Pipelines Limited
	Leep Gas Networks Limited
	Mua Gas Limited
	Quadrant Pipelines Limited
	Squire Energy Limited
National Grid Gas Plc	
Scotland Gas Networks Plc	
Southern Gas Networks Plc	
	Eclipse Power Network Limited

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
The relevant electricity distributor with CPO Powers	Energy Assets Networks Limited
	ESP Electricity Limited
	Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
	Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited
	Independent Power Networks Limited
	Indigo Power Limited
	Last Mile Electricity Ltd
	Leep Electricity Networks Limited
	Mua Electricity Limited
	Optimal Power Networks Limited
	The Electricity Network Company Limited
	UK Power Distribution Limited
	Utility Assets Limited
	Vattenfall Networks Limited
Western Power Distribution (East Midlands) plc	
The relevant electricity transmitter with CPO Powers	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
	National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited

**TABLE A3: SECTION 43 LOCAL AUTHORITIES (FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 42(1)(B))<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>3</sup> Sections 43 and 42(B) of the PA2008

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY<sup>4</sup></b>
Boston Borough Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
East Lindsey District Council
Fenland District Council
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
Leicestershire County Council
Lincoln City Council
Lincolnshire County Council
Melton Borough Council
Newark and Sherwood District Council
Norfolk County Council
North East Lincolnshire Council
North Kesteven District Council
North Lincolnshire Council
North Northamptonshire Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Peterborough City Council
Rutland County Council
South Holland District Council
South Kesteven District Council
West Lindsey District Council

**TABLE A4: NON-PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES**

---

<sup>4</sup> As defined in Section 43(3) of the PA2008

<b>ORGANISATION</b>
Lenton, Hanby, Keisby and Osgodby Parish Meeting
Newton and Haceby Parish Meeting
Pickworth Parish Meeting
Threekingham, Spanby and Stow Parish Meeting



## APPENDIX 2: RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES

<b>CONSULTATION BODIES WHO REPLIED BY THE STATUTORY DEADLINE:</b>
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Boston Borough Council
East Lindsey District Council
Environment Agency
Fenland District Council
Forestry Commission
Health and Safety Executive
Historic England
Lenton, Hanby, Keisby and Osgodby Parish Meeting
Lincolnshire County Council
Lincolnshire County Council – Historic Environment Team
Melton Borough Council
Ministry of Defence
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
National Highways
Newark and Sherwood District Council
NHS Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
North East Lincolnshire Council
North Kesteven District Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Peterborough City Council
Pickwick Parish Meeting

Royal Mail
Rutland County Council
South Kesteven District Council
UK Health Security Agency
West Lindsey District Council

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Temple Oak Solar](#)  
**Subject:** RE: EN010126 - Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 06 July 2022 08:39:21  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

---

Good Morning

Thank you for your email.

We have no comments to make.

Regards

Ruth

Environment and Planning  
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

T: [REDACTED]  
E: [borough.planning@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:borough.planning@west-norfolk.gov.uk)  
W: [www.west-norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk)

Submit a planning application on-line: <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk>

**[borough.planning@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:borough.planning@west-norfolk.gov.uk) or telephone** [REDACTED]



# B O S T O N

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 8QR

**Application No: B/22/0276**  
**Case Officer: Abbie Marwood**

**Email: [planning@boston.gov.uk](mailto:planning@boston.gov.uk)**  
**Tel: [REDACTED]**

1 August 2022

Todd Brumwell  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Environmental Services  
Central Operations  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

**Consultation EN010126 from the Planning Inspectorate to BBC for an Order granting Development Consent for the Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park (the Proposed Development) at South-West of Folkingham to Bicker Fen Bulk Supply Point, Boston PE20 3BF**

Thank you for your recent consultation in relation to the above, which was received on 05-Jul-2022.

I write to confirm that the Council has the following observations in relation to the proposal;

The proposed route of the cable would cross or be within proximity to Horbling Fen SSSI, South Forty Foot Drain Local Wildlife Site and Listed Buildings and Conservation Area within Bicker, along with a number of undesignated water-courses, drains and verges.

It is requested that the ES should include the impacts of the cable route works upon these sites and the environmental impact, including proposed mitigation, remediation and enhancement following the works.

Cumulative impact with the proposals for solar farms at Heckington Fen and at Bicker should be considered, including the cumulative effect of all schemes connecting to Bicker, works at Bicker itself and the potential for cabling works to have a cumulative impact upon the environment and residents of Bicker.

Should you require any clarification on these points or wish to discuss the matter generally please contact the case officer Abbie Marwood.



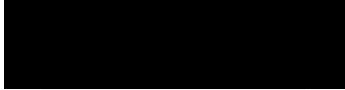


# B O S T O N

## B O R O U G H C O U N C I L

Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 8QR

Yours sincerely



**Mike Gildersleeves**  
**Assistant Director – Planning**  
**Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council**

**We can provide this information in other languages and formats for example, in large print, in Braille or on CD. Please phone 01205 314200.**

**Note:**

The proposed project lies within the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board's District, and its Extended Area within which the Board acts as an agent for the Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council).

The applicant will require prior written consent for their works under the Land Drainage Act 1991 (as amended), particularly Section 23 (Works within a watercourse) and Section 66 (Byelaws) where any part of the project crosses under, over or parallels watercourses within these districts. There will also be fees payable to the Board.





Tedder Hall, Manby Park, Louth, Lincolnshire. LN11 8UP  
T: [REDACTED]  
www.e-lindsey.gov.uk

Ms. K. Wilkinson,  
The Planning Inspectorate,  
Environmental Services,  
Central Operations,  
Temple Quay House,  
BRISTOL.  
BS1 6PN

By e-mail to:  
templeoaksolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Ms Wilkinson,

APPLICANT: Ridge Clean Energy,  
PROPOSAL: Consultation on Scoping Opinion for Temple Oaks Renewable  
Energy Park.  
LOCATION: TEMPLE OAKS RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK

Thank you for consulting East Lindsey District Council on this EIA Scoping  
Opinion for the proposed Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park. I can advise that  
this authority has no comments to bring to your attention at this time.

Yours Sincerely

M. Walker

Michelle Walker  
Deputy Development Manager

**Your Reference:**

EN010126-000013-220704

**Our Reference:** N/113/01315/22/IC

**Contact:** Miss Michelle Walker

**Ext:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]@e-lindsey.gov.uk

**Date:** 11 July 2022

Ms Karen Wilkinson  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Major Casework Directorate  
Temple Quay House (2 The Square)  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
Avon  
BS1 6PN  
templeoaksolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

**Our ref:** AN/2022/133272/01-L01  
**Your ref:** EN010126-000013-220704  
**Date:** 29 July 2022

Dear Ms Wilkinson

## **TEMPLE OAKS RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK - EIA SCOPING NOTIFICATION AND CONSULTATION**

Thank you for consulting us on the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion for the above project on 4 July 2022.

We have considered the project in the context of issues that fall within our remit and we are satisfied that these have been scoped in and out of the Environmental Statement appropriately. We are satisfied with the information presented and agree with the conclusions drawn so far.

However, we have some advisory comments for the applicant that we believe may be useful as they develop their proposals.

Ground conditions and contamination appear to have been scoped out of the proposed EIA, and we do not have any objections to that approach in principle. Solar farms typically present a low risk to groundwater as there are usually limited groundworks that present the potential for any contaminants in the ground to be mobilised to pollute controlled waters.

The proposed site area appears to be largely greenfield/agricultural in nature, although part of the site is a former airfield, which may represent a potential source of contamination. It should be also be noted that former RAF bases can have extensive and often unmapped drainage systems. These can provide pollution pathways and so pollution prevention measures should take this into account during the development, operation and decommissioning of the site.

As with any development on land that is potentially affected by contamination, we offer the following risk management good practice advice. Developers should:

- Follow the risk management framework provided in [Land Contamination: Risk Management](#), when dealing with land affected by contamination;
- Refer to our [Guiding principles for land contamination](#) for the type of information that we require in order to assess risks to controlled waters from the site - the local authority can advise on risk to other receptors, such as human health;
- Consider using the [National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination Management](#) which involves the use of competent persons to ensure that land contamination risks are appropriately managed; and
- Refer to the [contaminated land](#) pages on gov.uk for more information.

We consider that the chapter on hydrology should include an assessment of the potential impact of the development on Water Framework Directive (WFD) waterbodies. Information regarding the WFD status of waterbodies can be found on the Catchment Data Explorer: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/>.

The applicant should be aware that an abstraction licence may be required if any dewatering is carried out.

Any discharges should be clean, uncontaminated surface water. Any discharge of contaminated water, treated water or trade effluent may require an environmental permit.

Should you or the applicant require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Yours sincerely

**Mr Jake Newby**  
**Planning Specialist**

Telephone [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]@environment-agency.gov.uk



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Temple Oak Solar](#)  
**Subject:** Response to Planning Inspectorate consultation EN010126-000013-220704 - Due 01.08.2022  
**Date:** 01 August 2022 15:43:32  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

---

Applicant: Ridge Clean Energy  
Proposed development: Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park  
Location: disused former RAF airfield to the south-west of Folkingham,  
Lincolnshire  
Planning Inspectorate reference: EN010126-000013-220704  
FDC Reference: F/YR22/4012/LACON

Dear Ms Wilkinson

Further to your letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> July which identifies Fenland District Council as a consultation body who must be consulted before the Planning Inspectorate adopts its Scoping Opinion.

As requested I can confirm on behalf of Fenland District Council that we have no comments to make at this time.

Your sincerely

Alison

**Alison Hoffman**  
**Senior Development Officer**

[REDACTED]  
[www.fenland.gov.uk](http://www.fenland.gov.uk)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Temple Oak Solar](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Forestry Commission response to EN010126-000013-220621 Temple Oak Solar Farm  
**Date:** 12 July 2022 14:42:25  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

---

By Email Only

To Whom it may concern,

Thank you for consulting the Forestry Commission on this proposal. As the Governments forestry experts we endeavour to provide as much relevant information to enable the project to reduce any impact on irreplaceable habitat such as Ancient \semi natural Woodland as well as other woodland.

Looking at the maps of the proposed site it doesn't appear that the development will impact on the Ancient Woodland of Temple Wood which is below the site , the rest of Temple Wood is adjacent and the applicants should have been in touch with Forestry England (Land Agent Liam Egan, [REDACTED] [@forestryengland.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@forestryengland.uk) ) to discuss this, as it is part of the Public Forest estate not National Forest as written, which is in Leicestershire.

There may be potential impacts on the blocks of woodland scattered to the north-eastern part of the site. Given the imperative to increase woodland to address climate change and carbon sequestration we would expect any impact on woodland to be given a proper weighting in assessments. So that due consideration of siting and cabling, mitigation measures or opportunities for increasing biodiversity can be determined.

**Yours sincerely,**

[REDACTED]

**Corinne Meakins**

(Pronouns she/her)

Local Partnership Advisor

Forestry Commission East and East Midlands Area

I am working mainly from home. Please note my normal working pattern is 8-4.00 pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

You can contact me by email or my mobile number.

[REDACTED] [@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@forestrycommission.gov.uk) Mobile; [REDACTED]

**[Put down roots](#)**

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CEMHD Policy - Land Use Planning,  
NSIP Consultations,  
Building 1.2,  
Redgrave Court,  
Merton Road,  
Bootle, Merseyside  
L20 7HS.

HSE email: [NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk](mailto:NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk)

Todd Brumwell (Associate EIA Advisor)  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

By email only – [TempleOakSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:TempleOakSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Brumwell

Date: 27 July 2022

**PROPOSED TEMPLE OAKS RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK (the project)  
PROPOSAL BY RIDGE CLEAN ENERGY (the applicant)  
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (as  
amended) REGULATIONS 10 and 11**

Thank you for your letter of 4 July 2022 regarding the information to be provided in an environmental statement relating to the above project. HSE does not comment on EIA Scoping Reports but the following information is likely to be useful to the applicant.

**HSE's land use planning advice**

Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?

According to HSE's records the proposed DCO application boundary for this Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project is within multiple consultation zones of a major accident hazard pipeline [National Grid Pipeline – Transco Index no 1181]

This is based on the current configuration as illustrated in the Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park Scoping Report June 2022 and in relation to the pipeline route as notified to HSE

HSE's Land Use Planning advice would be dependent on the location of areas where people may be present. When we are consulted by the Applicant with further information under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, we can provide full advice.

Hazardous Substance Consent

Although the scoping report does not identify the presence of hazardous substances on, over or under land at or above set threshold quantities (Controlled Quantities) it should be noted that any such substances will probably require Hazardous Substances Consent (HSC) under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 as amended. The substances, alone or when aggregated with others for which HSC is required, and the associated Controlled Quantities, are set out in The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015 as amended.

HSC would be required to store or use any of the Named Hazardous Substances or Categories of Substances at or above the controlled quantities set out in Schedule 1 of these Regulations.

Further information on HSC should be sought from the relevant Hazardous Substances Authority.

#### Consideration of risk assessments

Regulation 5(4) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 requires the assessment of significant effects to include, where relevant, the expected significant effects arising from the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents. HSE's role on NSIPs is summarised in the following Advice Note 11 Annex on the Planning Inspectorate's website - [Annex G – The Health and Safety Executive](#). This document includes consideration of risk assessments on page 3.

#### Explosives sites

HSE has no comment to make as there are no licensed explosives sites in the vicinity.

#### Electrical Safety

No comment from a planning perspective.

At this time, please send any further communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated e-mail account for NSIP applications at [nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk](mailto:nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk). We are currently unable to accept hard copies, as our offices have limited access.

Yours sincerely



Allan Benson  
CEMHD4 NSIP Consultation Team

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Temple Oak Solar](#)  
**Subject:** Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park EIA Scoping Historic England Advice your ref EN010126 our ref PL00778742  
**Date:** 28 July 2022 18:29:40  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

---

## **Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11**

### **Application by Ridge Clean Energy (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park (the Proposed Development)**

**Scoping consultation your ref EN010126 our ref PL00778742**

#### **Historic England Advice**

Thank you for consulting us in your letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

We welcome the inclusion of heritage matters in the submitted scoping report and look forwards to ongoing discussions with the applicants in respect of both setting effects upon heritage assets and direct impacts upon archaeological remains.

We welcome an iterative approach to investigations and will look forwards to early sight of the results of cartographic, geophysical survey, lidar and aerial photographic analysis and the results of the applicant's detailed consultation with County Archaeological Curators and Historic Environment Records and Portable Antiquities Scheme Records.

We would welcome the early inclusion of a palette of mounting techniques to allow for the avoidance of some physical impacts upon buried remains. In addition to the focus upon the impact of the panel arrays, fencing substations etc we note that this and related schemes include significant cable infrastructure for connection to grid. The significance / character / importance of assets on these cable routes will need to be well understood from an early stage such that route options can effectively be weighed and risks managed. It is important both that opportunities for reduction in harm are realised and that the time required for archaeological evaluation and reporting is allowed for. Areas of heightened risk (burial sites / wet deposits / former water courses etc) should be afforded early attention as should resources requiring particular methodological approaches such for instance as battlefields or air crash.

Given the landscape scale of this and associated (nearby) projects the schemes should seek to address structures research questions about this landscape to ensure that localised archaeological interventions contribute to a whole (in terms of public value) which is more than the sum of their parts (see <https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/>).

We will discuss viewpoint locations further with the applicants and the potential for kinetic (sequential) views to add value to the assessment as the work progresses.

Without prejudice to the results of analysis (which will benefit from use of our GPA *Setting of Heritage Assets*) we take this opportunity to highlight the following sites and their setting.

Aslackby Castle Scheduled Monument <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1004952?section=official-list-entry>

Folkingham Castle Scheduled Monument <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1005021?section=official-list-entry>

House of Correction Listed GII\* <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1360144?section=official-list-entry>

Undesignated former Folkingham Airfield and Thor Missile Site

Undesignated former moated site to the east of the airfield.

Undesignated probable medieval settlement remains lying to north east of the former airfield

Undesignated Roman road running from Ailsworth to Ancaster via Bourne.

We look forwards to further discussion with the applicant.

Yours sincerely  
Tim Allen

Tim Allen MA FSA  
Development Advice Team Leader (North)

Midlands Region  
Historic England  
The Foundry, 82 Granville Street, Birmingham B1 2LH

Direct Line [REDACTED]  
<http://www.historicengland.org.uk/> | [REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Temple Oak Solar](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Scoping Response from Lenton, Hanby, Keisby and Osgodby Parish Meeting  
**Date:** 29 July 2022 06:29:38  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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To whom it may concern:-

The parish (141 adults) has been informed of the opportunity to comment.

6 responses have been received.

5 were 'no comment'.

1 resident had detailed comments to make which I am appending as an attachment and copying below as I don't know which will be easier for you to use and consider.

Ruth Davies (Secretary to the Parish Meeting)

**Ridge Clean Energy**  
**Temple Oaks Solar Farm**  
**Response to Scoping Report**

**Note:** The pagination of the Scoping Report is confusing, since it seems to contain reports prepared by consultants bearing page numbers that break with the continuity of the main report (ie. reports within the Scoping Report). The following references to page numbers are taken from the pdf document downloaded from the internet.

1. **Introduction:** p.1, paragraphs 6-7: claim that the proposed solar development is predicted to have a potential annual yield of approximately 294,000 MWh, sufficient to supply the equivalent annual electricity needs of approximately 75,000 homes. This is based on an average annual consumption in the East Midlands of 3,920 kWh. The calculation is also based on an installed capacity of plant generating up to 240 MW.

The anticipated electricity it is claimed will be generated

by the installed solar photovoltaic cells over a year is an inflated figure because it is based on a load factor (capacity factor) stated by the company to be 12%. The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy's latest statistics contained in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES) shows that the load factor for solar generated plant feeding the national grid during 2020, the last full year for which figures are available, was 11.2%.

During the hours of darkness, and when there is insufficient daylight, and taking into account repairs and maintenance, the plant will either produce no electricity at all, or it will produce a much reduced output. The DUKES statistics show that load factors for solar plant have been fairly consistent over the years, ranging from 10.6% to 11.2% since 2016, with no noticeable improvement in the technology to counter the vicissitudes of the UK climate.

Ridge Clean Energy's claim is misleading. The equivalent number of domestic properties served, with an average consumption of electricity, will be lower than 75,000. The figure would be even lower for rural homes supplied, since they more often than not have no gas supply for heating purposes. Because of this, the consumption of electricity of rural homes is usually well in excess of 5,000 kwh per annum.

We would invite the Planning Inspectorate to instruct Ridge Clean Energy to correct its predicted figures for the stated potential annual yield, and inform communities already consulted, explaining and apologising for the error made.

2. **Introduction:** p. 8, paragraph 52: The Scoping Report suggests that it is anticipated that the proposed development would be operating for a period of forty years. There is always a danger of such a long-term project becoming a liability for future generations. There is always a danger that a company may go into voluntary liquidated before the end of such a long-term contract, and simply walk away from its liability for clearing the site and restoring the land to its natural state.

We would invite the Planning Inspectorate to insist that

the Ridge Clean Energy, or whoever takes over the contract, should be directed to invest regularly in investment bonds during the lifetime of the project, such that sufficient monies can be guaranteed to de-commission the plant, clear the site and return it to its original state, as promised. Anything less, would be a disservice to our grandchildren and their generation, which could, otherwise, be left to deal with a very expensive mess.

3. The proposed development is on land that, in part, may be described as “brownfield”. It would be helpful to know what percentage of the land to be developed is categorised as “brownfield”, and what percentage is deemed to be farmland. No doubt the Planning Inspectorate will consult with its colleagues in the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs to assess the predicted significant impact on National Food Security by the proposed development gobbling up farmland, thus ensuring it is not available for food production for a period of 40 years.
  
4. There exists the possibility of a planning application being lodged with North Kesteven District Council for a 50MW capacity solar development, close to this present proposal, from a firm called Intelligent Alternatives. This would be on existing farmland west of the rural village of Walcot, Off Braceby Road, Sleaford NG34 0SY; just three miles to the north of the present proposed site identified in the Scoping Report. We trust that this would be taken into account in the Environmental Impact Assessment, and any potential cumulative adverse effect on local communities would be reported on in detail.
  
5. **Introduction:** pp. 14–15, paragraphs 96-104: these paragraphs refer to employment opportunities at regional and local level. The Environmental Impact Assessment should provide much more detailed information, especially about employment opportunities at local level. Construction developments on this scale are usually associated with supply and employment contracts struck at national and regional level, with limited employment opportunities locally. The community is looking for a more detailed and realistic plan, including numbers, for the planned employment of local people.
  
6. **Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment:** pp. 20 - 65: a much clearer description needs to be given in the Environmental

Impact Assessment as to what exactly the developer proposes in terms of screening unacceptable visual effects on the landscape, taking into account the scale of this development and the radical and dramatic change it will force on this very rural part of Lincolnshire.

At p. 30, paragraph 33, the Screening Report refers to:

*The theoretical visibility of the battery and substation compounds is not*

*illustrated in the ZTV in Plate 2 and some structures within these compounds*

*will be taller than the panels.*

The community needs to know exactly what structures are referred to? How many? And how tall they will be? All this information should be provided in the Environmental Impact Assessment.

7. **Historic Environment Scoping:** p.74: *Assumptions, Limitations and Uncertainties:* paragraph 2 reads as follows:

*Lidar data show topographic features which survive as earthworks. The resolution of the data, the time of year collected, and vegetation cover of the area surveyed all impact upon the visibility of archaeological features within the data. For these reasons, Lidar data is best collected in the winter months when vegetation is at its thinnest, giving the laser the best opportunity to reach and return from the grounds surface.*

We would suggest that the Lidar survey referred to should be carried out during the coming winter months to garner the necessary detail and to ensure the accuracy of the topographic features.

8. **Noise Scoping:** p.106: Table 3: **Predicted Noise Levels:** there is a suggestion that the ambient noise levels predicted for certain properties already identified is “greater than the

suggested 35 dB LAeq daytime threshold” (third line of paragraph 1). This issue is going to be important to many householders living in close proximity to the development; and it is important that the Ridge Clean Energy is required to carry out a detailed background noise survey, including all necessary mitigating features that it proposes will be put into place to make life bearable for local residents.

9. **Rights of Way and Bridlepaths:** the developer should include in the Environmental Impact Statement details of any existing rights of way or bridlepaths identified that fall within the boundary of the proposed development. If they do exist, plans should be presented as to how these will be preserved and access maintained.

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

FAO - Karen Wilkinson  
Environmental Services Advisor  
The Planning Inspectorate

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28 July 2022

Your ref: EN010126-000013-220704  
Our ref: NSIP14

Dear Karen

**SCOPING OPINION REQUEST BY RIDGE CLEAN ENERGY LTD IN RELATION FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE TEMPLE OAK RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK**

I write in response to your letter dated 4 July 2022 seeking this Authority's views and comments on the Scoping Report produced by Engena Limited in connection with the above proposal.

The Council has reviewed the information contained within the Scoping Report and offers the following comments which we request the Inspectorate considers in the preparation of its final Opinion.

General Comment

- It is assumed that the PV panels will be fixed as the information presented in the Scoping Report does not suggest trackers are being considered. The Inspectorate is therefore invited to clarify this point. In the event trackers are being considered as a potential option then the Environmental Statement (ES) and any relevant assessments should ensure both potential options are considered so that impacts associated with each can be properly identified and assessed. Of particular relevance are the assessments in respect of noise, flood risk, glint and glare and landscape and visual impact.

## Specific Environmental Matters

### **Agricultural Land Classification**

- The Council agrees this should be ‘scoped in’ and a detailed assessment included as part of the ES.
- A detailed site survey is stated to have already been undertaken but this is not included within the Scoping Report and so the Council is unable to comment on whether the methodology adopted is correct. Published guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agricultural-land-assessproposals-for-development/guide-to-assessing-development-proposals-on-agriculturalland#alc> states that ‘for a detailed ALC assessment, a soil specialist should normally make boreholes every hectare on a regular grid on agricultural land in the proposed development area up to 1.2m deep using a hand-held auger’. This is confirmed within the Natural England Technical Advice Note 49 which states that for a detailed ALC assessment there should be a ‘frequency of one boring per hectare’. The Council invites the Inspectorate to therefore require the detailed site survey to reflect the above guidance and, if it does not already, require an updated or new survey to be carried out and submitted as part of the ES.
- The ES and ALC assessment should clearly identify how much of the site comprises of agricultural land and identify its ALC grade and current use. The ES should identify what (if any) measures would be taken to retain the agricultural land in productive use (i.e. sheep grazing, hay/silage production) and how this would be secured. The ES should also give consideration to the economic effects of the loss or change to the use of the agricultural land as well as a consideration of the potential carbon footprint created through the displacement or removal of this land from productive use. This needs to be properly calculated to ensure that the full carbon gains or benefits of this proposal are accurate.

### **Landscape and Visual Impact (Appendix A)**

- The Council agrees this matter should be ‘scoped in’ and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES.
- The Council is generally agreeable to the methodology and approach detailed within Appendix A of the Scoping Report but recommends that the following publications also be taken into consideration when carrying out the LVIA and added to those referenced in paragraph 17:
  - Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 1/20 Reviewing Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs) and Landscape and Visual Appraisals (LVAs), 10th January 2020 by the Landscape Institute; and
  - Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 2/21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations, May 2021 by the Landscape Institute.
- The Council agrees that specific ZTV’s should be applied to assess the impacts of the larger elements of the development including battery storage and substation

compounds. These are large structures which could potentially be clearly noticeable in the landscape even if they are set back from the site boundaries. The ES and LVIA should therefore adopt a different ZTV modelling regime for these elements so that the true impact of these individual structures is more accurately assessed.

- The Council has not had chance to visit or check the suggested 9 viewpoint locations proposed within Plate 2 and Table 1. The Council would invite the Inspectorate to therefore make clear in their response that these are not fixed at this stage and are subject to review and amendment through on-going and subsequent discussions with the Council and other host authorities.
- It is not yet clear if string or central inverters will be used as part of the development (see para 36 of the Scoping Report). If central inverters are to be used, then the ES and LVIA must consider the impacts of these within the final layout (as well as other potential impacts such as noise impacts associated with their use). If the scheme promoter wishes to retain both options at this stage, the Council invites the Inspectorate to require that the 'worse case' scenario be assessed taking into account the maximum dimensions of the invertors and their location within the site.
- Paragraph 42 of the Scoping Report states that perimeter fencing would be installed to prevent theft and Plate 8 suggests that this could comprise of a typical deer/post and wire fence. Other NSIP scale solar parks currently being promoted within the County have all proposed the use of more robust security fencing such as paladin/palisade fencing. The exact type of fencing to be used should therefore be defined and it should be clear whether this would be limited to the perimeter of the site only or also include lines internal to the site. The ES and LVIA should consider the impacts of all such fencing and if the type of fencing to be used is not yet known, then the Council invites the Inspectorate to require that the 'worse case' scenario be assessed taking into account the type, maximum height, colour and location of such fencing within the site.

### **Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment (Appendix B)**

A full copy of the comments from the Historic Environment Team are attached as an appendix to this response. Below is a summary of those comments.

- The Council agrees this matter should be 'scoped in' and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES. The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 states "*The EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner...the direct and indirect significant impacts of the proposed development on...material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape.*" (Regulation 5 (2d)). Based on the information presented at this stage, the Council is deeply concerned about the proposed approach to be adopted for assessing the historic environment.
- Sufficient evaluation is required to understand the archaeological potential and to inform a reasonable and appropriate mitigation strategy in the Environmental Statement. The full suite of available desk-based information needs to be competently assessed including all available records, air photos, LiDAR and local sources. This understanding and any



subsequent evaluation (e.g. geophysical survey, trial trenching) will provide a sufficient evidence base to allow for understanding of the site-specific archaeological potential of the development and provide the basis for an effective mitigation strategy to deal with the archaeological impact which is reasonable, appropriate and fit for purpose.

- The desk-based assessment (DBA) mentioned in the Scoping Report is yet to be seen and its description indicates required work may not have been included. For example, this should include interpretation and assessment of LiDAR and full aerial photo coverage using all available oblique and vertical air photos including the Historic England Archive and Cambridge University Collection of Air Photos as well as RAF and Ordnance Survey photos and those held by Lincolnshire County Council. No reference has been made to local sources or investigation of material held at the Lincolnshire Archives. 'Historic mapping' is non-specific, map regression of the full impact zone is required which should include all available maps to provide a reasonable understanding of the development and time depth of the site. The Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook is also required to inform good practice and methodology approaches for archaeological work undertaken in this county.
- The DBA accepts further archaeological evaluation will be undertaken and this is agreed. Further assessment includes geophysical survey and, depending on the results, further archaeological investigation (i.e. intrusive field evaluation). The assessment should however not only focus on the main solar site but also both cable connection routes. Geophysical survey of the proposed cable routes may therefore also be required to identify site-specific archaeological potential and to inform a programme of archaeological trial trenching and subsequent mitigation. Pre-determination evaluation of the cable connection corridors can be very useful with informing a decision on the most cost effective and viable route. The Council therefore requests that the Inspectorate makes clear in its response that the proposed cable routes should be included within the DBA and any subsequent assessments until or unless one is scoped out as part of the ES.
- At this stage, given further archaeological evaluation is required, the Council does not agree with the Historic Environment section and the conclusions it draws within the Scoping Report. The conclusions and statements made thus far are based on a very limited and insufficient evidence base and the impact potential is reduced and the tone is dismissive throughout the document. For example, it is not yet possible to justify the stated view that '*The significance of any such archaeology is likely to be local to regional*' (pg.79) and elsewhere it is stated that '*The Domesday Book refers to the settlement of Avethorpe, which is likely to have been located within the Study Site, but there are no further location references. The potential for early Medieval archaeology is therefore considered low.*' The potential is not low. It has not been investigated and the study area has not been evaluated by the standard field investigation techniques of geophysical survey and trial trenching. The potential is therefore unknown and if value must be placed then it should be very high until sufficient evaluation has been undertaken to provide evidence of its presence or absence. All value judgements made in the Scoping Report are therefore based on partial results and so are unreliable. The potential impact

area is 350 hectares and to draw such conclusions on such a large area without undertaking sufficient evaluation including geophysical survey and ground-truthing trial trenching is dismissive, ill-informed and lacking in the professional judgement and standards we would expect for a project of this size.

- In terms of study area, a 1km radius has been used in the DBA to identify designated or non-designated heritage assets which might be directly or indirectly impacted and to inform the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological remains. This has however been extended to 2.2km for additional listed built heritage assets. The identified study area is limited and again appears to exclude the two cable connection routes and therefore any data that may be relevant to the consideration of potential impacts. The solar farm is almost 3km long and for a project of this size we would expect the Historic Environment Record search to be at least 5km for visual impact on designated assets and a minimum 2km search beyond the extent of the full impact zone for non-designated assets. The Council therefore disagrees with the approach taken so far and requests that the study area for the main site be extended to 5km radius and for both cable routes a minimum 2km buffer be adopted. In scoping which assets would be affected the ZTV modelling should identify which assets have the potential to be visible or have their setting affected by the development. Based on the information presented so far the Council is deeply concerned that the full potential impacts of the development on designated heritage assets and archaeology would not be properly assessed and so this should be revised.
- The Anticipated Effects section (p.94) lists piling, installation and removal of foundations, cable runs and the grid connection route as having a subsurface negative impact on any archaeology. There are however other ancillary infrastructure including inverters, transformer units, electrical infrastructure, a substation, etc and possible new access roads and security fencing that also have the potential to have an impact. There is also the potential construction impacts of compaction, tracking and reduction of protective depths of soil, as well as the potential effects on the moisture levels and chemical composition of the soils all of which may impact upon surviving archaeology. Any proposed mitigation measures such as landscaping, tree planting or habitat construction could also lead to potential impacts on surviving archaeology and settings impacts and therefore these need to be recognised and included as possible effects and not dismissed.

### **Ecology & Ornithology (Appendix C)**

- The Council agrees this matter should be 'scoped in' and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES.
- The Council is generally agreeable to the methodology and approach detailed within the Scoping Report however it appears that the two cable routes are not included within the study area and so any potential impacts on ecology may not be assessed. The Council therefore requests that the Inspectorate seeks clarification on whether the cable routes are included and if not requests that this be a requirement as part of the ES.

- It should be noted that the ancient woodland data for the county is very out of date and Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership are currently doing an update survey. The last survey from the 1980s only looked at sites over half an acre so there could be smaller pockets of woodland that could be classed as ancient woodland and should be protected. The ES should therefore assess the potential for other (as yet unknown) areas of potential ancient woodland which could be affected by the development and not simply rely on existing records which may be out of date.
- As part of the development the scheme promoter should seek opportunities to secure biodiversity net gain in line with the advice contained in the NPPF and the Environment Act. The ES should therefore use the Biodiversity Metric 3 (or any such later version) and contain a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan which would seek to demonstrate a minimum 10% net increase in biodiversity value of the site as a result of the development.

### **Transport & Public Rights of Way (Appendix D)**

- The Council agrees this matter should be 'scoped in' as part of the ES and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES.
- The Council is also agreeable to the general approach and methodology detailed within the Scoping Report with regard the assessment of highways and transportation impact. It is recommended that the proposed Construction Traffic Management Plan also includes an assessment of workers journeys to work and proposals are included to seek to minimise car journeys and encourage sustainable modes or car share/minibus arrangements for operatives.
- The Definitive Public Rights of Way Map and Statement indicates that there are no recorded public rights of way crossing the proposed Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park. However, the War Department stopped up several routes during the war to enable the construction of RAF Folkingham and this has had a detrimental effect on the connectivity of the public rights of way network in the vicinity of Folkingham, Keisby and Lenton. The affected routes are:
  - Lenton, Keisby and Osgodby Public Bridleway No. 1
  - Lenton, Keisby and Osgodby Public Bridleway No. 4
  - Lenton, Keisby and Osgodby Public Footpath No. 2
  - Folkingham Public Footpath No. 14
  - Aslackby Public Footpath No. 2 (Continuation of route on 1905 OS plan – further investigation required)
- The ES should seek opportunities to re-connect existing cul-de-sac routes that have been created around the perimeter of the former airfield. Additional public footpaths and bridleways should not utilise routes used for construction or maintenance activities. A minimum width of 4m will be required for public footpaths and 5m for public bridleways. Any fencing alongside a public path should be open mesh construction and not close board timber fencing or metal palisade to avoid the creation of narrow claustrophobic

## **Noise (Appendix E)**

- The Council agrees this should be ‘scoped in’ and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES. However, the Council has concerns that the information carried out so far within the Noise Scoping Report is flawed and will need to be revised or additional modelling carried out for the reasons cited below.
- Section 4.1 of the Noise Scoping Report appears to suggest that string inverters are to be used as part of the development and as a result used in the modelling scenarios identified within Section 4.2 and to calculate the predicated noise levels in Table 3. However, as stated previously, paragraph 36 of the Scoping Report states that it is not yet clear if string or central inverters will be used as part of the development. In light of this the information and noise levels identified through the modelling work carried out so far cannot be relied upon as noise levels associated with the use of string or central inverters have the potential to differ significantly. If the scheme promoter wishes to retain both options at this stage (i.e. central or string inverters) then the noise assessment work and modelling carried out so far will need to be revised and updated so that it considers both potential options. If not, then the full potential impacts of the development will not have been properly assessed.
- The Council therefore invites the Inspectorate to clarify whether string or central inverters are to be used and require that the noise assessment and modelling be revised and updated in order to ensure that a ‘worse case’ scenario is assessed.

## **Flood Risk and Drainage (Appendix F)**

- The Council agrees this matter should be ‘scoped in’ and that appropriate assessments should be included as part of the ES.
- A full Flood Risk Assessment with accompanying Drainage Strategy will be needed which ensures surface water flood risk is not increased and that mitigations and drainage proposals put forward are in compliance with the SUDs hierarchy.

## **Glint and Glare**

- The Council agrees this matter should be ‘scoped in’ and that appropriate assessments should be included as part of the ES. The Council is also agreeable to the general approach and methodology detailed within the Scoping Report.
- In any event the ES must consider glint and glare potential in relation to the degree/orientation and any pivot of the panels relative to any nearby properties within and surrounding the site (as well as RAF airspace if needed) to rule out impacts to aviation interests, motorists and sensitive receptors.

## **Socio Economics and Sustainability**

- The Council agrees the socio-economic impacts of the development should be ‘scoped in’ and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES, however, the consideration of socio-economic impacts should not simply focus on impacts in terms of direct and indirect employment. The Council requests that this chapter also contains an assessment of the economic impact of the loss of arable farmland as a result of this development. As stated previously, the ES should identify what (if any) measures would be taken to retain

the agricultural land in productive use (i.e. sheep grazing, hay/silage production) and assess the economic effect the loss or any such change to the use of the agricultural land would have.

- The ES should also consider the cumulative economic effect of this and other similar NSIP large scale solar schemes that are currently being promoted in the County. These include proposals at Cottam, West Burton, Gate Burton, Heckington, Mallard Pass nr Essendine and Tillbridge Lane. The cumulative economic impact and potential effects of these schemes in terms of the loss of agricultural land and crop production (assuming these are successful in securing a DCO) therefore needs to be assessed.
- The Scoping Report suggests that this chapter/section will also consider the contribution the development would have to the UK transition to net zero emissions. The Council recommends that this be dealt with within a separate chapter/section of the ES (e.g. Climate Change) see comments below.

### Additional Chapters/Comments

In addition to the topics/chapters identified within the Scoping Report the Council also considers that the following should form part of the ES.

#### **Climate Change**


- The ES should contain a separate chapter/section that considers the effects of the development on climate change and its contribution to the UK transition to net zero emissions.
- This chapter/section should evaluate:
  - the potential emissions associated with the production of the PV panels and other supporting equipment as well as that associated with the transportation, construction and operation of the development; and
  - the potential savings in emissions associated with the operation of the development as a result of the consequent reduction in use of more carbon-emitting electricity generation methods; and
  - any increase in carbon emissions as a result of the need to transport/import food and crops from elsewhere which would have otherwise been grown on the arable farmland that would be lost or removed from production as a consequence of the development. Such an assessment would enable the full carbon gains or benefits of this proposal to be properly understood.
- The Council requests that the Inspectorate therefore requires the applicant to include such an assessment within the ES.

#### **Alternatives**

- The ES should clearly set out the main reasons for selecting the site and explain what alternatives have been considered (if any). This should be presented within a standalone chapter/section of the ES and look at site layouts, scales, technologies adopted, design parameters and site selection. For example, as well a consideration of fixed or tracker

panels, consideration should be given to an east/west configuration especially on the old runway and area of hardstanding which offer less potential to deliver biodiversity gain and/or to utilise the space between the panels for grazing. An east/west configuration is more compact and so would allow a greater number of modules to be installed per unit area potentially meaning the footprint of the site could be reduce to remove any agricultural land whilst still achieving a viable and high generating capacity.

- The assessment of alternative sites should include a county-level alternative assessment area which considers scope for connection into the National Grid at the locations proposed by the other registered NSIP solar projects currently being promoted within the County and/or other sites that lie within the same proximity to any other suitable National Grid connection points elsewhere. Specific consideration and comparison should be given to any difference in the impacts on agricultural land.

I trust the information and comments set out above are useful and should you seek clarification on any of the issues highlighted above please feel free to contact Marc Willis (Applications Manager) at  [@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:marc.willis@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully



for Neil McBride  
Head of Planning

Enc. Comments from Historic Environment Team

## Temple Oaks scoping report response – Historic Environment Comments

We have yet to be contacted regarding this solar farm and we are disappointed and deeply concerned regarding this scoping report's Historic Environment section.

The desk based assessment mentioned in the scoping report is yet to be seen and its description indicates required work may not have been included, for example a competent and full LiDAR and air photo analysis and assessment or even looking at the full range of available air photographs. No fieldwork has been done so the Historic Environment section and the conclusions it draws are based on a very limited evidence base which is totally insufficient for justification of its view that *'The significance of any such archaeology is likely to be local to regional'* and the descoping of almost all of the built environment with a single designated heritage asset left to be mitigated. The potential impact area is 350 hectares and to draw such conclusions on such a large area without undertaking sufficient evaluation including geophysical survey and ground-truthing trial trenching is dismissive, ill-informed and lacking in the professional judgement and standards we would expect for a project of this size.

The use of the phrase *'adding data beyond simple findspots or unknown details to existing documentary records'* is deeply concerning. This would seem to show a total lack of understanding of archaeological process and of archaeological evaluation. Taken in conjunction with the total lack of contact, the dismissive approach to the attributed values of archaeology, the limited baseline evidence with reference to a DBA which has yet to be seen and the proposed descoping of almost all heritage assets subject to potential settings impacts, the lack of authorship for the Historic Environment chapter concerns us deeply as there are areas where we are not assured of appropriate levels of expertise.

We need an approach with sufficient evaluation in order to understand the archaeological potential and to inform a reasonable and appropriate mitigation strategy in the Environmental Statement (ES) which will need to be submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The full suite of available desk-based information needs to be competently assessed including all available records, air photos, LiDAR and local sources. This understanding and the geophysical survey results will inform a robust programme of trial trenching to provide a sufficient evidence base to allow for sufficient understanding of the site-specific archaeological potential of the development and provide the basis for an effective mitigation strategy to deal with the archaeological impact which is reasonable, appropriate and fit for purpose.

The Anticipated Effects section lists *'piling, installation and removal of foundations, cable runs and the grid connection route will all have a subsurface negative impact on any archaeology'*. Paragraph 4 of the scoping report says there will be ancillary infrastructure including inverters, transformer units, electrical infrastructure, a substation, a temporary construction compound and a battery energy storage system, elsewhere in the report are references to access roads where required and security fencing should all be included as well. Any proposed mitigation measures such as landscaping, tree planting or habitat construction would also lead to potential impacts on surviving archaeology and settings impacts. There is also the potential construction impacts of compaction, tracking and reduction of protective depths of soil, as well as the potential effects on the moisture levels and chemical composition of the soils all of which may have an impact upon surviving archaeology.

The Historic Environment section has been based upon only a very limited amount of initial desk based work and yet it is presented as the complete and full understanding of the archaeological resource. The impact potential is reduced and the tone is dismissive throughout the document, for example *'The Domesday Book refers to the settlement of Avethorpe, which is likely to have been located within the Study Site, but there are no further location references. The potential for early Medieval archaeology is therefore considered low.'* The potential is not low. It has not been investigated and the study area has not been evaluated by the standard field investigation techniques of geophysical survey and trial trenching. The potential is unknown and if value must be placed then it should be very high until sufficient evaluation has been undertaken to provide evidence of its presence or absence. The scoping report has not been transparent in clarifying that this entire section and all value judgements made in it are based on partial results with most of the archaeological evaluation phases still to come. It is important to be clear that such an incomplete data set is itself of very limited value and any conclusions drawn from it are provisional at best.

The study area has been limited to 1km for the built environment although they're including a list of designated assets outside this distance which may be impacted by the development. It is clear that the 1km buffer is insufficient. Elsewhere it states *'There are no strict parameters for the setting of study areas.'* The solar farm is almost 3km long, for a project of this size we would expect the HER search to be at least 5km for visual impact on designated assets and a minimum 2km search beyond the extent of the full impact zone for non-designated assets. All designated and undesignated heritage assets which may be impacted by the development must be included and will be subject to a full competent assessment of significance.

The scoping report lists online aerial photography only. Full competent LiDAR and air photo analysis, interpretation and assessment is required with full aerial photo coverage using all available oblique and vertical air photos including the Historic England Archive and Cambridge University Collection of Air Photos as well as RAF and Ordnance Survey photos including those held by Lincolnshire County Council. No reference has been made to local sources or investigation of material held at the Lincolnshire Archives. 'Historic mapping' is non-specific, map regression of the full impact zone is required which should include all available maps to provide a reasonable understanding of the development and time depth of the site. The Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook is also required to inform good practice and methodology approaches for archaeological work undertaken in this county.

Regarding archaeological mitigation the scoping report states that *'If impacts cannot be avoided through design, then alternative strategies, which may include site investigation and recording, will be proposed.'* Reasonable and appropriate mitigation will obviously include the full suite of archaeological fieldwork mitigation solutions particularly archaeological strip map and record (SMR) and set piece excavation (SPE) to deal with the development impact in accordance with standard archaeological good practice. Following sufficient field investigation including geophysical survey and a full programme of trial trenching across the impact zone including the proposed cable routes a robust competent mitigation strategy will need to be submitted with the DCO submission and strictly adhered to post consent as part of the works programme.

The scoping report states *'The final route of the grid connection between Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park and Bicker Fen has yet to be determined but will principally follow highways or verges'* and elsewhere that *'Archaeological investigation as a means of mitigation may be appropriate for some or all of the grid connection, once the final route has been determined.'* Depending on the nature of previous disturbance such as services archaeology may still be impacted along roads and verges, indeed some roads are themselves heritage assets, such as Roman roads as is the case here:



paragraph 28 of the scoping report lists the potential routes of the connector including the A15, which is of course Ermine Street, the Roman road from London to the North, and it is common to have burials beside Roman roads as well as roadside developments, roadside settlements and roadside inns called *mansios*. The lack of potential to undertake geophysical survey along those sections highlights the particular need for detailed investigation of potential impact along all possible routes. This will determine where trial trenching can be used to determine the presence, absence, depth, significance and extent of any surviving archaeology which would be impacted and the evaluation results should be used to inform the selection of the final grid connection route.

The full potential impact zone including all proposed connection routes must be included in the evaluation process as archaeological impacts and subsequent mitigation have the potential for significant financial and scheduling impacts. Sufficient evaluation is essential in informing the selection process and in ensuring the subsequent design and work programme is devised with an understanding of the level of archaeological work which may be required before and during the construction phase. Pre-determination evaluation of the cable connection corridors can be very useful with informing a decision on the most cost effective and viable route.

*'Depending on the results of the geophysical survey, a further programme of archaeological investigation, may be needed to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development, satisfy the requirements of the NPPF and meet the NSIP standards.'* Full trenching is required. Trenching results are essential for effective risk management and to inform programme scheduling and budget management. Failing to do so could lead to unnecessary destruction of heritage assets, potential programme delays and excessive cost increases that could otherwise be avoided. A programme of trial trenching is required to inform a robust mitigation strategy which will need to be agreed by the time the Environmental Statement is produced and submitted with the DCO application.

*'Mitigation by design is an option to preserve archaeology in situ, either as a conscious economical choice or because the potential significance indicated by geophysical survey or other investigation warrants its preservation.'* Please be advised that while 'mitigation through design' can allow important archaeological remains to be safeguarded there are a number of issues with this: first, the important archaeological remains must be identified and their depth and extent determined; secondly other construction impacts can also impact on archaeology, for example by compaction; and thirdly preservation *in situ* would not just involve leaving areas as open space. Any proposal for 'mitigation by design' requires a full understanding of the depth, extent, importance and nature of the surviving archaeology across the site. The full extent of the archaeological areas must be determined and each area must be fenced off and subject to a programme of monitoring throughout the construction and the decommissioning phases, and there will be no ground disturbance whatsoever which may disturb or affect the archaeological remains, including plant movement or storage. Any proposal in archaeologically sensitive areas will require a firm evidence base proving that any proposed work including decommissioning will have no impact upon the archaeology including not only direct destructive impact through groundworks, compaction or reduction in the depth of soil necessary for protecting the archaeology but also through environmental changes which would be detrimental to the surviving archaeology.

'Mitigation by design' may result in a significant number and amount of fenced off no-go areas which could lead to significant ongoing constraints in the construction and decommissioning phases which would affect not only the number of solar panels but the development works themselves including plant activity, the placement of associated infrastructure such as compounds and access routes and in the construction management plan itself.

We agree with the Assumptions, Limitations and Uncertainties section of the various methods of determining archaeological potential, a phased approach with the full suite of archaeological evaluation is required. We stress again the necessity for the completion of a full competent desk-based assessment and programme of evaluation trenching across the full impact zone. Much of the ground impact of a solar farm is not archaeologically mitigatable and while the depth of impact goes below any surviving archaeological levels the archaeology which may be impacted cannot be monitored or recorded during the construction and decommissioning phases, therefore sufficient evaluation needs to be undertaken in advance of ground impact.

*'Geophysical survey as well as intrusive investigation also have their own limitations. As the exact specification of these methods are not yet known, the limitations cannot yet be described.'* As stated we have not yet been contacted and would be very happy to engage with whoever is undertaking this work at the earliest opportunity.

The Summary states that *'A review of the available evidence has confirmed that the Study Site has a moderate potential to contain Prehistoric archaeology and high potential for medieval and post-medieval finds and features. There is low potential for all other periods. The significance of any such archaeology is likely to be local to regional, adding data beyond simple findspots or unknown details to existing documentary records.'*

As stated above we fundamentally disagree. Full reasonable and appropriate levels of evaluation fieldwork is required before the potential for buried archaeological remains can be identified. As for the statement that 'such archaeology is likely to be local to regional': does this section mean that there is some sort of cut-off point where archaeological value means it is not important enough to require mitigation? In our opinion a site which has 'local to regional' significance which would be wholly or partly lost by development impact would still require mitigation. This is in accordance with NPPF which states that NPPF states that ***'Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact'*** (s 205).

*'The opportunity to more precisely define its character may be considered beneficial. The development would have a negative physical impact if archaeology were present and therefore it is scoped into the EIA and will be reported in the ES chapter.'* We would expect full details of methodology and approach for the desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and evaluation fieldwork phases along with the full suite of potential mitigation options.

*'Geophysical survey will be used to better determine the potential and extent of any archaeology.'* Before commencement of any geophysical survey a Written Scheme of Investigation must be submitted with details of the methodology, practice and extent of the work to be undertaken and what quality control mechanisms have been put in place. For geophysical survey work involving multiple companies a single Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the geophysical survey should be prepared that all contractors adhere to. This must include appropriate quality and control measures to ensure consistency of data recovery across the site. The proposed cable route(s) must be included in the survey. Separate reports for each contractor should be supplied in full with an overarching report presenting the combined results as this will be the basis for the subsequent evaluation trenching.

*Further mitigation options including design solutions and archaeological investigation can then be put in place as appropriate.'* Trial trenching is also required, not only across known or suspected archaeology to determine their presence or absence, depth, extent and significance but also across

the 'blank' areas to obtain baseline evidence where previous evaluation techniques have not identified archaeological remains. This is required to get a full understanding of the archaeology which will be impacted across the full impact zone and will inform the archaeological mitigation strategy which must be undertaken as part of the EIA. Trenching will commence at 5% of the total impact area in the first instance, this may be informed by the quality, reliability and comprehensiveness of earlier evaluation phase results.

*'The assessment has not identified any designated built heritage assets which will be negatively impacted by the proposed development and it is proposed that these, plus all but one non-designated built heritage asset, will be scoped out of the EIA and will not be reported in the ES.'*

This dismissive approach of suggested descopeing of almost all heritage setting impacts is unacceptable and contrary to professional good practice, planning guidance and EIA Regulations, and as it currently stands this section is against the scoping report's own paragraph 75: *'The Historic Environment assessment will consider the potential physical and indirect effects of the Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park upon potential and known designated and nondesignated heritage assets as well as any potentially significant cumulative effects.'*

The individual paragraphs for built heritage assets included in the scoping report, particularly the single paragraph assessing two listed Medieval churches, are not fit for purpose and are not a sufficient evidence base to justify descopeing of designated built heritage assets. The Settings Assessment/Heritage Impact Assessment needs to begin from an understanding of the significance of each of those assets in order to assess the potential impact of the development on them and put forward any potential benefit or mitigation of proposed negative impact. Assessments of significance should be undertaken for all designated and undesignated assets which may be affected to ensure any assets subject to proposed descopeing has an evidence base demonstrating an understanding of the significance of each of those assets as well as any cumulative impacts in order to assess the potential impact of the development on them and put forward any potential benefit or mitigation of proposed negative impact.

*'As none of the heritage assets are scoped into the EIA process because of effects to their setting, no viewpoints are proposed.'* Again, this is entirely unacceptable. See above.

*'Impacts would be limited to changes in the setting of the built heritage assets'* It is not just potential visual impact with views to, from and across any other heritage asset which may be affected, and how it can be viewed from any point which is publicly accessible, it's also how the heritage asset is experienced kinetically and within its landscape. Assessment of all this must start with an understanding of the significance of each heritage asset and any interrelationships it may have with other heritage assets as well as the landscape in which it sits, ie. remnant field boundaries of the field system that surrounded and supported a Medieval village.

*'There is the potential for a moderate level of harm to the extant structures relating to the non-designated RAF Folkingham and therefore it is scoped into the EIA and ES chapter. However, it is considered that this harm could be mitigated through the recording and retention of these assets and with careful design, there is the potential for them to be incorporated into the layout of the proposals.'* A full competent assessment of significance is required for the RAF base including all of its individual elements which includes a detailed understanding of the potential impacts and any proposed reasonable and appropriate mitigation.

In conclusion, the EIA will require the full suite of comprehensive desk-based research, non-intrusive surveys, and intrusive field evaluation for the full extent of proposed impact. The results should be

used to minimise the impact on the historic environment through informing the project design and an appropriate programme of archaeological mitigation. The provision of sufficient baseline information to identify and assess the impact on known and potential heritage assets is required by **Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Regulation 5 (2d))**, **National Planning Statement Policy EN1 (Section 5.8)**, and the **National Planning Policy Framework**.

Sufficient information on the archaeological potential must include evidential information on the depth, extent and significance of the archaeological deposits which will be impacted by the development. The results will inform a fit for purpose mitigation strategy which will identify what measures are to be taken to minimise or adequately record the impact of the proposal on archaeological remains which must be submitted with the EIA.

This is in accordance with The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 which states ***"The EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner...the direct and indirect significant impacts of the proposed development on...material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape."*** (Regulation 5 (2d))

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Temple Oak Solar](#)  
**Subject:** EN010126-000013-220704  
**Date:** 22 July 2022 13:07:46  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

---

Good afternoon,

Melton Borough Council have no comments to make on the above Scoping Opinion.

Kind regards,  
Andrew

**Andrew Cunningham**  
**Senior Planning Development Officer**

T: [REDACTED]

**Please note at present we are receiving a high level of requests and it is likely that our response time will be delayed.**  
**For details of current response rate or general enquiries please visit our website**

[http://www.melton.gov.uk/info/200074/planning\\_and\\_building\\_control](http://www.melton.gov.uk/info/200074/planning_and_building_control)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Visit our website for the easy way to access services 24/7](#)



# Ministry of Defence

Karen Wilkinson  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House,  
Temple Quay  
BS1 6PN

Your reference: EN010126-000013-220704  
Our reference: 10055803

# Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Ministry of Defence  
Safeguarding Department  
St George's House  
DIO Headquarters  
DMS Whittington  
Lichfield  
Staffordshire  
WS14 9PY

Tel: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [DIO-safeguarding-statutory@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DIO-safeguarding-statutory@mod.gov.uk)

[www.mod.uk/DIO](http://www.mod.uk/DIO)

01 August 2022

Dear Karen,

## **MOD Safeguarding-RAF Barkston Heath**

**Proposal:** Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park-Solar Panels and Battery Energy Storage System

**Location:** South-West of Folkingham, Lincolnshire

**Grid Ref:** 505,858 331,940  
504,583 331,618  
504,366 330,724  
504,279 329,888  
504,992 328,816  
505,846 331,270  
505,767 330,404  
505,646 329,857

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the above proposed development which was received by this office on 04th July 2022.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as a consultee in UK planning and energy consenting systems to ensure that development does not compromise or degrade the operation of defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage sites, air weapon ranges, and technical sites or training resources such as the Military Low Flying System.

The applicant is seeking advice in respect of a scoping opinion for Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park-Solar Panels and Battery Energy Storage System.

After reviewing the documents provided at this time, I can confirm that the MOD has no concerns in respect of this consultation.

The MOD must emphasise that the advice provided within this letter is in response to the information detailed in the developer's documents titled Scoping Report, prepared on behalf of Ridge Clean Energy, dated June 2022. Any variation of the parameters (which include the location, dimensions, form, and finishing materials) detailed may significantly alter how the development relates to MOD safeguarding requirements and cause adverse impacts to safeguarded defence assets or capabilities. In the event that any amendment, whether considered material or not by the determining authority, is submitted for approval, the MOD should be consulted and provided with adequate time to carry out assessments and provide a formal response.

I trust this is clear however should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Kalie Jagpal  
Assistant Safeguarding Manager  
DIO Safeguarding

## Complex Land Rights

Ellie Laycock  
Development Liaison Officer  
UK Land and Property  
[REDACTED] [@nationalgrid.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com)  
Tel: [REDACTED]

[www.nationalgrid.com](http://www.nationalgrid.com)

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY:  
[templeoaksolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:templeoaksolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

11 July 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

## **APPLICATION BY RIDGE CLEAN ENERGY (THE APPLICANT) FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE TEMPLE OAKS RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK (THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT)**

### **SCOPING CONSULATION REPONSE**

I refer to your letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in relation to the above proposed application. This is a response on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (NGET). Having reviewed the scoping report, I would like to make the following comments regarding NGET infrastructure within or in close proximity to the current red line boundary.

NGET has high voltage electricity overhead transmission lines and a high voltage substation within the scoping area. The overhead lines and substation form an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales.

#### Substation

- Bicker Fen 400kV Substation
- Associated overhead and underground apparatus including cables

#### Overhead Lines

- 4ZM 400kV Bicker Fen – Spalding North – West Burton 1  
Bicker Fen – Walpole – West Burton 2

I enclose plans showing the location of NGET's apparatus in the scoping area.



## Specific Comments – Electricity Infrastructure:

- NGET's Overhead Line/s is protected by a Deed of Easement/Wayleave Agreement which provides full right of access to retain, maintain, repair and inspect our asset
- Statutory electrical safety clearances must be maintained at all times. Any proposed buildings must not be closer than 5.3m to the lowest conductor. NGET recommends that no permanent structures are built directly beneath overhead lines. These distances are set out in EN 43 – 8 Technical Specification for “overhead line clearances Issue 3 (2004)”.
- If any changes in ground levels are proposed either beneath or in close proximity to our existing overhead lines then this would serve to reduce the safety clearances for such overhead lines. Safe clearances for existing overhead lines must be maintained in all circumstances.
- The relevant guidance in relation to working safely near to existing overhead lines is contained within the Health and Safety Executive's ([www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)) Guidance Note GS 6 “Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Lines” and all relevant site staff should make sure that they are both aware of and understand this guidance.
- Plant, machinery, equipment, buildings or scaffolding should not encroach within 5.3 metres of any of our high voltage conductors when those conductors are under their worse conditions of maximum “sag” and “swing” and overhead line profile (maximum “sag” and “swing”) drawings should be obtained using the contact details above.
- If a landscaping scheme is proposed as part of the proposal, we request that only slow and low growing species of trees and shrubs are planted beneath and adjacent to the existing overhead line to reduce the risk of growth to a height which compromises statutory safety clearances.
- Drilling or excavation works should not be undertaken if they have the potential to disturb or adversely affect the foundations or “pillars of support” of any existing tower. These foundations always extend beyond the base area of the existing tower and foundation (“pillar of support”) drawings can be obtained using the contact details above.
- NGET high voltage underground cables are protected by a Deed of Grant; Easement; Wayleave Agreement or the provisions of the New Roads and Street Works Act. These provisions provide NGET full right of access to retain, maintain, repair and inspect our assets. Hence we require that no permanent / temporary structures are to be built over our cables or within the easement strip. Any such proposals should be discussed and agreed with NGET prior to any works taking place.
- Ground levels above our cables must not be altered in any way. Any alterations to the depth of our cables will subsequently alter the rating of the circuit and can compromise the reliability, efficiency and safety of our electricity network and requires consultation with National Grid prior to any such changes in both level and construction being implemented.

To download a copy of the HSE Guidance HS(G)47, please use the following link:  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg47.htm>

## **Further Advice**

**We would request that the potential impact of the proposed scheme on NGET's existing assets as set out above and including any proposed diversions is considered in any subsequent reports, including in the Environmental Statement, and as part of any subsequent application.**

**Where any diversion of apparatus may be required to facilitate a scheme, NGET is unable to give any certainty with the regard to diversions until such time as adequate conceptual design studies have been undertaken by NGET. Further information relating to this can be obtained by contacting the email address below.**

**Where the promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of NGET apparatus, protective provisions will be required in a form acceptable to it to be included within the DCO.**

NGET requests to be consulted at the earliest stages to ensure that the most appropriate protective provisions are included within the DCO application to safeguard the integrity of our apparatus and to remove the requirement for objection. All consultations should be sent to the following email address: [box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com](mailto:box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com)

I hope the above information is useful. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The information in this letter is provided notwithstanding any discussions taking place in relation to connections with electricity customer services.

Yours faithfully



**Ellie Laycock**  
**Development Liaison Officer, Complex Land Rights**





**Legend:**

- Substations Commissioned
- Circuits
- Commissioned
- Decommissioned Group
- Planned and Spares
- OHL 400kV Commissioned
- OHL 275kV Commissioned
- OHL 132kV & Below Commissioned
- Towers Commissioned
- Buried Cable Commissioned
- Fibre Cable Commissioned
- Pilot Cable
- Oil Pipe
- Cooling Pipe
- Cooling Station
- RAMM
- Cable Tunnel

**Notes:**  
Temple Oaks NGET Asset Plan 1



OS Disclaimer: Background Mapping information has been reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. ©Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey National Grid UK Ltd -0100059731

Date: 07/07/2022  
Time: 11:01:20

Page size: A3 Landscape Scale: 1: 20,000  
Print by: Holdsworth, Anne



NG Disclaimer: National Grid UK Transmission. The asset position information represented on this map is the intellectual property of National Grid PLC (Warwick Technology Park, Warwick, CV346DA) and should not be used without prior authority of National Grid.

Note: Any sketches on the map are approximate and not captured to any particular level of precision.





**Our ref:**  
**Your ref:**

Ridge Clean Energy  
Noah's Ark  
Market Street  
Charlbury  
Oxfordshire  
OX7 3PL

Via email:  
[TempleOakSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:TempleOakSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

**Catherine Townend**  
**Spatial Planner**  
**Midlands Operations Directorate**

National Highways  
The Cube  
199 Wharfside Street  
Birmingham  
B1 1RN

Tel: [REDACTED]

1 August 2022

Dear Todd Brummell,

### **Scoping Opinion - Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park**

Thank you for providing National Highways with the opportunity to respond on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping request for Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park.

National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). It is our role to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN whilst acting as a delivery partner to national economic growth. In relation to this consultation, our principal interest is in safeguarding the A1, located approximately 13km to the west of the site.

In responding to sustainable development consultations, we have regard to DfT Circular 02/2013: The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development ('the Circular'). This sets out how interactions with the Strategic Road Network should be considered in the making of local plans and development management proposals. In addition to the Circular, the response set out below is also in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other relevant policies.

We note that this consultation is in accordance with Regulations 10 and 11 and is the first pre-application consultation being undertaken to inform a subsequent Development Consent Order (DCO) application. It is understood that a DCO submission is necessary as the proposal is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) given the site's energy output is expected to exceed 50 Megawatts.

In relation to this Stage One consultation, National Highways has reviewed the submitted Scoping Report (dated June 2022). We understand from this that the Planning Inspectorate has identified National Highways as a consultation body which must be

consulted prior to adopting its Scoping Opinion and developing a subsequent Environmental Statement.

The below sets out our initial review of this proposal and the further information that we will require in order to fully consider the proposal's impact on our network:

## **National Highways' Considerations**

### *Site Access*

It is noted that the site will be accessed via the existing airfield and farm track entrances; consequently, we have no comments regarding site access which will be taken from the local road network.

### *Operation - Traffic Impacts*

It is understood that during normal operations personnel will visit the site approximately once per month in a light van or a four-wheel drive vehicle. In view of this, we are unlikely to have any concerns relating to traffic impacts on our network once the site is operational. However, the likely traffic and transport impacts once the site is operational should still be set out and clearly evidenced in a Transport Statement (see below).

### *Construction - Traffic Impacts*

The Scoping Report notes that local companies will be best placed to source construction materials, equipment and services. National Highways will require information regarding the number of HGVs that will be travelling on the SRN to transport materials and equipment to the site. We also require an understanding of what route these vehicles will take to the site as well as the time of day they will likely be arriving and leaving.

Information regarding the access and exit routes and arrival/departure times of the estimated 126 workers during the two-year construction period should also be provided to enable sufficient management of construction traffic and to minimise impacts on the SRN.

### *Recommended Transport Statement*

In light of the above comments, we would expect any formal planning application to be accompanied by a Transport Statement prepared in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance on Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements (March, 2014). In addition, due to the proximity of the site to the SRN, the Transport Statement should be produced in accordance with DfT Circular 02/2013: The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development.

We suggest that the Transport Statement include the following:

- Development proposal details– information about the scale of the proposed development (and its construction) including any phasing, parking, access points, hours/days of operation, timescales for the construction period, and anticipated year of opening.
- Trip generation – information about the anticipated levels of traffic the development would generate. This should include a breakdown of staff commuting trips, and HGV/delivery trip generation for the operational and construction phases. The data should include a separate breakdown for the SRN peak hours, i.e. 08:00-09:00 (AM peak hour) and 17:00-18:00 (PM peak hour).
- Trip assignment – information about traffic routings (for construction and operational phase) in relation to the SRN. This should be presented in absolute numbers and percentages.
- Depending on the scale and distribution of new trips, it may also be necessary to indicate how traffic associated with the development proposal will impact on the SRN in the peak hours. These impacts should be considered for the site both as a standalone operation, and cumulatively with other nearby solar farm applications, (plus any wider committed developments), to consider whether the development will result in material implications for SRN junctions. Junctions of interest for the SRN are likely to be the A1 Grantham North (A52), A1 Grantham South (A607) and A1 Colsterworth (A151) junctions.
- Where further assessments are deemed necessary these should be carried out for the proposed opening year of the development (or where applicable, the start of construction).
- A separate Travel Plan should also be produced setting out how staff trips by private vehicle will be minimised as far as possible.

We recommend the above assessment work is agreed in a staged approach with the first stage being to agree the trip generation and trip distribution. This will determine if any further assessments with respect of the SRN are required.

#### Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)

In addition to a Transport Statement, National Highways would expect to see a separate CTMP which should include the following details:

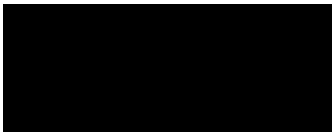
- Hours of working; date works will commence & anticipated completion date/ duration.
- Anticipated average two-way daily traffic numbers associated with the construction phase of the project.
- Confirmation of the intended construction access arrangements to and from the site from the A1 Trunk Road.
- The arrangements for routing of construction vehicles to and from the site.



- Details of any special or abnormal deliveries or vehicular movements.
- A review of the standard of accesses to be used as the construction access to and from the site from the A1 Trunk Road in terms accommodating the volume, nature and type of construction traffic vehicular movements
- Details of any proposed traffic management and signing arrangements to be implemented upon the A1 Trunk Road. (NB: any implementation of such will need to comply with TSRDG and will require a Road Space booking with National Highways).
- Location of the site compounds and offices in relation to the A1 Trunk Road.
- Site Contact Details responsible for ensuring Health & Safety and handling of complaints.

We hope this is useful in the progression of the DCO application. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Townend  
Midlands Operations Directorate  
Email: @[nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:nationalhighways.co.uk)





Growth and Regeneration Business Unit  
Castle House  
Great North Road  
Newark  
Nottinghamshire  
NG24 1BY

[www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk](http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk)

The Planning Inspectorate  
Environmental Services  
Central Operations  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Telephone: 01636 650000  
Email: [planning@nsdc.info](mailto:planning@nsdc.info)

Our ref: 22/01329/NPA

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

**Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and Regulations 10 and 11 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017(the EIA Regulations).**

**Proposal:** Scoping consultation and notification for proposed solar park

**Site Address:** Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park, Folkingham, Lincolnshire

I refer to the above consultation received by this Authority on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 which relates to the intent to install a new solar farm near Folkingham, Keisby, Lenton and Aslackby situated in South Kesteven. The proposal will have the potential installed capacity of up to 240MW (megawatts) and would have an annual yield in the region of 294 000 MWh.

I can advise that Newark & Sherwood District Council have no comments to make on Scoping Report (prepared by [www.engena.co.uk](http://www.engena.co.uk)) dated June 2022 given its located away from the boundary of our district.

Please note that this matter has not been formally reported to the District Council's Planning Committee. In these circumstances the comments are those of an Officer of the Council under delegated power arrangements.

If you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact my colleague, Isabel Verheul, the case officer, who has dealt with this consultation, on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Pp. Lisa Hughes  
Business Manager – Planning Development

SERVING PEOPLE, IMPROVING LIVES

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Temple Oak Solar](#)  
**Subject:** RE: EN010126 - Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 05 July 2022 09:45:05  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Good Morning,

I have shared your email with our Estates team and they have replied that they have no comments at this time.

Kind Regards

*Karen*

Karen Bates  
PA to Martin Fahy, Director of Nursing & Quality  
Office Manager

**NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board**

MOBILE NUMBER [REDACTED]



[Chat to me on MStTeams](#)

[REDACTED]@nhs.net

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Temple Oak Solar](#)  
**Date:** 19 July 2022 15:04:49  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Good afternoon,

I can confirm that North East Lincolnshire Council has no comments to make.

Kind Regards

**Cheryl Jarvis FD, MSc, MRTPI**  
Principal Town Planner  
Development Management - Planning  
Places & Communities – NEL  
[REDACTED] [@nelincs.gov.uk](#)

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Your Ref : EN010126  
Our Ref : 22/0354/PREAPP  
Contact : Nick Feltham  
Email : [REDACTED]@n-kesteven.gov.uk



Mr Todd Brumwell  
Associate EIA Advisor  
Planning Inspectorate  
Environmental Services  
Central Operations  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

15th July 2022

Dear Sir

**Application Reference:** 22/0354/PREAPP

**Proposal:** Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) (Regulations 10 and 11) - Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Solar Park scoping opinion consultation

**Location:** Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park

Thank you for consulting the District Council in relation to the above request for a Scoping Opinion in relation to the proposed Temple Oaks solar farm. Having reviewed the proposed scope of the Environmental Statement the Council would comment as follows:  
Paragraph 70 notes that 'a detailed site survey has been undertaken and will be reported in full within this chapter of the ES. The land within the proposed development boundary has been identified as Grade 3b with some Non-Agricultural land'.

The ES should be accompanied by a detailed ALC report, and we note and agree with approach taken, namely that soil sampling will be undertaken at a sampling density of one observation per hectare, which is in line with Natural England guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agricultural-land-assess-proposals-for-development/guide-to-assessing-development-proposals-on-agricultural-land>.

Whilst the Scoping Report suggests that the entire site is classed as ALC Grade 3b (non-BMV), if the ALC does identify any areas of grade 1-3a BMV land then the ES should also consider the cumulative impacts of the loss of BMV land in connection with the construction and operation of all other solar NSIP schemes in Lincolnshire (including those spanning Rutland and Bassetlaw) registered with the Planning Inspectorate as well as all relevant local non-NSIP schemes.



This must include the Heckington Fen Solar Park approximately 19km northeast of the site. The applicant may wish to review section 16.11 of the Heckington Fen Solar Park Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for further background information.

The assessment of cumulative impacts should also include in relation to a proposed solar farm (up to 49.995MW generating capacity) and associated infrastructure including grid connection cabling to Bicker Fen Substation at Little Hale Fen/east of Helpringham/southeast of Little Hale which was subject to EIA screening by the District Council (referenced 21/1337/EIASCR). To date no application has been received.

In addition, the applicant should also consider any cumulative impacts associated with the proposed solar farm (up to 50MW capacity) and associated infrastructure on land west of Walcot/Braceby Road which was also subject to EIA screening by the District Council (referenced 21/0786/EIASCR). Again, to date no application has been received.

Further solar schemes which should be initially factored into the consideration of cumulative impacts are:

- o Vicarage Drove, Boston B/21/0443 - grid connection into Bicker Fen substation
- o Land South of Gorse Lane, Silk Willoughby - approved (19/0060/FUL) (under construction)
- o Land to the North of White Cross Lane, Burton Gorse - approved (19/0863/FUL) (under construction)

In all cases the ES should take particular account of cumulative agricultural land impacts, grid connection proposals and where relevant cumulative landscape and visual impacts.

Plate 2 - 'Alternative Grid Connection Routes' shows a potential grid connection towards the Bicker Fen substation which passes partly through North Kesteven along the A15/A52. Plate 2 suggests that the grid connection into Bicker Fen substation will be from the southeast/east, and which will therefore include land within the grid connection corridor options currently under consideration by Ecotricity within their PEIR (Figure 1.1 refers). The ES must therefore consider any specific cumulative/in combination effects (which may include cultural heritage/archaeology and agricultural land impacts) depending on the preferred option cable connection route for the Heckington Fen Solar Park.

Owing to its current and former use (including as RAF Folkingham) and the associated storage of nuclear munitions as part of its post WW2 function as an Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) base, and current use for the storage of scrapped vehicles, there is a high potential for the presence of ground contaminants. 'Land Contamination' may therefore need to be scoped into the ES.

Finally, with reference to Appendix A, paragraph 19, a preliminary study area for the purposes of LVIA of up to 3.5km has been selected. Whilst each case must be considered on its merits based on the scale of development and the surrounding characteristics, other solar NSIP projects in Lincolnshire, including the Heckington Fen Solar Park, have adopted an initial 5km radius for the purposes of LVIA. Therefore, the Planning Inspectorate may wish to consider whether an enlarged radius should be initially adopted.

Yours faithfully



**North Kesteven**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Principal Planning Officer**  
**Planning Services**



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Temple Oak Solar](#)  
**Subject:** Temple Oak  
**Date:** 18 July 2022 10:10:09

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Hi,

Thank you for consulting NCC on the above project, we have no comments to make.

Regards

Nina  
Principal Planner (Policy)

[REDACTED]

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**Telephone:** [REDACTED] (open 9am - 1pm)  
**Email:** [planningcontrol@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:planningcontrol@peterborough.gov.uk)  
**Case Officer:** Mr A O Jones  
**Our Ref:** 22/00849/CONSUL  
**Your Ref:** EN010126-000013-220621

**PETERBOROUGH**



Planning Services

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**Peterborough Direct:** 01733 747474

Ms Karen Wilkinson  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Environmental Services  
Central Operations  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

20 July 2022

Dear Ms Wilkinson

**Planning enquiry**

Proposal: Scoping consultation  
Site address: Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park  
Your client: Ridge Clean Energy

Further to your enquiry received on 21 June 2022, in respect of the above, the Local Planning Authority makes the following comments:

The proposal site is remote from Peterborough and therefore we do not have any comments to make on this proposal.

I trust that the above advice is of use however should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details shown at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Mr A O Jones  
Principal Minerals and Waste Officer

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Temple Oak Solar](#)  
**Subject:** RE: EN010126 - Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation  
**Date:** 27 July 2022 11:37:42  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Dear Sir,

Following consultation with all residents of Pickworth, the Parish Meeting has no serious concerns about this proposal. The one query that came up in the consultation was in regard to light pollution from the site; our understanding from the public exhibition held in the village hall in June was that the site would not be lit at night and that surveillance of the site would be via infrared cameras.

The general feeling in the village is that this site is one of the better locations to install this type of infrastructure, due to its remoteness and screening by woods, hedges, etc.

The community is interested to know more about how the promised "community benefit funding" will operate. Whilst this is a welcome aspect of the project, little detail has so far been provided about how it will work.

Yours sincerely  
Ian Roberts  
Chairman, Pickworth Parish Meeting.

Sent from my Galaxy



## **Proposed DCO Application by Ridge Clean Energy Limited for Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park**

### **Royal Mail response to Scoping Consultation**

Under section 35 of the Postal Services Act 2011, Royal Mail has been designated by Ofcom as a provider of the Universal Postal Service. Royal Mail is the only such provider in the United Kingdom. The Act provides that Ofcom's primary regulatory duty is to secure the provision of the Universal Postal Service. Ofcom discharges this duty by imposing regulatory conditions on Royal Mail, requiring it to provide the Universal Postal Service.

Royal Mail's performance of the Universal Service Provider obligations is in the public interest and should not be affected detrimentally by any statutorily authorised project. Accordingly, Royal Mail seeks to take all reasonable steps to protect its assets and operational interests from any potentially adverse impacts of proposed development.

Royal Mail is a major road user nationally. Disruption to the highway network and traffic delays can have direct consequences on Royal Mail's operations, its ability to meet the Universal Service Obligation and comply with the regulatory regime for postal services thereby presenting a significant risk to Royal Mail's business.

Royal Mail and its advisor BNP Paribas Real Estate have reviewed the Environmental Statement ('ES') Scoping report for Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park dated June 2022.

The proposed Energy Park has potential to affect Royal Mail operational interests through construction phase impacts on the highway network. However, due to insufficient information presently being available, Royal Mail are unable to assess the level of potential risk to its operations and any proposed mitigations. As such, at this point in time, Royal Mail is not able to provide a consultation response. Therefore, Royal Mail wishes to reserve its position to submit a consultation response/s later in the DCO consenting process when sufficient information is available. Royal Mail also wishes to reserve its position to submit representations to the future Public Examination, if required.

In the meantime, any further consultation information on this infrastructure proposal and any questions of Royal Mail should be sent to:

**Holly Trotman** (██████████@royalmail.com), Senior Planning Lawyer, Royal Mail Group Limited

**Suzy Crawford** (██████████@realestate.bnpparibas), Associate Director, BNP Paribas Real Estate

Please can you confirm receipt of this holding statement by Royal Mail.



**Rutland**  
County Council

Rutland County Council  
Catmose  
Oakham  
Rutland  
LE15 6HP

telephone: 01572 758263 (DD)  
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Environmental Services  
Central Operations  
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BS1 6PN

Our Ref: NRT/Adj Authorities

26 July 2022

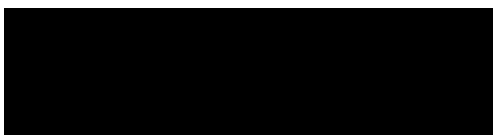
Dear Sir/Madam

**Application by Ridge Clean Energy (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park (the Proposed Development)**

Thank you for your consultation letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in respect of the above.

Rutland County Council has no specific comments to make regarding the site itself due to the significant distance between the site and Rutland County, but would request that the EIA includes an assessment of the cumulative impacts of the agricultural land lost to such developments within Lincolnshire, and the classification grades of that land.

Yours faithfully



Nick Thrower  
Principal Planning Officer  
Development Control



Environmental Services  
Central Operations  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol.  
BS1 6PN

Our Ref: S22/1470  
Your Ref: EN010126-000013-220704

29 July 2022

**SCOPING OPINION REQUEST BY RIDGE CLEAN ENERGY IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE TEMPLE OAKS RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK**

Dear Katherine,

Thank you for your letter dated 4 July 2022 seeking South Kesteven District Council's (SKDC) views and comments on the Scoping Report produced on behalf of Ridge Clean Energy for the above proposal.

SKDC has reviewed the information contained within the Scoping Report and offers the following comments which we request the Inspectorate considers in preparation of its final Opinion.

**Comments on proposed draft Environmental Statement Chapters**

Existing Conditions - Agricultural Land Classification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SKDC agrees this matter should be 'scoped in' and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES.</li><li>• Land and Soils in EIA Guide published by IEMA on 17th February 2022 should be considered in the assessment.</li><li>• The methodology for assessing agricultural land quality appears to be appropriate i.e. a sampling density of one observation per hectare. However, it maybe necessary to increase the density of sampling, if areas of land are found to be Grade 1 – 3a (BMV)</li><li>• SKDC would recommend that the section on Land Use and Agriculture should include a wider assessment of the cumulative impacts of the development to include other known NSIP developments for solar farms which are proposed in Lincolnshire and Rutland. There are a significant number of projects now proposed and the cumulative impacts of these projects on the best and most versatile agricultural land should be assessed as part of any Environmental Statement. These include sites at Heckington in North Kesteven and Cottam, West Burton, Gate Burton in West</li></ul>
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	<p>Lindsey and Mallard Pass Solar Farm. these collectively cover an area over 4,000ha the cumulative economic impact and potential effects of these schemes due to the loss of arable agricultural land for low intensity grazing therefore needs to be assessed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whilst Lincolnshire has a large quantity and high relative proportion of BMV agricultural land, the potential development of several substantial NSIP-scaled solar farms in addition to the locally consented non-NSIP solar farms has the potential to result in a degree of cumulative adverse impact stemming from temporary loss of opportunity for the continued cultivation of potential BMV land across the County. We would therefore request that the Planning Inspectorate give consideration to this issue being scoped in to the Existing Conditions – Agricultural Land Use chapter of the ES and that cumulative agricultural land impacts are considered across the registered projects, adhering to ALC Best Practice published by Natural England.</li> <li>• This chapter should also assess the impacts of losing this land for food production over a period of 40 years</li> <li>• Given the former use of part of the site (RAF Folkingham) and it's current use for storage of vehicles, there is potential for ground contamination in part of the site which should be scoped into the existing conditions chapter.</li> </ul>
<p>Construction, Operation and Decommissioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKDC agrees this matter should be 'scoped in' and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES.</li> <li>• The likely effects on traffic will be greatest during the construction and decommissioning phases of the development. In particular the proposed grid connection would involve a relatively large amount of cabling works shown to be routed along the A15/ A52. The traffic and transport impacts on that cabling should be scoped into this chapter.</li> <li>• Noise monitoring of construction traffic routes should be carried out.</li> <li>• Noise from traffic during decommissioning should also be scoped in.</li> </ul>
<p>Traffic and Access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKDC agrees this matter should be 'scoped in' and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES.</li> <li>• SKDC would advise that comments from Lincolnshire County Council (as local highway authority) are considered for this chapter</li> <li>• NKDC have noted that a potential grid connection route includes land that is also being considered by the Ecotricity NSIP project. Therefore, the cumulative impacts from the</li> </ul>



	<p>connection works associated with that project should be considered alongside the proposed grid connection route.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity sought on whether cabling to grid connection is entirely underground or includes over ground elements</li> </ul>
Hydrology and Flood Risk Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKDC agrees this matter should be ‘scoped in’ and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES.</li> <li>• Relevant Internal Drainage Boards should be consulted to agree any stand-off distances to board watercourses</li> <li>• SKDC would advise that comments from Lincolnshire County Council (as lead local flood authority) are considered for this chapter</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Ecology and Ornithology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKDC agrees this matter should be ‘scoped in’ and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES.</li> <li>• Statutory designated sites - adverse impacts to site integrity through loss of supporting habitat should be in scope for the construction phase and decommissioning phases in order to account for risks to ecological corridor functionality</li> <li>• Breeding birds (skylark, lapwing and yellow wagtail) – Habitat loss should be within scope for the operational phase of the development</li> </ul>
Landscape and Visual Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKDC agrees this matter should be ‘scoped in’ and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES.</li> <li>• SKDC would expect to be involved and agree the location of any viewpoints prior to the submission of any formal application.</li> <li>• Likewise, the study area has not yet been agreed with SKDC which should be done before any detailed landscape and visual impact assessment work is carried out. This is likely to be greater than the 2km suggested.</li> <li>• SKDC would expect details of any proposed planting to mitigate the visual impacts of the proposal to be included in the supporting ES.</li> <li>• The ES must consider battery storage and substation final layout in relation to LVIA</li> <li>• Residential and recreational amenity should not be scoped out and should form part of the LVIA contained in the ES.</li> </ul>
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKDC agrees this matter should be ‘scoped in’ and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES.</li> <li>• The applicant should engage with SKDC’s specialist archaeological advisor Heritage Lincolnshire on scope</li> <li>• LCC’s Historic Environment Record should be consulted</li> </ul>



Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKDC agrees this matter should be 'scoped in' and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES.</li> <li>• Engagement with SKDC environmental protection service re. noise assessment methodology is encouraged.</li> </ul>
Glint and Glare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKDC agrees this matter should be 'scoped in' and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES.</li> <li>• The CAA and Ministry of Defence should be consulted on scope for this chapter</li> <li>• The ES should incorporate a full comparison of effects of tilting panels vs fixed panels at the site unless the detailed design has reached a point where the proposed panel type is confirmed.</li> </ul>
Socio Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKDC considers this matter should be 'scoped in' and appropriate assessments included as part of the ES.</li> </ul>

In addition to the above comments, it is considered that the following matters should be scoped into the Environmental Statement:

Climate Change Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ES should contain a separate chapter/section that considers the effects of the development on climate change and its contribution to the UK transition to net zero emissions.</li> <li>• Second Edition of the IEMA GHG in EIA Guide to be issued week commencing 28th February and should be used in the assessment.</li> </ul>
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dust from lorries during the construction period will be difficult to mitigate and should be scoped into the ES.</li> </ul>
Risks of Major Accidents or Disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is considered that insufficient information has been provided on the proposed battery storage facility to justify scoping out of accidents and disasters.</li> </ul>

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need clarification on any of the points raised in this response.

Yours sincerely

Phil Jordan  
**Principal Planning Officer**  
 [@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:phil.jordan@southkesteven.gov.uk)







UK Health  
Security  
Agency

Environmental Hazards and Emergencies Department  
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Your Ref: EN010126-000013-220704  
Our Ref: 59655

Ms Karen Wilkinson,  
Environmental Services Advisor,  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House,  
2 The Square,  
Bristol BS1 6PN

24<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Ms Wilkinson

**Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project  
Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park (EN010126-000013-220704)  
Scoping Consultation Stage**

Thank you for including the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in the scoping consultation phase of the above application. ***Please note that we request views from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the response provided below is sent on behalf of both UKHSA and OHID.*** The response is impartial and independent.

The health of an individual or a population is the result of a complex interaction of a wide range of different determinants of health, from an individual's genetic make-up, to lifestyles and behaviours, and the communities, local economy, built and natural environments to global ecosystem trends. All developments will have some effect on the determinants of health, which in turn will influence the health and wellbeing of the general population, vulnerable groups and individual people. Although assessing impacts on health beyond direct effects from for example emissions to air or road traffic incidents is complex, there is a need to ensure a proportionate assessment focused on an application's significant effects.

Having considered the submitted scoping report we wish to make the following specific comments and recommendations:

## **Environmental Public Health**

We understand that the promoter will wish to avoid unnecessary duplication and that many issues including air quality, emissions to water, waste, contaminated land etc. will be covered elsewhere in the Environmental Statement (ES). We believe the summation of relevant issues into a specific section of the report provides a focus which ensures that public health is given adequate consideration. The section should summarise key information, risk assessments, proposed mitigation measures, conclusions and residual impacts, relating to human health. Compliance with the requirements of National Policy Statements and relevant guidance and standards should also be highlighted.

In terms of the level of detail to be included in an ES, we recognise that the differing nature of projects is such that their impacts will vary. UKHSA and OHID's predecessor organisation Public Health England produced an advice document *Advice on the content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the NSIP Regime*<sup>1</sup>, setting out aspects to be addressed within the Environmental Statement<sup>1</sup>. This advice document and its recommendations are still valid and should be considered when preparing an ES. Please note that where impacts relating to health and/or further assessments are scoped out, promoters should fully explain and justify this within the submitted documentation.

The applicant's Scoping report does not conform to the PINS Advice Note 7 as no clear indication of matters to be scoped out, nor supporting evidence or justification are included. Such matters include the potential impact of emissions to air (e.g., pollutants and dust) and water (e.g., impact on drinking water) on public health during the construction and operational phases of the project, nor is the inclusion of a Health Impacts Chapter/Health Impact Assessment discussed. The applicant also does not discuss/propose the assessment of incidents, accidents, waste and other hazards during the construction or operational phase of the project.

The applicant does state in the Scoping Report (paragraphs 70 and 71) that a detailed land quality assessment will be included. The applicant states:

*"The assessment includes:*

- A review of the site environment and current agricultural use;*
- Data search of published records of geology and soils across the site; and*
- A detailed soil resource and agricultural quality survey at a sampling density of one observation per hectare."*

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1

<https://khub.net/documents/135939561/390856715/Advice+on+the+content+of+environmental+statements+accompanying+an+application+under+the+Nationally+Significant+Infrastructure+Planning+Regime.pdf/a86b5521-46cc-98e4-4cad-f81a6c58f2e2?t=1615998516658>

It is mentioned throughout the report that the site is a former RAF/USAF airfield. The applicant does not state whether a previous land quality assessment was undertaken after the RAF sold the land prior to its current use as agricultural land. The applicant also does not consider the potential for contamination owing to former RAF/USAF activities on site such as aviation fuel and munitions. Additionally, the applicant does not fully assess the removal and potential for contamination from the large number of scrap/historic vehicles on site. Furthermore, considering the possibility of land contamination on site, the applicant does not provide information on the foundation requirements, or the potential for soil removal, and potential impacts on nearby receptors during construction in the scoping report, or indicate that this will be addressed in the ES. The applicant has not scoped out land quality assessment from the ES, however, it is recommended that the above points are addressed and clarified in addition to the applicant's current proposals.

### Recommendations

Our position is that pollutants associated with road traffic or combustion, particularly particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen are non-threshold; i.e, an exposed population is likely to be subject to potential harm at any level and that reducing public exposure to non-threshold pollutants (such as particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide) below air quality standards will have potential public health benefits. We support approaches which minimise or mitigate public exposure to non-threshold air pollutants, address inequalities (in exposure) and maximise co-benefits (such as physical exercise). We encourage their consideration during development design, environmental and health impact assessment, and development consent.

The following topics impacts on public health should be scoped into the ES or have their omission justified:

- Emissions to water
- Emissions to air
- Contaminated land assessment (taking account of current and historic non-agricultural uses)
- Health Impact Assessment
- Incidents and accidents
- Waste

### **Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs)**

It is noted that the current proposals do not appear to consider possible health impacts of Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)

### Recommendation

We request that the ES clarifies this and if necessary, the proposer should confirm either that the proposed development does not impact any receptors from potential sources of EMF; or

ensure that an adequate assessment of the possible impacts is undertaken and included in the ES.

## **Human Health and Wellbeing - OHID**

This section of OHID's response, identifies the wider determinants of health and wellbeing we expect the ES to address and to demonstrate whether they are likely to give rise to significant effects. OHID has focused its approach on scoping determinants of health and wellbeing under four themes, which have been derived from an analysis of the wider determinants of health mentioned in the National Policy Statements. The four themes are:

- Access
- Traffic and Transport
- Socioeconomic
- Land Use

Having considered the scoping report OHID wish to make the following specific comments and recommendations:

### **General**

The Scoping Report does not confirm to the PINS Advice Note 7. The report provides no clear indication of matters to be scoped out, any supporting evidence or justification for scoping out matters and provides no reasonable alternative options other than for the cable corridor.

Additionally, the report does not include details of the methods to be used to assess impacts and to determine significance of effect, e.g. criteria for determining sensitivity and magnitude.

The Scoping Report outlines the approach to assigning significance in some chapters, but notably absent from the socio-economics chapter. It does not clearly explain what level of effect is determined to be significant in EIA terms, where typically, moderate and major effects are deemed to be significant. The ES should clearly identify the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development.

### **Recommendation**

The scoping report should be revised to conform to PINS Advice Note 7, in particular para 5.11 and insert 2.

### **Population and Human health assessment**

It is noted that population and human health has not been scoped in. There is no discussion or justification for this topic to be scoped out as required by PINS Advice Note 7. The scoping report does indicate the intention to scope in noise, transport and socio-economics, all of which are determinants of health and hence have the potential for positive or negative effects on health and disparities in the local communities.

As no justification has been provided Population and Human Health should be scoped into the ES.

### Recommendation

Until such time adequate justification is provided the ES should have Population and Human Health scoped in.

The scope and extent of the assessment should be agreed with OHID.

The ES should provide baseline health data and consider local health priorities which have been identified within local Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA), Health and Wellbeing Strategies or other local published current data source.

In terms of sources, we would draw your attention to the following:

- [PHE Fingertips](#) – Area profiles with various indicators on common mental disorders (including anxiety) and severe mental illness which can be benchmarked with other local areas as well as regional and national data
- [Office for National Statistics - Wellbeing Indicators](#) - Range of datasets related to wellbeing available including young people’s wellbeing measures, personal wellbeing estimates and loneliness rates by local authority

Advice could also be sought from the local public health team on additional local data and local health priorities.

Baseline health data should be provided, which is adequate to identify any local sensitivity or specific vulnerable populations. The identification of vulnerable populations should be based on the list provided by the Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit<sup>2</sup> and the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA)<sup>3</sup>

### Cable corridor

The scoping report provides alternative cable corridors currently under consideration but does not appear to address the potential impacts from this construction activity, for example impacts on Public Rights of Way (PRoW), access and the need for construction compounds.

### Recommendation

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<sup>2</sup> [WHIASU \(2020\). Health Impact Assessment – A Practical Guide](#)

<sup>3</sup> Cave, B., Claßen, T., Fischer-Bonde, B., Humboldt-Dachroeden, S., Martín-Olmedo, P., Mekel, O., Pyper, R., Silva, F., Vilianni, F., Xiao, Y. 2020. Human health: Ensuring a high level of protection. A reference paper on addressing Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment. As per EU Directive 2011/92/EU amended by 2014/52/EU. International Association for Impact Assessment and European Public Health Association.

The ES must include an assessment on the potential impacts and resultant effects from the cable corridor.

### **Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding**

The scoping report identifies potential impacts on highway users from increased traffic during the construction phase. An automated traffic count is proposed but the report does not make clear if this will include an assessment of usage by non-motorised users.

Although the report identifies no PRoW cross the site it is not clear if the construction activities for the cable corridor will affect any PRoW or similar publicly accessible paths. In order to identify the sensitivity and magnitude of impact of any affected PRoW, or similar, usage data or surveys would be necessary.

Opportunities for increased access for local communities and connectivity between existing PRoW should be considered. This should be discussed with the local authority and local communities to identify potential enhancements through joining existing footpaths.

### **Recommendation**

Surveys of the affected PRoW network should be undertaken to provide baseline data in relation to the use of the PROWs and to define the change in characteristics of tourism and recreational use of PRoW in order to define receptor sensitivity and the magnitude of change.

The ES should clearly and consistently report on the likely impacts on the affected PRoW, proposed mitigation and significance of effects.

The CEMP or separate PRoW Management Plan (PRoWMP) should include sufficient detail regarding the proposed mitigation measures for each PRoW.

Opportunities for increased access for local communities could be considered. This should be discussed with the local authority and local communities to identify potential enhancements through joining existing footpaths.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of UK Health Security Agency  
[nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk)

*Please mark any correspondence for the attention of National Infrastructure Planning Administration.*



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Your contact for this matter is:  
Danielle Peck  
[REDACTED]@west-lindsey.gov.uk  
[REDACTED]

14<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Sent by email only.

Dear Sir/Madam,

**APPLICATION REFERENCE NO: 145199**

**PROPOSAL: PINS consultation on behalf of the Secretary of State as to the information to be provided in an Environmental Statement - ref EN010126-000013-220704**

**LOCATION: Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park**

Thank you for identifying West Lindsey District Council as a consultation body and advising that the Secretary of State will be preparing a Scoping Opinion on the information to be provided in an environmental statement (ES). As the case officer I have read through the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (SR) by Engena dated June 2022 with paragraph 29 describing the proposed development and paragraph 30 describing the infrastructure required. Overall I consider the SR to be well written and comprehensive.

The site is a large distance outside of the West Lindsey District boundary, being located approximately 59km from the most south eastern part of district. It would therefore be highly unlikely to be in view from any parts of the West Lindsey District.

On behalf of West Lindsey District Council I can therefore confirm that we have no comments to make with regard to the information that should be provided in the forthcoming ES.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Danielle Peck.

Danielle Peck  
Senior Development Management Officer  
On behalf of West Lindsey District Council

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