



Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Consultation Report

Appendix 5: Applicant Response in Regard to Section 42 Comments (26 May 2022 – 04 August 2022)

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Table of Contents

5.	Applicant Response in Regard to Section 42 Comments (26 May 2022 – 04 August 2022)	
5.1	Introduction	2
5.2	Table 5-1 Applicant Response in Regard to Section 42 Comments	3
5.3	Table 5-2 Applicant Response in Regard to Section 42 (Landowner Section 44) Comments	516

5. APPLICANT RESPONSE IN REGARD TO SECTION 42 COMMENTS (26 MAY 2022 – 04 AUGUST 2022)

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 This Appendix presents all feedback responses received by the Applicant to consultation carried out with consultees in accordance with Sections 42, 43, 44 and 45 of the Planning Act 2008 as part of the Stage Two Statutory Consultation. It also sets out how the Applicant has had regard to these responses including those from landowners consulted under Section 44 of the Planning Act 2008.

5.1.2 This Appendix comprises the following information:

- Table 5-1 Applicant Response in Regard to Section 42 Comments, setting out how the Applicant had regard to all responses received from Section 42 consultees to the Stage Two Statutory Consultation; and
- Table 5-2 Applicant Response in Regard to Section 42 (Landowner Section 44) Comments, setting out how the Applicant had regard to all responses received from landowners under Section 44 of the Planning Act 2008 to the Stage Two Statutory Consultation.

5.1.3 The Applicant held the Stage Two Statutory Consultation between 26 May 2022 and 04 August 2022 and had regard to all responses received by the deadline of 04 August 2022. Furthermore, the Applicant also had regard to all late responses received from Section 42 consultees. For a summary of this information, please see Chapter 12: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (May 2022 – August 2022): Responses Received, Issues Raised and Changes Made of this Consultation Report.

**5.2 TABLE 5-1 APPLICANT RESPONSE IN REGARD TO SECTION 42
COMMENTS**

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Introduction			
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	The PEIR is largely technical in nature, addressing the key planning issues and likely environmental effects of the proposal to the extent that they are known at this time. At this stage the local authority is encouraged by the government to engage proactively with a developer even if it disagrees with the proposal in principle. The local authority will contribute towards the development of the emerging proposals with the benefit of providing local knowledge. It is not necessary to form an overall view of the proposals i.e. whether or not the Local Authority wishes to object or support the development.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 20: Cumulative Effects Paragraph 19.3.45 - The combined total area of BMV land occupied by this development and that of the cumulative NSIP solar developments identified is cited as equating to approximately 740ha. This figure excludes an actual figure for BMV land associated with the Gate Burton proposal as this was not known at the time of writing. A figure has now been published within the PEIR supporting that document. This section should therefore be updated to take into account the latest information available and be reflected in the final ES.	No	The Applicant's position on Cumulative Effects is outlined in the ES: Chapter 16: Interactive Effects and Cumulative Summary [EN010127/APP/6.1] with the latest figures following public consultation.
Essendine Parish Council	7. Swapping a carbon climate crisis for an environmental disaster	No	The Applicant does not agree with this comment. In contrast, the Proposed Development will bring environmental benefits and enhancement.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Introduction			
Stamford Town Council	Is being proposed by a company (Windel Energy) with no clear track record of running projects of any scale.	No	<p>Founded in 2018, Windel Energy is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies.</p> <p>With more than 3 gigawatts (GW) of clean, renewable power and battery energy storage in various stages of development, Windel is at the forefront of low carbon technologies including solar, energy storage, and onshore wind, and are helping to pave the way to achieve the UK's net zero target by 2050.</p> <p>Windel Energy is committed to responsible land use and believe that the development and delivery of a large-scale solar farm can be achieved in harmony with its surroundings.</p> <p>Canadian Solar was founded in 2001 in Canada and is one of the world's largest solar power companies.</p> <p>It is a leading manufacturer of solar photovoltaic modules and provider of solar energy solutions, and has a geographically diversified pipeline of utility-scale solar</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Introduction			
			<p>power projects in various stages of development.</p> <p>Over the past 21 years, Canadian Solar has successfully delivered over 49 GW of premium-quality solar photovoltaic modules to customers in over 150 countries.</p>
<p>Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton</p>	<p>Given that the Managing Director of Windel Energy has reportedly stated that Windel will sell its share of Mallard Pass to Canadian Solar in future, these allegations are of particular concern.</p> <p>Windel Energy The information below is publicly available on Companies House and is presented without comment and in the belief that it is accurate, based on what is publicly available.</p> <p>MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM LIMITED: Companies House currently lists Ylore Toomey and Gary Leigh Toomey as Directors. Ylore Toomey describes herself as a ‘Teacher’ on the Company’s Certificate of Incorporation whilst Gary Leigh Toomey is described as a ‘Managing Partner’. The latest accounts available (dated 30 April 2021) show that the Company is insolvent, with only £100 of assets.</p> <p>Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited is owned 100% by WINDEL ENERGY LTD. This Company also lists</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The financial position in respect of the Proposed Development is set out in the Funding Statement [EN010127/APP/4.2].</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP’s Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Introduction			
	<p>Ylore Toomey and Gary Leigh Toomey as Directors, as well as Mark Stephen Sandles. This Company was incorporated in October 2018.</p> <p>Windel Energy Ltd is owned 50% by ENROLY HOLDINGS LTD and 50% by SANDLES WEALTH MANAGEMENT LIMITED. Enroly Holdings Ltd lists only Ylore Toomey as Director and its most recent accounts at Companies House (dated 31 July 2021) also show the Company to be insolvent, with a £40,000 Bank Loan outstanding.</p> <p>Enroly Holdings Ltd appears to be owned 50% by Ylore Toomey, 20% by Gary Leigh Toomey, 20% by Jamie Knott (who appears to also be an employee of Windel Energy Ltd) and 10% by Stacy Knott. Jamie Knott appears to be new to the Renewables Industry with his LinkedIn profile listing him as a 'Key Account Manager and Buyer' for WACK WHOLESALE (BUILDING SUPPLIES) LTD as recently as 2019.</p> <p>SANDLES WEALTH MANAGEMENT LIMITED was incorporated in 2005. Its most recent account (dated 31 March 2021) show it holding just £177 of Shareholders' Funds.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey holds or has held over 70 Directorships according to Companies House.</p>		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Introduction			
	<p>Gary Leigh Toomey was Director of REGENESYS UK LIMITED. He resigned as Director in June 2011, one month later the Company entered liquidation. Its most recent accounts (dated 30 April 2010) showed that it owed creditors £606,738. Liquidation statements available on Companies House show that unsecured creditors received nothing, including £83,692 owed to HM Revenue & Customs.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of FREESONA SOLAR 1 LIMITED, where he was appointed in February 2015. The Company was subject to a compulsory strike-off in February 2018. Its last published accounts on Companies House (dated 31 December 2015) show it as insolvent and owing creditors £615,962.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of STEALTH RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGIES LTD. The Company was subject to a compulsory strike-off in July 2010. Its last published accounts on Companies House (dated 29 February 2008) show it as insolvent and owing creditors £128,978.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of GREY STREET SOLAR LIMITED. This Company was recently acquired by Peridot Solar, a portfolio company of investment firm FitzWalter Capital1, an</p>		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Introduction			
	<p>investment firm specialising in acquisitions of financially distressed assets.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of TOURIAN RENEWABLES LTD. He was appointed Director on 1 April 2018. During the first full year of Directorship (to the year ending 31 May 2019) the Company's Turnover decreased from £250,000 to zero, yet it secured a tax expense reversal of £277,015. A year later (as at 31 May 2020) the Company was insolvent and owed creditors £45,072. Gary Leigh Toomey's appointment as a Director was terminated on 16 September 2020. Yet Tourian's website still lists him as 'Managing Director'². The website notes that "Tourian Limited (Tourian) are developing new, innovative technology to convert the rubber components of End of Life Tyres"³. No such company as TOURIAN LIMITED is listed on Companies House.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of GRANTHAM ROAD DEVELOPMENT LIMITED. The Company's most recent accounts show it as insolvent and owing creditors £2,564,659.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of COLSTERWORTH DEVELOPMENT LIMITED. The Company's most recent accounts show it as insolvent and owing creditors £1,366,101.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of COLLINGWOOD STREET SOLAR LIMITED. The</p>		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Introduction			
	<p>Company's most recent accounts show it as insolvent and owing creditors £1,350,000.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of GAS GENERATION OLDHAM LIMITED. The Company's most recent accounts show it as insolvent and owing creditors £1,183,642.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of LOUTH ROAD DEVELOPMENT LIMITED. The Company's most recent accounts show it as insolvent and owing creditors £1,116,654.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of SMALL DROVE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED. The Company's most recent accounts show it as insolvent and owing creditors £1,083,554.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of GAS GENERATION THURROCK LIMITED. The Company's most recent accounts show it as insolvent and owing creditors £1,025,141.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of PHASE 2 GAS HOLDINGS LIMITED. The Company's most recent accounts show it as insolvent and owing creditors £746,809.</p>		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Introduction			
	<p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of GAS GENERATION COATBRIDGE LIMITED. The Company's most recent accounts show it as insolvent and owing creditors £339,008.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of GAS GENERATION RETFORD ROAD LIMITED. The Company's most recent accounts show it as insolvent and owing creditors £307,295.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of BALBOUGIE ENERGY CENTRE LIMITED. The Company's most recent accounts show it as insolvent and owing creditors £232,297.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of VICARAGE DROVE ENERGY CENTRE LIMITED. The Company's most recent accounts show it as insolvent and owing creditors £189,829.</p> <p>Gary Leigh Toomey was also Director of OT DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED. The Company's most recent accounts show it as insolvent and owing creditors £157,391.</p>		
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	Does not conform to South Kesteven Local Plan As a local authority that has declared a Climate Emergency, Stamford Town Council wholeheartedly supports renewable energy initiatives to mitigate against climate change. However, in its present form	No	As set out in Tables 6 and 7 of Appendix 3 of the Planning Statement [EN010127/APP/7.2] the Proposed Development is considered to be in accordance with the relevant South

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Introduction			
	<p>and without the degree of clarification and substantiation outlined above, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm proposal cannot currently be endorsed by the Council. It must be stressed that once these issues have been addressed and all appropriate adjustment/mitigation has been made to the scheme, Stamford Town Council would be minded to review their decision.</p>		<p>Kesteven District Council Local Plan and Renewable Energy Appendix policies.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Need for the Proposed Development			
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	7.3The proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm would represent a solar development on an unparalleled scale, particularly for this rural context. Whilst the proposed development would make a positive contribution to reducing carbon emissions over its proposed life span, there would undoubtedly be adverse effects that need to be balanced against the benefits.	No	The Site Selection Report and DAS [EN010127/APP7.3] explain the size of the scheme and its location. With the measures set out in the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9], the Applicant considers that an appropriately mitigated scheme has been brought forward.
Lincolnshire County Council	By the scheme's estimation, the scheme would have achieved offset of the total emissions spent during construction within 14 years of operation and save 1.2 million teCO ₂ over its lifetime (see Figure 3 – lines cross).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The National Grid Future Energy Scenario (FES) 'best case' decarbonisation scenario grid CO ₂ intensities and the output of Proposed Development accounting for panel degradation have been utilised to calculate the potential reduction of CO ₂ emissions avoided as a result of the Proposed Development which accounts for decarbonisation and degradation with results in Plate 13.1. This shows a total reduction in CO ₂ of 423,580 teCO ₂ across the lifetime of the Proposed Development and an average of 10,589 teCO ₂ /y.
Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council	The cost of the Carbon footprint both in its construction, including the additional infrastructure, and in the decommissioning in 40 years will be astronomical. At present there is very little appetite around the world for dealing with expired solar panels because of time consuming work involved in their dismantling, separating and reusing any useful parts.		The CO ₂ emissions of the Proposed Development would therefore be displaced within approximately 10.5 years, and all savings beyond that would be a net benefit of the Proposed

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Need for the Proposed Development			
			Development to reducing climate change, relative to the baseline. Over 40 years, for example, the saving is estimated at approximately 1.9 million tonnes of CO ₂ .
Carlby Parish Council	Carlby Parish Council are supportive of well executed, local green initiatives but we feel that the Mallard Pass Solar Installation is not one of them, and, if approved it would never achieve the political ambitions of carbon neutral energy.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The National Grid Future Energy Scenario (FES) 'best case' decarbonisation scenario grid CO ₂ intensities and the output of Proposed Development accounting for panel degradation have been utilised to calculate the potential reduction of CO ₂ emissions avoided as a result of the Proposed Development which accounts for decarbonisation and degradation with results in Plate 13.1. This shows a total reduction in CO ₂ of 423,580 teCO ₂ across the lifetime of the Proposed Development and an average of 10,589 teCO ₂ /y.
Stamford Town Council	The Goal: Sustainability Importantly, the proposal fails to mention the determination of an optimum sustainable local green energy solution' for the Stamford, Bourne and the Rutland area. The prime focus appears to be that of a mega solar farm to the exclusion of other green technical proposals potentially providing a more sustainable (greener) solution. An 'off-the-shelf standard solution is appearing to be offered, where a simplified local solution and	No	The Site Selection Report explains why this site is required and Chapter 4 of the ES and the Statement of Need explains why utility scale solar farms are required. As explained in the DAS and set out in the OLEMP, the Proposed Development has been designed to account for its local context.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Need for the Proposed Development			
	shorter distribution network would be economically preferable, if technically and commercially feasible. There should be more domestic solar panels instead on proposed future housing developments such as Quarry Farm and Stamford North.		
Gareth Davies MP for Grantham and Stamford	Whilst I am strongly supportive of green energy initiatives, I have always been clear in my contributions to debates in Parliament, in discussions with ministers and in my contact with campaigners that I hold deep concerns over this proposal.	No	The Applicant considers this proposal is needed as set out in the Statement of Need [EN010127/APP7.1], and that as set out in the Planning Statement [EN010127/APP7.2] its benefits far outweigh its limited impacts.
Lincolnshire County Council	Analysis of GHG emissions GHG emissions in PV plants are typically categorised into Construction, Operation and Decommissioning stages. Paragraph 15.4.12 of the PEIR states that "For utility-scale solar photovoltaic cells, it estimated emission of 48 kgCO ₂ eq/MWh (based on the median value from a range between 8 and 180 kgCO ₂ eq/MWh)....." This leads to a total CO ₂ cost of the Proposed Development of approximately 672,000 tonnes (te) of CO ₂ over an operational lifespan of 40 years"	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The National Grid Future Energy Scenario (FES) 'best case' decarbonisation scenario grid CO ₂ intensities and the output of Proposed Development accounting for panel degradation have been utilised to calculate the potential reduction of CO ₂ emissions avoided as a result of the Proposed Development which accounts for decarbonisation and degradation with results in Plate 13.1. This shows a total reduction in CO ₂ of 423,580 teCO ₂ across the lifetime of the Proposed Development and an average of 10,589 teCO ₂ /y.
Lincolnshire County Council	Without grid decarbonisation considered in the scheme GHG savings calculation, offset of construction emissions is achieved in the 14th year, and a net savings of about 1.2 million tonnes of CO ₂ can be achieved over the project's lifespan. When 'Falling Short' projections from FES are considered, the net savings from the plant is		The CO ₂ emissions of the Proposed Development would therefore be

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Need for the Proposed Development			
	calculated to be about -443,000tCO ₂ , thus suggesting that at the end of the scheme's lifespan, more carbon can potentially be added, not saved.		displaced within approximately 10.5 years, and all savings beyond that would be a net benefit of the Proposed Development to reducing climate change, relative to the baseline. Over 40 years, for example, the saving is estimated at approximately 1.9 million tonnes of CO ₂ .

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
South Kesteven District Council	SKDC has declared a climate emergency recognising a commitment to contribute to the global efforts to tackle climate change. Renewable Energy proposals are supported by national and local policy, and solar photovoltaic generation, including Solar Farms are recognised as an established means of renewable electricity generation. However, local and national policy, and the Council recognises there are a number of potential adverse effects that need to be balanced against the benefits of such schemes.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see the Statement of Need, [EN010127/APP/7.1] .
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.Policy Context5.1National Policy Statements 5.1.1In accordance with Section 104(2) of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State is required to have regard to any relevant national policy statement (NPS), amongst other matters, when deciding whether or not to grant a DCO. However, as the Proposed Development is not specifically referenced by a NPS, the DCO is required to be determined in accordance with Section 105 of the Planning Act 2008.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 3 of the Statement of Need [EN010127/APP/7.1] .
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.1.2Section 105(2) of the Planning Act 2008 provides the legal basis for determining the DCO Application and the Secretary of State must have regard to the provisions set out in this section of the Planning Act 2008. This includes the local impact report and any matters which the Secretary of State thinks are both important and relevant to its decision. In terms of relevance,	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	<p>the following NPSs are important and related to the Proposed Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1); •NPS on Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3); and NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). 		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>5.1.3NPS EN-1 (the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy) was published in July 2011. The NPS confirms the Government's commitment to the legally binding target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. It also identifies the need to increase dramatically the amount of renewable electricity generation capacity in order to meet the commitments under the EU Renewable Energy Directive and to improve energy security by reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels, decrease greenhouse gas emissions and providing economic opportunities. Solar is noted within the document as being an intermittent renewable technology.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>5.1.4Paragraph 4.1.3 of EN-1 states that in considering any proposed development, and in particular when weighing its adverse impacts against its benefits, the examining authority should take into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Its potential benefits including its contribution to meeting the need for energy infrastructure, job creation and any long-term or wider benefits; and 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see the Statement of Need, [EN010127/APP/7.1] .

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	•Its potential adverse impacts, including any long-term and cumulative adverse impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for any adverse impacts.		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.1.5Section 4.2 of the EN-1 is related to the requirement for assessment of likely significant environmental effects and reporting within an Environmental Statement.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Summary of Cumulative Effects, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.1.6Paragraph 4.2.2 of EN-1 states that: “To consider the potential effects, including benefits, of a proposal for a project, the IPC [now PINS] will find it helpful if the applicant sets out information on the likely significant social and economic effects of the development, and shows how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided or mitigated. This information could include matters such as employment, equality, community cohesion and well-being.”	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 14: Socio-economics, of the ES, [EN010127/APP6.1].
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.1.7Paragraph 4.3.2 states: “For the purposes of this NPS and the technology-specific NPSs the ES should cover the environmental, social and economic effects arising from pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning of the project.”	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 14: Socio-economics, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.1.8Paragraph 4.2.4 states that when considering a proposal, the examining authority should: “Satisfy itself that likely significant effects including any significant residual effects taking account of any proposed mitigation measures or any adverse	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Summary of Cumulative Effects, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	effects of those measures, have been adequately assessed. In doing so the IPC[now PINS]should also examine whether the assessment distinguishes between the project stages and identifies any mitigation measures at those stages. The IPC [now PINS] should request further information where necessary to ensure compliance with the EIA Directive.”		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.1.9NPS EN-3 (the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure) does not include solar power or electricity storage within its scope. NPS EN-3 suggests that, at the time of designation in 2011, other types of onshore renewable energy generation were not technically viable at a scale of more than 50MW, and that the Government would consider revisions to NPS EN-3 or separate NPSs to cover such technologies should the situation change.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.1.10NPS EN-5 is relevant to the Proposed Development as the policy recognises electricity networks as “transmission systems (the long distance transfer of electricity through 400kV and 275kV lines), and distribution systems (lower voltage lines from 132kV to 230V from transmission substations to the end-user) which can either be carried on towers/poles or undergrounded “and “associated infrastructure, e.g. Substations (the essential link between generation, transmission, and the distribution systems that also allows circuits to be switched or voltage	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	transformed to a useable level for the consumer) and converter stations to convert DC power to AC power and vice versa.”		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.2Draft National Policy Statements5.2.1In light of the commitment to reduce reliance on fossil fuels in favour of cleaner energy sources set out in the Energy White Paper (2020), Government determined that NPS documents EN-1 to EN-5 required updating. In September 2021, draft NPS’s for Energy were laid before Parliament. The House of Commons Report, with recommendations to Government, was published in February 2022. The report welcomed the intention to update the NPS for energy in line with Government policy commitments. The report recommended that the revised NPS’s needed to place greater emphasis on the impact of climate change and the speed at which new infrastructure will need to be built to meet the Government’s net zero target.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.2.2The Draft NPS EN-1, published by the BEIS in September 2021, makes specific reference to the generation of solar energy and recognises that there is an urgent need for new electricity generating capacity to meet UK objectives.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.2.3Paragraph 3.2.1 of the Draft NPS EN-1 states that: “wind and solar are the lowest cost ways of generating electricity, helping reduce costs and providing a clean and secure source of electricity supply (as they are not reliant on fuel for	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	generation). Our analysis shows that a secure, reliable, affordable, net zero consistent system in 2050 is likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar.”		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.2.4The Draft NPS EN-3, published by the BEIS in September 2021, introduces a new section (Section 2.47) on solar photovoltaic generation, recognising that Solar Farms are ones of the most established renewable electricity technologies in the UK and the cheapest form of electricity generation worldwide. Paragraph 2.47.1 states that the government has committed to sustained growth in solar capacity to ensure that the UK is on the pathway to meet net zero emissions by 2050, and as such, solar is a key part of Government’s strategy for low-cost decarbonisation of the energy sector.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.2.5Section 2.48 of the Draft NPS EN-3 sets out key influences that developers should consider when selecting sites for solar development, including the following factors: •Irradiance and site topography; •Proximity of a site to dwellings; •Capacity of a site; •Grid connection; •Agricultural Land Classification and land type; and Accessibility.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.2.6Sections 2.50 –2.54 of the Draft NPS EN-3 provides topic-specific requirements of how applicants should consider impacts within technical	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information on Ecology and Biodiversity, please see Chapter 7:

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	<p>assessments, development of proposed mitigation measures and decision-making for solar development, for the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Biodiversity and nature conservation; •Landscape, visual and residential amenity; •Glint and Glare; •Cultural heritage; and •Construction including traffic and transport noise and vibration. 		<p>Ecology and Biodiversity, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>For information regarding landscape and visual impacts, please see Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual, of the ES, [EN010127/APP6.1].</p> <p>For information about glint and glare, please see Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>For information on cultural heritage, please see Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>For information about traffic and transport, please see Chapter 9: Transport and Access, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. And for information on noise impact, please see Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.2.7The Draft NPS EN-5 was published in 2021 and recognises that new electricity networks required for electricity generation, storage and interconnection infrastructure are vital to achieving the nation's transition to net zero. Draft NPS EN-5 includes a new section on	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding ecology and biodiversity net gain, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	<p>‘Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain’ at Section 2.8, which states that when planning and evaluating a projects contribution to environmental and biodiversity net gain, it will be important, for both the Applicant and examining Authority, to recognise that “the linear nature of electricity networks infrastructure allows excellent opportunities to: i) reconnect important habitats via green corridors, biodiversity stepping zones, and re-establishment of appropriate hedgerows; and/or ii) connect people to the environment, for instance via footpaths and cycleways constructed in tandem with biodiversity enhancements.”</p>		
<p>South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee</p>	<p>5.3.2Local Plan Policy SD1 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven) sets out the overarching obligation for development proposals to minimise its impact on climate change and contribute towards a strong, stable, and more diverse economy. In relation to the proposed development scheme, the following policy requirements are considered to be particularly pertinent: 5.3.3“Development proposals shall consider how they can proactively minimise: •The effects of climate change and include measures to take account of future changes in the climate. •The use of resources, and meet high environmental standards in terms of design and</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information about climate change, please see Chapter 13: Climate Change, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	construction with particular regard to energy and water efficiency; and •The production of waste both during construction and occupation.		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>5.3.7Policy SP1 (Spatial Strategy) outlines the overall spatial development strategy for the District during the plan period. It identifies that the overall strategy of the Local Plan is to deliver sustainable growth, including new housing and job creation, in order to facilitate growth in the local economy and support local residents. Decisions on the location and scale of new development are to be taken on the basis of the settlement hierarchy established within Policy SP2, and all development proposals are required to protect the best and most versatile agricultural land to protect opportunities for food production and the continuance of the agricultural economy. Development affecting best and most versatile agricultural land will only be permitted if: •There is insufficient lower grade land available at that settlement (unless development of such lower grade land would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations); and Where feasible, once any development which is permitted has ceased its useful life, the land will be restored to its former use and will be of at least equal quality to that which existed prior to the development taking place (this requirement will be secured by planning condition where appropriate).</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.3.8Policy SP5 (Development in the Open Countryside) is the principal spatial policy of the Development Plan in respect of development in such locations. It identifies that development within the Open Countryside will be limited to that which has an essential need to be located outside of the existing built form of a settlement. The policy goes on to identify a series of exceptions, whereby development in the Countryside is considered to be acceptable in principle, including: (a)Agriculture, forestry, or equine development (b)Rural diversification projects (c)Replacement dwellings (on a one for one basis); or (d)Conversion of buildings provided that the existing building(s) contributes to the character of appearance of the local area by virtue of their historic, traditional, or vernacular form; and (e)Are in sound structural condition; and (f)Are suitable for conversion without substantial alteration, extension, or rebuilding, and that the works to be undertaken do not detract from the character of the building(s) or their setting.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.4.1Policy RE1 (Renewable Energy Generation) states that proposals for renewable energy generation will be supported subject to meeting the detailed criteria set out in the accompanying Renewable Energy Appendix 3, and provided that: (a)The proposal does not negatively impact the District's agricultural land asset	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	<p>(b)The proposal can demonstrate the support of affected local communities</p> <p>(c)The proposal includes details for the transmission of power produced</p> <p>(d)The proposal details that all apparatus related to renewable energy production will be removed from the site when power production ceases; and</p> <p>(e)That the proposal complies with any other relevant Local Plan policies and national planning policy.</p>		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>5.4.2Paragraph 152 of the NPPF identifies that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future, and it should help to support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure. Similarly, Paragraph 158 of the Framework states that when determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should:</p> <p>(a)Not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and</p> <p>(b)Approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	to demonstrate the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas.		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.4.3As referenced above, Local Plan Policy RE1 supports proposals for renewable energy generation, subject to the detailed policy criteria, and subject to meeting the identified material considerations set out in the accompanying Renewable Energy Appendix 3.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>5.4.4Similarly, Paragraph 7 of the Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy is clear that, in considering planning applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The need for renewable or low carbon energy does not automatically override environmental protections •Cumulative impacts require particular attention, especially the increasing impact that wind turbines and large-scale solar farms can have on the landscape and local amenity as the number of turbines and solar arrays in an area increases <p>Local topography is an important factor in assessing whether wind turbines and large-scale solar farms could have a damaging effect on landscapes and recognise that the impact can be as great in predominantly flat landscapes as in hilly or mountainous areas Great care should be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of proposals on views important to their settings.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Summary of Cumulative Effects, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Protecting local amenity is an important consideration which should be given proper weight in planning decisions. 		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>5.4.5 Paragraph 13 of the PPG sets out particular planning considerations for assessing large scale ground-mounted solar farms. It states that such proposals can have a negative impact on the rural environment, particularly in undulating landscapes. However, the visual impact of a well planned and well-screened solar farm can be properly addressed within the landscape if planned sensitively. It goes on to advise that LPAs will need to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Encouraging the effective use of land by focussing large scale solar farms on previously developed and non-agricultural land, provided that it is not of high environmental value. •Where a proposal involves greenfield land, whether (i) the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary and poorer quality land has been used in preference to higher quality land; and (ii) the proposal allows for continued agricultural use, where applicable, and / or encourages biodiversity improvements around arrays. •That solar farms are normally temporary structures and planning conditions can be used to ensure that the installations are removed when no longer in use and that the land is restored to its previous use. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The proposal's visual impact, the effect on landscape of glint and glare, and on neighbouring uses and aircraft safety The extent to which there may be additional impacts if solar arrays follow the daily movement of the sun. •The need for, and impact of, security measures such as lights and fencing. •Great care should be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of proposals on their setting. •The potential to mitigate landscape and visual impact through, for example, screening with native hedges The energy generating potential, which can vary for a number of reasons, including latitude and aspect. 		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.4.6The policy context for the key material considerations for the development are considered further below using the 9 criteria set out in the Renewable Energy Appendix 3 and with references to other local and national policy.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	Legislation/guidance etc: Paragraph 8.3.5 lists the key guidance documents that have been referenced but excludes reference to the Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook> This should be included and referenced as it is required to inform good practice and methodology approaches for archaeological work undertaken in this County. Several of the websites listed within paragraph 8.3.6 prohibit the reproduction of maps without	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] includes a Cultural Heritage Assessment of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, encompassing assessment of buried archaeological</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	<p>specific licence and therefore evidence of copyright permission will need to be provided. The proposed list is also considered far too brief and does not include a number of sources we specifically stated were required in our response to the Scoping Opinion in March 2022. As stated above we would expect a full competent complete desk-based assessment including LiDAR data, Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) data, local sources, record office, the NMR, our own air photos and full map regression.</p>		<p>remains, built heritage and the historic landscape including designated and non-designated heritage assets.</p> <p>Appendix 8.1 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2] sets out the Legislation and Planning Policy Relevant to Cultural Heritage which have informed Chapter 8 of the ES.</p> <p>The sources of information, including relevant historic records, used to inform the heritage assessment are set out in appendix 8.2 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2].</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Analysis of Grid decarbonisation The UK's grid has been witnessing gradual decarbonisation over the years, with 60% decarbonisation achieved in 10 years (between 2009 and 2109). The Future Energy Scenarios (FES 2022) sets out credible ways that the UK can achieve Net Zero by 2050, as well as the UK Government's commitment to a decarbonised electricity system by 2035. Based on extensive stakeholder engagement, research and modelling, each scenario considers how much energy we might need; where it could come from; and how we maintain a system that is reliable. See Figure 4 for FES projections.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
Lincolnshire County Council	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))	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Please see Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual and Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], for more information.
Natural England	<p>Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.</p> <p>We understand that you are consulting us in line with paragraph 67 of the Planning Act 2008 "Guidance on pre-application consultation", and that further consultation may be required in line with paragraph 85, particularly if/when the draft Environmental Statement has been prepared. We also appreciate that this consultation under S42 of the Planning Act 2008 also encompasses consultation on the preliminary environmental information, and that some overlap exists between these various requirements.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Stamford Town Council	<p>Conformity to Local Plan</p> <p>The South Kesteven Local plan 2011-2036 in Appendix 3 (Reference Solar Energy Criterion 9), adopted by the Planning Inspectorate in 2020, clearly outlines the following:</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The location of the Proposed Development has been identified through a site search exercise undertaken by the</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	<p>Must first carry out extensive research for derelict or brownfield sites - no evidence of that, yet sufficient suitable land has been identified at local former RAF bases, the total area amounts to 724 hectares which is more than the 550 hectares needed for the solar panels.</p> <p>Must carry out a search for poorer agricultural sites grade 4 & 5 - no evidence of that.</p> <p>Required to prove whether the land is ALC grade 3a or 3b - no survey has been undertaken yet.</p> <p>Has to prove why a site has to be close to a particular grid line and that there is spare capacity in that grid - it would appear Mallard Pass are having to build that storage capacity as it does not currently exist.</p>		<p>Applicant and explained in Chapter 4 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and the Site Selection Report at Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement [EN010127/APP/7.2].</p> <p>The Site Selection Report concludes that the Proposed Development is located in the most logical location in terms of connection works utilising existing capacity and that no suitable alternative previously developed land is available.</p>
Stamford Town Council	<p>Does not conform to South Kesteven Local Plan As a local authority that has declared a Climate Emergency, Stamford Town Council wholeheartedly supports renewable energy initiatives to mitigate against climate change. However, in its present form and without the degree of clarification and substantiation outlined above, the Mallard Pass Solar Farm proposal cannot currently be endorsed by the Council.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Environment Agency	<p>Environmental permitting Permits or licences may be required during construction, such as for dewatering or water abstraction. We recommend contacting our National Permitting Service about this.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
Cadent Gas	<p>Protection/Protective Provisions: Where the Promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of Cadent's apparatus, Cadent will require appropriate protection for retained apparatus and further discussion on the impact to its apparatus and rights including adequate Protective Provisions. Operations within Cadent's existing easement strips are not permitted without approval and will necessitate a Deed of Consent being put in place. Any proposals for work in the vicinity for Cadent's existing apparatus will require approval by Plant Protection under the Protective Provisions and early discussions are advised.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.
Cadent Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please be aware that written permission is required before any works commence within the Cadent easement strip and a Crossing Agreement may be required if any apparatus needs to cross the Cadent easement strip 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.
National Grid Gas	<p>Where the Promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of NGG's apparatus, NGG will require appropriate protection and further discussion on the impact to its apparatus and rights including adequate Protective Provisions. A Deed of Consent will also be required for any works proposed within the easement strip.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Gas	<p>Key Considerations: • NGG has a Deed of Grant of Easement for each</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant has entered into

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	pipeline, which prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings, or structures, change to existing ground levels, storage of materials etc.		discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Gas	• Please be aware that written permission is required before any works commence within the NGG easement strip. Furthermore a Deed of Consent will be required prior to commencement of works within NGG's easement strip subject to approval by NGG's plant protection team.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	Where the Promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with or work within close proximity to any of NGET's apparatus and land, this will require appropriate protection and further discussion on the impact to its apparatus and rights.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
Natural England	<p>Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.</p> <p>We understand that you are consulting us in line with paragraph 67 of the Planning Act 2008 "Guidance on pre-application consultation", and that further consultation may be required in line with paragraph 85, particularly if/when the draft Environmental Statement has been prepared. We also appreciate that this consultation under S42 of the Planning Act 2008 also encompasses</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Policy and Legislative Context			
	<p>consultation on the preliminary environmental information, and that some overlap exists between these various requirements.</p> <p>Please find below our advice on 'Chapter 13: Agricultural Land Use' of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). We apologise for the delay in forwarding this. If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter, please contact me at sandra.close@naturalengland.org.uk or on 020 8026 0676.</p>		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives			
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Alternatives and Design Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background requirements to alternatives assessments described • Further information could be provided on why site selected – solar irradiance not mentioned at para 4.3.2 and it is understood that the south of England has better solar irradiance receipts so clarification on why the Mallards Pass site in Lincolnshire is suitable for a solar farm is not sufficient • Will expect to see discussion on alternative layouts of the Solar Farm in the final ES 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>In relation to alternative technologies, please see Section 4.3.6 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>In relation to alternative technologies, please see Section 4.3.10 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The description of topography is very brief, yet across the site is variable. The maximum and minimum elevations above Ordnance Datum are not consistent with paragraph 3.2.1 of Volume 1 of the PEIR. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>2.2.3At a national level, the transition towards a decarbonised electricity supply is gathering pace. Solar energy accounted for 6.2% of the UK's energy mix in the mid-year quarter of 2021, and 2020 marked the first year in the UK's history that electricity came predominantly from renewable energy, with 43% of our power coming from a mix of wind, solar, bioenergy and hydroelectric sources.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives			
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	11. Brownfield land is available	No	For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Section 4.3 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.3.5 Development proposals shall consider how they can proactively encourage, as appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of previously developed land, conversions, or the redevelopment of vacant or underutilised land or buildings within settlements; and • The use of sustainable construction materials. 	No	For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Section 4.3 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] . In relation to construction materials, please see the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010127/APP/7.6] .
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.5.2 Criterion 9 of the Renewable Energy Appendix sets out the initial approach that should be taken for any Sequential Assessment, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, be required to carry out an extensive search for derelict or brownfield sites. This test should not necessarily be confined to the District, in line with the Wherstead appeal decision • Second, be required to carry out a search for poorer agricultural sites i.e., Grade 4 and 5. This test should also not necessarily be confined to the District. • Third, be required to provide the MAFF agricultural grade classification for the proposed site. 	No	For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Section 4.3 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] . In relation to land use and agricultural land, please see Chapter 12: Land Use of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] . In relation to the grid connection and routes, please see the Grid Connection Statement [EN010127/APP/7.4] and Section 4.3 of Chapter 4: Alternatives

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fourth, be required to prove why the site has to be located close to a particular power grid line and that there is spare capacity on that grid line. 		and Design Development, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Rutland County Council	<p>Alternatives and Design Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background requirements to alternatives assessments described • Further information could be provided on why site selected – solar irradiance not mentioned at para 4.3.2 and it is understood that the south of England has better solar irradiance receipts so clarification on why the Mallards Pass site in Lincolnshire is suitable for a solar farm is not sufficient • Will expect to see discussion on alternative layouts of the Solar Farm in the final ES 	No	<p>In reference to solar irradiance, please see the Statement of Need [EN010127/APP/7.1].</p> <p>In reference to site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Section 4.3 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The description of topography is very brief, yet across the site is variable. The maximum and minimum elevations above Ordnance Datum are not consistent with paragraph 3.2.1 of Volume 1 of the PEIR. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Great Casterton Parish Council	<p>Siting of the solar farm. The idea of building a solar farm of this size on working agricultural land in rural England is ludicrous, Solar farms belong to brownfield sites, not on established quality farmland, nature sanctuaries and recreational land. Nor should they be in close proximity to established villages. This is a government policy conflict in that it is encouraging the growth of renewable energy on valuable and productive arable land. The</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>In reference to use of agricultural land for the Proposed Development, please see</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives			
	Russia Ukraine war and current food shortages will further accentuate this.		Chapter 12: Land Use [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council	Site location – the proposed area has significant natural beauty. Rolling hills, extensive woodland and good arable land visible from the local road network and public footpaths. It also contains diverse wildlife, good recreational facilities (walking/cycling/horse riding) and an area to enhance our wellbeing (something that was extensively used during the pandemic) and continues to achieve those positives on a daily basis.	No	For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Section 4.3 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. In reference to recreation and access please see the Design and Access Statement and Design Principles (DAS) [EN010127/APP/7.3] In reference to wellbeing, please see Chapter 14: Socio-economics [EN010127/APP6.1].
Uffington Parish Council	Although many respondents acknowledged the need for renewable energy to help mitigate climate change, none supported the proposed solar farm in its present form, the consensus being that it would be preferable to put the solar panels on brownfield sites or on the rooftops of industrial or domestic buildings.	No	For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Section 4.3 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Uffington Parish Council	One respondent although supporting the proposal in principle questioned the required output of the site and suggested alternative methods of producing green energy.	No	For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Section 4.3 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Carlby Parish Council	Carlby Parish Council supports the use of brownfield and roof top solar installations rather	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding site

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives			
	than overly large greenfield installations and are very concerned with the size of the site and the excess number of panels along with the height of these panels & amp;		selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and the Statement of Need [EN010127/APP/7.1] .
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	We believe this development is totally inappropriate in this area and should not go ahead	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	and a complete lack of understanding of what happens in 30 years when the site is decommissioned ... if it ever will be which is highly unlikely then given it will be considered a brown field site for further development	No	In reference to decommissioning, please see the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.8] .
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	There have to be alternatives in the UK which are far less aggressive in terms of their negative impact on all the points made above, still have the necessary links to the national grid, and will not have lasting impact on many thousands of local residents who choose to live in the area under question because of its rural nature, expansive environment and scenery, and natural habitat. All of which will be significantly impacted.	No	For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Section 4.3 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	In every way one looks at this, it is a fundamentally wrong proposal with far reaching and lasting impacts, many of which we do not understand and cannot model, that far outweighs the renewable energy benefits. If fracking is wrong and not allowed because of its poorly understood impacts on our land underground, then Mallard Pass Solar is fundamentally wrong because of its obvious,	No	For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] . In reference to the need for the project, please see the Statement of Need [EN010127/APP/7.1] .

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives			
	significant and lasting impacts in many areas overground.		
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	This scheme must not go ahead. I sincerely trust that you will wear an environmental and anthropological hat and therefore come to the same obvious conclusion that this may be the right project, but in entirely the wrong area and scale.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>In reference to environmental considerations, the Applicant's approach can be found in Chapter 7 of the ES: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010127/APP/6.1] and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p>
Stamford Town Council	<p>Location and Scale</p> <p>The proposed Mallard Pass development is more than eight times the size of the largest pre-existing solar farm in the UK. Equivalent to 1,400 football pitches, the environmental impact of such a large scheme over its projected lifespan of 40 years is wholly unknown. The actual size of the site (circa 2200 acres), location setting and abundance of wildlife is difficult to comprehend without a site visit. Standing on the Greatford to Carlby Road looking towards Uffington, the site extends *as far as the eye can see', with Banthorpe Wood in the distance and Greatford Great Wood behind. The proposed size of the site area has been reduced by 100 hectares as part of the scheme's Environmental</p>	No	<p>For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>For the need case for the project, please see the Statement of Need [EN010127/APP/7.1].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives			
	Information Report (EIR) but this is not a great reduction in size.		
Stamford Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of Alternative Green Energy Solutions Wind On/Off shore, Micro wind, Energy Micro Grids (straight to local user), Roof Top Solar, Wave/Tidal, Anaerobic Digest. The PD did not consider alternative forms of low carbon electricity for utilising the existing National Grid Ryhall Substation. Why not? 	No	For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Stamford Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justification for the Selection of the Proposed Location and Site Case for arable land reduction, available brown field sites considered (Corby Steel Works Locations Transformers, Brownfield Site, Rail Connection, Transformer infrastructure; Existing landfill sites). 	No	For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Section 4.3 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Stamford Town Council	Only looks at one technology option, location and site. It can therefore be considered to be sub-optimal, which at a time of Climate Crisis is unacceptable.	No	For information regarding site selection and assessment of alternatives, please see Section 4.3 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and Chapter 13 : Climate Change of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Stamford Town Council	Offers no supporting data and information. Again, suggesting it is non-optimal (not a serious researched professional proposal).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Stamford Town Council	Appears to centre around leveraging the currently available Ryhall Substation surplus capacity (investment avoidance/sunk cost).	No	In reference to the Grid Connection, please see Section 4.3 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and the Grid

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives			
			Connection Statement [EN010127/APP/7.4].
Environment Agency	While the area of land East of Essendine shaded pink on your plan, does not correspond with the area of land registered to the EA at that location.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Network Rail	I refer to your letter of the 23rd May, copy attached I would be grateful if you could kindly send me SHP files as well as confirm grid coordinates and the nearest station This will assist us in assessing the impact on our infrastructure /assets	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Cadent Gas	I refer to your email dated 20th May 2022 regarding the above proposed DCO. Cadent has reviewed the consultation documents and has the following comments: In respect of existing Cadent infrastructure, Cadent will require appropriate protection for retained apparatus including compliance with relevant standards for works proposed within close proximity of its apparatus,	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Further engagement has taken place with Cadent Gas. The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	The proposed Mallard Pass development is more than eight times the size of the largest pre-existing solar farm in the UK. Equivalent to 1,400 football pitches, the environmental impact of such a large scheme over its projected lifespan of 40 years is wholly unknown. The actual size of the site (circa 2200 acres), location setting and abundance of	No	The Solar PV Site decreased from approximately 570 ha at Non-Statutory Consultation (Stage 1) to 463 ha at Statutory Consultation (Stage 2). The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to 425.88 ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining 443 ha of land

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives			
	wildlife is difficult to comprehend without a site visit. Standing on the Greatford to Carlby Road looking towards Uffington, the site extends *as far as the eye can see', with Banthorpe Wood in the distance and Greatford Great Wood behind. The proposed size of the site area has been reduced by 100 hectares as part of the scheme's Environmental Information Report (EIR) but this is not a great reduction in size.		would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site. For more information, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	The proposal presented so far lacks basic data and information, and it appears that only one feasible technology and scheme (location & layout design) has been considered. The reason for a single solution approach is unclear, apart from the fact that Canadian Solar and Windel Energy are suppliers solely of solar technology. Alternatives therefore need to be considered, and quantitative sustainability perspective assessment' methods (tools) applied. In addition, the community's needs and desired green outcomes (input) must be recognised.	No	In relation to boundary and scope of the proposed operation, please see Chapter 4 ES: Alternatives and Design Development [EN010127/APP/6.1] . In relation to the Applicant's ethical procurement policy please see the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan (OESSCEP) [EN010127/APP/7.10] and approach to Climate Change [EN010127/APP/6.1] .

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Proposed Development and Site</p> <p>1.2 The proposals comprise the installation of solar photovoltaic electricity generating panels and associated infrastructure which would allow for the generation of 350 megawatts (MW) on a 900 hectare site at Mallard Pass, Essendine. The key components of the development comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar PV modules; • PV module mounting structures; • Inverters; • Transformers; • Switchgear; • Substation and control buildings; • Onsite cabling; • Electricity export and connection to the National Electricity Transmission System; • Fencing, security and ancillary infrastructure; • Access tracks; • Battery energy storage systems (BESS); and • Green infrastructure (GI). 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Description of the Site and Natural Evolution of the Baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline described but the natural evolution of the baseline not described • Figures are not particularly clear and do not stand up to fine detail scrutiny 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For a description of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>Please see the Figures submit as part of this DCO application.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Project Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor point – Proposed Development and Project Description to be confirmed as same • A plan showing the proposed phasing progress would aid the reader in understanding the construction works sequence • A similar plan may be appropriate for the decommissioning phase • Will decommissioning affect any Biodiversity Net Gain introduced as part of the construction works? 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The embedded mitigation measures include the details set out in the outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.6], outline Decommissioning and Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.8] and outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p>
South Kesteven District Council	<p>The Proposed Development</p> <p>1.4 The Proposed Development is a proposed solar farm for the instillation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels with a rated generation of 50 megawatts (MW), principally comprising PV arrays, mounting structures, inverters, transformers, switchgears, ancillary built form and security fencing, distribution and grid connection cabling, access tracks and landscaping measures. The Proposed Development will be distributed across four main areas, the main body of the solar farm, mitigation and enhancement areas, highways works, and the grid connection corridor, which together amount to approximately 906ha.</p>	Yes	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the key components of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The Solar PV Site decreased from approximately 570 ha at Non-Statutory Consultation (Stage 1) to 463 ha at Statutory Consultation (Stage 2). The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to 425.88 ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
South Kesteven District Council	2.12 The information provided on magnitude is appropriate.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	5.0 REVIEW OF JUDGEMENTS ON THE LIKELY EFFECTS 5.1 The PEIR chapter appropriately highlights the key potential impacts that may arise during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, including consideration of night-time effects / lighting.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) are in receipt of a request for pre-application consultation comments from Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd in relation to a large scale solar farm either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine and north of Uffington. The proposed application site covers an area of over 900 hectares, with approximately 463 hectares proposed for solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and other infrastructure, and 420 hectares of land for mitigation and ecological enhancements. That land includes retained woodland, hedgerows and new planting.	Yes	The Solar PV Site decreased from approximately 570 ha at Non-Statutory Consultation (Stage 1) to 463 ha at Statutory Consultation (Stage 2). The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to 425.88 ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	South Kesteven District Council are not the determining Authority for the proposal; this is because Mallard Pass Solar Farm is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 MW(stated to be 350MW)and, as such, is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). According to the	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
	Planning Act 2008, NSIPs must carry out a statutory phase of consultation.		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	These updated proposals seek to take account of feedback received to date and includes a reduction in the overall area proposed for solar development; the introduction of permissive paths through the site; specified set-backs from public rights of way, Ancient Woodland and woodland, Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs); and removal of some higher grade agricultural land. The updated design has also sought to take account of the West Glen River corridor by removing development within higher risk flood areas and recognising it's role as an ecological corridor. It is noted the updated proposals do not include the provision of any battery storage infrastructure.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>1. Description of site</p> <p>1.1 The application site includes the following main areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Solar PV Site - Areas within the site that are being considered for solar development, the primary onsite substation and associated infrastructure. • Mitigation and Enhancement Areas; • Potential Highway Works Site - areas beyond the Solar PV site which are being considered for cable route connections and temporary/permanent improvements to existing highways to facilitate the 	Yes	The Solar PV Site decreased from approximately 570 ha at Non-Statutory Consultation (Stage 1) to 463 ha at Statutory Consultation (Stage 2). The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to 425.88 ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
	<p>construction and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Grid Connection Corridor –Area within the Site that is being considered for the Grid Connection Cable between the Primary Onsite Substation and the National Grid Ryhall Substation and the new connection at National Grid Ryhall Substation. <p>1.2The total site covers approximately 906hectares. The Solar PV site equates to approximately 463hectares.Approximately 657hectaresof the site falls within RCC’s administrative boundary and the remaining 249hectaresof the site falls within SKDC’s administrative boundary.</p> <p>1.3The Grantham - Peterborough (East Coast Main Line) railway line dissects the Solar PV site on a north-west to south-east alignment. The Solar PV site is located to the immediate south, east and west of Essendine and approximately 700m north-east of Ryhall. The north-eastern most edge of Stamford is located approximately 1.4km south-west of the Solar PV site at its nearest point.</p>		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>Description of proposal</p> <p>1.4Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a proposed Solar Farm which would allow for the generation and export of electricity exceeding 50 megawatts (stated to be 350 megawatt capacity).The principal components of the Proposed Development comprise the following:</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the key components of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •PV Arrays; •Mounting structures; •Inverters; •Transformers; •Switchgears; •Primary Onsite Substation and Ancillary Buildings; •Low Voltage Distribution Cabling; •Grid Connection Cables; •Fencing, security and ancillary infrastructure; •Access Tracks; and •Green infrastructure (GI) <p>1.5It is noted that the proposal no longer includes an element of battery storage.</p>		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>2.Representations Received</p> <p>2.1SKDC Environmental Health Officer</p> <p>2.1.1There are three phases; construction, operation and then at some point many years down the line decommissioning (based upon a 35-40 year life cycle).</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>2.2.4The Stage Two Main Consultation Document for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm development state that the area of 463 ha solar panels currently planned for the site have the potential to generate 350 megawatts (MWp) of electricity, equivalent to the energy requirements of 92,000 UK homes.</p>	Yes	The Solar PV Site decreased from approximately 570 ha at Non-Statutory Consultation (Stage 1) to 463 ha at Statutory Consultation (Stage 2). The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to 425.88 ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>2.2.5 Within the Preliminary Environmental Information Report for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm, the authors provide an analysis of the overall carbon contribution of the solar development across the development phases, from construction to operation and through to decommissioning. The authors calculate that, taking into account the embedded carbon accounted for within the construction phase, the generation of electricity from the proposed development will offset this. It is suggested the carbon emissions of the proposed development would therefore be displaced within approximately 10.5 years. If the site has a life of 40 years with no further major construction, the estimated overall saving of carbon, based on carbon intensity of electricity in 2020, is 1.9 million tonnes of carbon.</p>	No	<p>The ES includes a Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA), which assesses the inbuilt greenhouse gas emissions of the Proposed Development against the greenhouse gases which will be offset by the Proposed Development when in operation using peer reviewed and industry standard data and approaches.</p> <p>The CCIA explains that in order to decarbonise the electricity system, low-carbon assets (i.e. those which emit very little, or zero, carbon per MWh of electricity generated) must come forwards. National Grid's Future Energy Scenarios projections for the carbon intensity of the UK electricity system (which reduces over time) assume that significant capacities of low-carbon generation (such as the Proposed Development) will come forwards in order to achieve those projections. Without the Proposed Development (and other low-carbon generation developments) coming forwards, the GB electricity system will not decarbonise further, placing achievement of the UK's legal commitments to achieve Net Zero by 2050, and Government's ambition to achieve a zero-carbon grid by 2035, at</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
			<p>risk. Further information on the importance of decarbonisation of the UK electricity system as an enabler to further societal decarbonisation are included in Chapter 4 of the Statement of Need [EN010127/APP/7.1].</p> <p>In regard to lifetime emissions, the CCIA also outlines that the greenhouse gas emissions offset by the Proposed Development are much greater than the embedded emissions associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The CO2 emissions of the Proposed Development will be displaced within approximately 10.5 years, and all savings beyond that would be a net benefit of the Proposed Development to reducing climate change, relative to the baseline. Over 40 years, the saving is estimated at approximately 1.9 million tonnes of CO2.</p>
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	10. Scale of development is unparalleled with other solar schemes	Yes	The Solar PV Site decreased from approximately 570 ha at Non-Statutory Consultation (Stage 1) to 463 ha at Statutory Consultation (Stage 2). The total Solar PV Site Area has now been

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
			reduced to 425.88 ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	14.Concerns over efficiency of solar panels	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The reason for including two options for the Mounting Structures is to allow some flexibility in the type of PV Technology to be used on the Site. This flexibility is in response to the many technological advancements and developments in the solar industry, helping us to ensure that we select the most effective and best-suited technologies for the Proposed Development should the planning application be approved.</p> <p>In addition, as outlined in the Design and Access Statement, [EN010127/APP/7.3], the gap between the rows of PV Tables will have a minimum separation distance of 2m to minimise the effects of shadowing and to ensure optimal efficiency.</p>
Rutland County Council	Proposed Development and Site 1.2 The proposals comprise the installation of solar photovoltaic electricity generating panels and	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the key components of the Proposed

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
	<p>associated infrastructure which would allow for the generation of 350 megawatts (MW) on a 900 hectare site at Mallard Pass, Essendine. The key components of the development comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar PV modules; • PV module mounting structures; • Inverters; • Transformers; • Switchgear; • Substation and control buildings; • Onsite cabling; • Electricity export and connection to the National Electricity Transmission System; • Fencing, security and ancillary infrastructure; • Access tracks; • Battery energy storage systems (BESS); and • Green infrastructure (GI). 		<p>Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>Please note, there are no batteries being proposed as part of the Proposed Development.</p>
Rutland County Council	<p>Description of the Site and Natural Evolution of the Baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline described but the natural evolution of the baseline not described • Figures are not particularly clear and do not stand up to fine detail scrutiny 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For a description of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>Please see the Figures submit as part of this DCO application.</p>
Rutland County Council	<p>Project Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor point – Proposed Development and Project Description to be confirmed as same 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The embedded mitigation measures include the details set out in</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A plan showing the proposed phasing progress would aid the reader in understanding the construction works sequence • A similar plan may be appropriate for the decommissioning phase • Will decommissioning affect any Biodiversity Net Gain introduced as part of the construction works? 		<p>the outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.6], outline Decommissioning and Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.8] and outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p>
Rutland County Council	<p>The Proposed Development</p> <p>1.4 The Proposed Development is a proposed solar farm for the instillation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels with a rated generation of 50 megawatts (MW), principally comprising PV arrays, mounting structures, inverters, transformers, switchgears, ancillary built form and security fencing, distribution and grid connection cabling, access tracks and landscaping measures. The Proposed Development will be distributed across four main areas, the main body of the solar farm, mitigation and enhancement areas, highways works, and the grid connection corridor, which together amount to approximately 906ha.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the key components of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Rutland County Council	2.12 The information provided on magnitude is appropriate.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	<p>5.0 REVIEW OF JUDGEMENTS ON THE LIKELY EFFECTS</p> <p>5.1 The PEIR chapter appropriately highlights the key potential impacts that may arise during the</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
	construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, including consideration of night-time effects / lighting.		
Lincolnshire County Council	3. As outlined within Chapters 3 and 4 of the PEIR, the development proposals are still being developed and finalised. This includes the type of panel and location of taller/larger elements such as substations and battery storage. Whilst it is understood some aspects of the scheme cannot be confirmed “until the tendering process for the design and has been completed and the detailed design details have been approved by the local planning authorities”, we would expect a reasonable level of design fix for the final ES which would clearly set out the parameters of the development (e.g. such as heights and locations of elements that have been used in the assessment). If there are still some outstanding design and layout elements to be finalised then the ES should be based on a “worst case” scenario to ensure any effects are not underplayed. This is particularly important for larger and taller elements such as substations or battery storage.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the key components of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Lincolnshire County Council	B. Detailed comments on PEIR Volume 1: Main Text 1. Comments on the Project Parameters (Sections 5.2 to 5.7) are as follows: • As stated in previous correspondence (refer to paras. 3 to 8 of AAH TM01), at this stage, we do	No	In order to maintain flexibility in the design and layout at this stage in the process, the assessment of the Proposed Development in the ES will adopt the Rochdale Envelope approach, as described in the PINS Advice Note 9,

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
	<p>not have details on the final location and appearance/extent of taller/larger elements that form part of the development. Section 5.3 of the PEIR usefully provides details of the design parameters used for the PEIR, and paragraph 5.2.2 of Chapter 5 states: “The use of the Rochdale Envelope approach is therefore being adopted to present a likely worst-case assessment of potential environmental effects of the parameters of the Proposed Development that cannot yet be fixed. Where necessary, design work will continue to further refine the proposed parameters prior to the submission of the DCO Application.”</p>		<p>Reference. This involves specifying parameter ranges, including details of the maximum, and where relevant the minimum, size (footprint, width, and height relative to above ordnance datum (AOD)), technology, and locations of the different elements of the Proposed Development, where flexibility needs to be retained.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES. [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>3. Overhead/ground lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could it be clarified what the height of any proposed above-ground cabling and associated poles are within the site? <p>Paragraph 5.8.1. indicates “Low Voltage Distribution Cabling between PV Modules and the String Inverters will typically be located above ground level (along a row of PV Tables), fixed to the Mounting Structure” and so further detail would be required to understand the potential visibility of these.</p> <p>Section 5.8 clarifies that no further above ground lines are proposed at this stage, however if this changes and above ground on or off site overhead lines are proposed, these will likely have additional</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The low voltage cables will be attached to the Mounting Structures and then be buried between the PV Tables and the Solar Stations. For information regarding the key components of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
	visual effects and would need to be considered within the LVIA.		
Lincolnshire County Council	6. Paragraph 5.20.3 states that a series of Design Principles will be developed to aid the local authority to control the detail design of the project. Could it be clarified what the format of these will be, and how these would be secured?	Yes	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Please see the Design and Access Statement for information on how the design principles have been considered throughout the design process of the Proposed Development.
Lincolnshire County Council	4. Figure 6.5 Access and Recreation: The inclusion of “Solar PV Site” on the plan (in light blue) suggests this is fixed. If the intention is for this to align with a parameter plan fixing areas of development and mitigation and enhance, then this is fine. If not, this could be misleading as development could theoretically be anywhere on site.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment and LCC interpretation is correct. The Solar PV Site aligns with the Limits of Deviation set out on the Works Plans [EN010127/APP/2.2] .
Health and Safety Executive	It is noted that the update indicates that the applicant no longer be including battery storage in the project.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Following the feedback received during non-statutory consultation and technical and commercial factors, the Applicant has decided to not include Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) as part of the Proposed Development. While the Applicant continues to recognise the importance of BESS in achieving the UK’s decarbonisation and energy security needs, the Applicant has not

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
			brought this aspect forward as part of the DCO Application.
Natural England	Chapter 5: Project Description A programme of landscape and habitat reinstatement and creation will commence during the construction phase. Areas under the PV arrays and landscape buffers will be planted with a combination of native grassland mix, wildflower mixes, scrub and hedgerows. Woodland blocks and belts will be planted in strategic locations to provide visual screening, ecological habitats in order to achieve a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain.		The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the key components of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] . For more information on land use underneath solar panels, please see the outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP), [EN010127/APP/7.9] .
Essendine Parish Council	8. Scale The scale of the proposed installation and the associated buildings and roadways are absolutely unsuitable for Essendine the local environment and the surrounding villages and countryside. I object strongly to the installation of a Solar Farm on fertile food producing BMV arable farm land in the Parish of Essendine and the surrounding villages.	Yes	The Solar PV Site decreased from approximately 570 ha at Non-Statutory Consultation (Stage 1) to 463 ha at Statutory Consultation (Stage 2). The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to 425.88 ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site.
Great Casterton Parish Council	Electrical Sub Station. The developers argue that the Ryhall sub station is an important factor in the choice of the site. However this sub station was intended to boost the power capacity of the East Coast Main Line as the HST sets used then were	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
	due to be replaced by Azuma sets. No information is available from the developers as to what effect the solar farm will have on one of the key routes of the railway.		
Uffington Parish Council	Fourteen [people] specifically stated the size of the project area as one of their objections.	Yes	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>Following statutory consultation, the submission design was finalised with the following amends as a result of the feedback received during this statutory consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further removal of solar development from the area to the east of Essendine, providing greater set back from the settlements. • Removal of solar development to the north of the Drift providing further offset to residential dwellings in the interests of visual amenity. • Removal of solar development from PRowS at their entry / exit points where they meet roads or lanes. • Additional screening planting at a number of locations throughout the Site. • Extension of permissive paths along the West Glen River in the north, connecting to the Drift in the west and to the east of Essendine, providing a

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
			total of 8.1 km of new permissive paths across the Site.
Uffington Parish Council	One resident feared that, once established, the site might be extended further, while another predicted that technological advances would render the solar farm obsolete before the end of its 40-year tenure.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Carlby Parish Council	• THE ACTUAL SOLAR PANELS THAT ARE BEING PROPOSED!	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The DCO Application will seek to allow for flexibility that allows for different configurations of Solar PV Modules. The final elevations of the PV Modules will be influenced by various design factors such as local topography, and election of PV Module type and configuration.</p> <p>The gap between the rows of Solar PV Tables will vary responding to the local topography but will have a minimum separation distance of 2 m, which will minimise effects of shadowing and to ensure optimal efficiency.</p> <p>There are two options being considered for the Mounting Structures, this includes Fixed South Facing (FSF) arrays which are orientated on an east-west axis, and Single Axis Tracker (SAT) arrays which are orientated on a north-south axis. The</p>
Carlby Parish Council	• THE HEIGHT OF THE PANELS!		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
			<p>indicative elevations for Fixed South Facing and Single Axis Trackers are shown on Figure 5.2 of the ES.</p> <p>The FSF arrays will have a maximum height of 3.3m above ground level (AGL) at the rear, regardless of tilt angle, and a clearance of 0.8m at the front so not to restrict the movement of animals such as sheep. The SAT arrays will have a maximum height of 3.3m above ground level (AGL), regardless of tilt angle, and a clearance of 0.8m at the front.</p>
Carlby Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE SCALE OF THE NEW SUBSTATION, PANELS OR SECURITY FENCING AND LIGHTING! 	Yes	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Proposed Development has adopted the following guidelines in relation to security, fencing, cameras, and lighting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 'deer fence', made out of wooden posts and metal wire mesh, will enclose the Solar PV Arrays. This will be up to 2m in height. • CCTV systems will be installed at a height of up to 3.5m around the perimeter of the PV Arrays. Infrared lighting will be used for the CCTV systems, which means no visible

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
			<p>lighting will be used, except at the Substation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lighting of the Substation would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements. • There will be clearances above ground, or the inclusion of mammal fates to permit the movement of wildlife. • Perimeter fences will not be constructed through existing hedgerows or across ditches. <p>For more information on the assesses maximum parameters for fencing and security CCTV, please see Tables 5.11 and 5.12 in Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Carlby Parish Council	• THE SCALE OF THE CONTAINERS THAT WILL BE HOUSING THE TRANSFORMERS AND THE INVERTERS!	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the key components of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Carlby Parish Council	If a well placed, well researched and ethically sourced Renewable Energy plant is what you are proposing then again..... I think you have failed!	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
Carlby Parish Council	Solar Farms produce about 11% of their stated capacity in clear bright sun light. Carlby Parish Council believe the KW figures and carbon recovery period post 10.5 years that Mallard Pass are stating are not achievable and therefore we question the viability of the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm Industrial estate.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The reason for including two options for the Mounting Structures is to allow some flexibility in the type of PV Technology to be used on the Site. This flexibility is in response to the many technological advancements and developments in the solar industry, helping us to ensure that we select the most effective and best-suited technologies for the Proposed Development should the planning application be approved.</p> <p>In addition, as outlined in the Design and Access Statement, [EN010127/APP/7.3], the gap between the rows of PV Tables will have a minimum separation distance of 2m to minimise the effects of shadowing and to ensure optimal efficiency.</p>
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	The sheer size of this development and the sprawling way that it is laid out cuts a swathe of industrial vandalism throughout this beautiful rural and agricultural countryside.	Yes	The Solar PV Site decreased from approximately 570 ha at Non-Statutory Consultation (Stage 1) to 463 ha at Statutory Consultation (Stage 2). The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to 425.88 ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland,

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
			hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site.
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	The performance of the solar farm will not be 350MW; over an average year it will only be 11% of what is stated. It will only give near to that figure on certain days when the weather conditions align and of course never at night!	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The reason for including two options for the Mounting Structures is to allow some flexibility in the type of PV Technology to be used on the Site. This flexibility is in response to the many technological advancements and developments in the solar industry, helping us to ensure that we select the most effective and best-suited technologies for the Proposed Development should the planning application be approved.</p> <p>In addition, as outlined in the Design and Access Statement, [EN010127/APP/7.3], the gap between the rows of PV Tables will have a minimum separation distance of 2m to minimise the effects of shadowing and to ensure optimal efficiency.</p>
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	The fact that battery storage was not included in the development 'at this time' begs the question of 'when will it be installed'? This development could be sold off quickly if planning permission is granted then the new owner can and probably will install battery storage.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Following the feedback received during non-statutory consultation and technical and commercial factors, the Applicant has decided to not include Battery Energy

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
			Storage Systems (BESS) as part of the Proposed Development. While the Applicant continues to recognise the importance of BESS in achieving the UK's decarbonisation and energy security needs, the Applicant has not brought this aspect forward as part of the DCO Application.
Stamford Town Council	Facts & Data - Arrival at an Optimum Sustainable Solution The proposal presented so far lacks basic data and information, and it appears that only one feasible technology and scheme (location & layout design) has been considered. The reason for a single solution approach is unclear, apart from the fact that Canadian Solar and Windel Energy are suppliers solely of solar technology. Alternatives therefore need to be considered, and *quantitative sustainability perspective assessment' methods (tools) applied. In addition, the community's needs and desired green outcomes (input) must be recognised.	No	As set out in Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1], it is considered that the Order limits would not be suitable for other forms of renewable generation at the same scale of the Proposed Development within the Order limits. It is therefore considered that Solar Farm development is the best renewable generating solution for the Order limits.
Stamford Town Council	More information regarding the following is required before proceeding further; Boundary and Scope of the Proposed Operation (project) Exact Land Boundary (particularly where residents are impacted), Precise Solar Panel Technology (coating, height, movement/tracking, country of origin with questionable Human Rights record/ local content, recycling); Partners (Suppliers, Customers,	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the key components of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
	Strategic Technical Partners, Key Stakeholders); Scope of Site Activity Defined (Operations on Site).		In addition, please see Chapter 9: Traffic and Access, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] , for information on the access routes during construction of the Proposed Development.
Stamford Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed Description of the Proposed Site Layout and Constructions Cable Network, Installation level, Buried cables, Construction Earthworks / Road Crossings, Transformer Stations, Workshops etc. The construction access strategy is still being discussed with the relevant highway authorities. There could be 54 two-way HGV deliveries per day!! 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the key components of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>In addition, please see Chapter 9: Traffic and Access, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], for information on the access routes during construction of the Proposed Development.</p>
Stamford Town Council	•Sustainability Assessment Studies (initial feasibility and signposting) of Technology and Location Options. Use of established methods to determine the optimum technology, location, scale and design:	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the key components of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Stamford Town Council	Carbon Footprint Life Cycle Model (cradle to grave/cradle to customer). Plan, Manufacture, Construct, Operate, Dismantle, Restore Site.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Please see Chapter 13: Climate Change, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Stamford Town Council	Energy Return on Investment (EROT). Data on various technologies and configurations.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
Stamford Town Council	Proposes only one technology solution - solar panel (specification, installation configuration, and source unclear).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the key components of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	<p>More information regarding the following is required before proceeding further: Boundary and Scope of the Proposed Operation (project) Exact Land Boundary (particularly where residents are impacted), Precise Solar Panel Technology (coating, height, movement/tracking, country of origin with questionable Human Rights record/ local content, recycling); Partners (Suppliers, Customers, Strategic Technical Partners, Key Stakeholders); Scope of Site Activity Defined (Operations on Site).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of Alternative Green Energy Solutions Wind On/Off shore, Micro wind, Energy Micro Grids (straight to local user), Roof Top Solar, Wave/Tidal, Anaerobic Digest. The PD did not consider alternative forms of low carbon electricity for utilising the existing National Grid Ryhall Substation. Why not? • Justification for the Selection of the Proposed Location and Site Case for arable land reduction, available brown field sites considered (Corby Steel Works Locations Transformers, Brownfield Site, 	No	<p>For information regarding the Proposed Development please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>In addition, the Outline, Employment, Skills and Supply Chain and Employment Plan (OESSCP), [EN010127/APP/7.10], outlines the ethical procurement policy that the Applicant proposes for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The consideration of alternatives and justification for site selection is outlined in Site Selection Appendix of the Planning Statement, [EN010127/APP/7.2] Chapter 4 Alternatives and Design of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
	Rail Connection, Transformer infrastructure; Existing landfill sites).		
Newark and Sherwood District	I refer to the above consultation received by this Authority on 25th May 2022 which relates to the intent to install a new solar farm near Essendine situated in both South Kesteven and Rutland. The proposal will generate in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Gareth Davies MP for Grantham and Stamford	Lifetime of each PV array - the constant work and disruption of local people's lives in order to maintain and replace each PV array over the next 40 years, even after construction.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the key components of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	Scale of Development Following the first consultation period the proposed size of Mallard Pass has been changed from 2,175 acres to 2,238 acres. Within the 2,238 acres, 1,149 would be covered in solar panels. In an attempt to disguise the fact that the scale of the development had increased in size despite local concerns, at consultation events the new plans were presented in hectares which makes it appear smaller.	Yes	The Solar PV Site decreased from approximately 570 ha at Non-Statutory Consultation (Stage 1) to 463 ha at Statutory Consultation (Stage 2). The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to 425.88 ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site. The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
			<p>House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	It was clear from the first consultation that the local community considered 2,175 acres to be far too large an area for such a development. The subsequent expansion of the proposed site to 2,238 acres demonstrates a clear dismissal of local concerns. Mallard Pass would be eight times larger than the UK's current largest solar plant, Shotwick Solar Plant. Essendine Village would be surrounded on three sides by the development with 10ft high panels, with residents losing any semblance of the area they have chosen to make their home, and the value of their hard-earned homes.	Yes	<p>The Solar PV Site decreased from approximately 570 ha at Non-Statutory Consultation (Stage 1) to 463 ha at Statutory Consultation (Stage 2). The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to 425.88 ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
			<p>House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	When grid decarbonisation and degrading the efficiency of the panels have been taken into consideration, even with bifacial modules and tracking, then it becomes too difficult to achieve net savings (See Figure 5 – lines do not cross)	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The reason for including two options for the Mounting Structures is to allow some flexibility in the type of PV Technology to be used on the Site. This flexibility is in response to the many technological advancements and developments in the solar industry, helping us to ensure that we select the most effective and best-suited technologies for the Proposed Development should the planning application be approved.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Project Description			
			In addition, as outlined in the Design and Access Statement, [EN010127/APP/7.3], the gap between the rows of PV Tables will have a minimum separation distance of 2m to minimise the effects of shadowing and to ensure optimal efficiency.
Stamford Town Council	Climate Change The effects of climate on the PD and vice versa. *As a result of design measures, the predicted future climatic baseline is highly unlikely to affect the construction, operation and decommissioning of the PD. The PD will have a moderate and significant effect on carbon emission savings and a major and significant positive effect when considered cumulatively with UK-wide Renewable energy deployment.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Environment Agency	PEIR Chapter 15 - Climate change We are satisfied that the assessment appropriately covers both the vulnerability of the proposed development to climate change and its potential impacts, during construction, operational and decommissioning stages. There is a commitment to further studies, the results of which will be presented in the Environmental Statement.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Report Purpose</p> <p>1.1 This document sets out the findings of an independent review of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Preliminary Environmental Information Report 1 undertaken on behalf of Rutland County Council and South Kesteven District Council in their role as statutory consultees to a proposed application for a Development Consent Order under the Planning Act 2008 . The PEIR is provided as part of the statutory consultation process undertaken by Windel Energy and Canadian Solar in accordance with Section 47(20) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 2.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Limitations</p> <p>1.4 There are a number of limitations of this review as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review has been desk based and has not involved a site visit so statements about the baseline and existing site description and context are taken as correct; • It is not the purpose of the review to provide an in-depth technical check of the individual specialist discipline areas. This means that the review does not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check the actual survey work undertaken was fully executed according to the cited methods; or - Review the consultation undertaken. • The review has not been undertaken by a legal professional. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
South Kesteven District Council	2 PEIR REVIEW TABLES Table 2.1: PEIR Regulatory Compliance. The consultation document included on the applicant's website - https://www.mallardpasssolar.co.uk/documents explains that the development is EIA development and how the applicant intends to consult; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PEIR Document has been compiled by the applicant and sets out the information reasonably required by the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the proposed development. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PEIR is considered accessible. Only one version has been provided however it is well written and easily understood. Some technical reporting has been provided as an appendix rather than within the main text which may assist a more general reader but as noted below was unhelpful for understanding some topics. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Overview of the EIA Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard information provided. • Chapter clear. • Unclear why only primary (embedded) and tertiary mitigation. Are there secondary mitigation measures proposed? • PEIR response to scoping comments in Appendix 2.3 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The ES provides the baseline environmental information available for the study area relevant for the environmental assessment, the description of the likely environmental effects arising from the Proposed Development, and the mitigation measures envisaged to mitigate or reduce adverse environmental effects for the Proposed Development as well as any necessary monitoring measures. Mitigation measures that have been

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
			identified through the development of the Proposed Development have been embedded into the design and layout, referred to as embedded mitigation. In addition to these embedded mitigation measures, the assessment of potential effects presented within this ES have identified the need for additional mitigation measures to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects. These mitigation measures have been developed as part of an iterative process and therefore will be developed throughout the EIA process in response to the findings of the initial assessments and stakeholder feedback (see ES Chapter 2 [EN010127/APP/6.1]).
South Kesteven District Council	Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments – approach to assessment in accordance with best practice • Proposed planting lists to be confirmed as climate resilience. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Cumulative Effects Plan showing the cumulative schemes would have been helpful – especially as a visual aid to the Tier coded scheme and respective distances to site – perhaps overlain by the Zones of Influence for each topic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some planning references appear missing from Table 19.3 • Move ‘Next Steps’ section to Next Steps chapter? 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Summary of Cumulative Effects, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
South Kesteven District Council	Summary of Mitigation and Conclusions • Minor point - title of chapter different to that set out in Chapter 1	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	CONCLUSIONS 3.1 This document provides an independent review of the Mallard Pass Preliminary Environmental Information Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of an application for a Development Consent Order to permit the construction of a 350mw solar farm on 900 hectares of land at Essendine. The review has identified that the PEIR is in compliance with the Infrastructure EIA Regulations requirements, comprehensively identifies the likely significant effects for assessment in the final ES, and provides sufficient information to allow an informed consultation process. As with the EIA Scoping Report, the PEIR includes some superfluous detail but this is not a critical failure.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	This PEIR Review has identified some areas that should be scoped into the final ES, comprising: • Clearer mapping and inclusion of further plans/figures to aid the understanding of the assessment;	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Please see the Figures submitted [EN010127/APP/6.3] as part of this DCO application for more information.
South Kesteven District Council	Baseline evolution to be included for all technical assessments;	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	1.3 Any considered omissions, inconsistencies and suggestions for further clarity are provided (and underlined) in order to advise on the robustness of the work undertaken by LDA Design. Our Peer	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	Review and the views expressed herein should be taken without prejudice and are based solely on the information provided as part of the PEIR.		
South Kesteven District Council	<p>2.0 REVIEW OF METHODOLOGY LVIA Method and Approach</p> <p>2.1 The chapter sets out that the approach to the assessment of potential landscape and visual effects is centered around the Solar PV Site and Mitigation and Enhancement Areas, albeit this approach will be revisited within the ES when further information is available and revised if necessary.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Assessment Process</p> <p>2.4 The LVIA methodology is provided within Appendix 6.1 of the PEIR. The PEIR sets out that the threshold for 'significant' landscape and visual effects is Major-Moderate significance and above. While this is not at odds with this reviewers' professional opinion, a more commonly held cautionary threshold for what constitutes a 'significant effect' is Moderate significance and above.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	2.9 The methodology states that greater weight/emphasis is placed on value for landscape receptors and on susceptibility for visual receptors.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Magnitude</p> <p>2.11 The magnitude of effect is judged on a four-point scale (High-Medium-Low-Negligible), with reference to clearly articulated/described factors on scale (Table 5), duration (Table 6), and extent</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	(Table 7). An infographic is provided for the relationship between these factors (Plate 1), which demonstrates that scale is the primary factor in determining magnitude.		
South Kesteven District Council	Significance and Nature 2.13 The significance of an effect is described as being based upon the assessment of magnitude and sensitivity, with an infographic provided (Plate 2). However, it is of note that visual sensitivity in this methodology is only on a three-point scale, as opposed to the four-point scale provided in Plate 2.	No	Plates 1 and 2 are taken from The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, third edition (GLVIA3(2013). The assessment methodology is provided in full at Appendix 6.2 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2] . The assessment of visual sensitivity also includes a four-point scale as shown on Table 6.2.4 of the LVIA methodology being National / International; Local / District; Community; and Limited.
South Kesteven District Council	2.16 The nature of effects (i.e. positive, adverse, neutral) is clearly described in the context of professional judgement.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	4.3 The ZTV has included for earth curvature and atmospheric light refraction, with the viewer height set at 2m above ground level which is appropriate.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Photography and Visualisations 4.4 The general approach is sound in terms of photography taken, equipment used, choice of lens used, weather conditions and visibility. There are generally no obvious obstructions in the foreground of views and the viewpoint locations are considered to be suitably representative.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
South Kesteven District Council	4.5 The photographs purport to be 'Type 1' images. However, whilst perhaps not in direct accordance with the prescriptive examples set out in LI TGN 06/19, they very much are produced in the spirit of this guidance and we do not raise any critical concerns. That said, we consider that it would have been helpful to provide an additional 'complete panorama' for each viewpoint for reference purposes.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Panoramas have been provided for each of the representative viewpoints and illustrative viewpoints within the submission LVIA.
South Kesteven District Council	4.6 Sufficient metadata is provided in support of each photographic viewpoint (albeit the enlargement factor is noted as being TBC).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For a list of viewpoints, please see Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. Typical examples of visual receptor susceptibility, value and overall sensitivity is provided in the Table 6.2.8 of the LVIA methodology (ES Appendix 6.2).
South Kesteven District Council	4.7 Visualisations, noted as being 'Type 3' are also included within the PEIR for 5 [five] viewpoint locations, with the Proposed Development depicted at both Year 1 and Year 15 of operation.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	4.8 The visualisations are stated to be of 53.5 degrees Horizontal Field of View (HFoV) and of planar projection, with the images produced on A1 paper size sheets. However, to directly satisfy the LI TGN 06/19 requirements, such panoramas should ideally be of cylindrical projection at the scale produced. That said, Appendix 8 of the LI TGN 06/19 does imply that planar projection for	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Panoramas have been provided for each of the representative viewpoints and illustrative viewpoints within the submission LVIA.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	images up to 60 degrees HFoV may be permissible generally, while the Type 4 requirements indicate that the approach adopted for the visualisations included within this PEIR are suitable. Accordingly, we raise no obvious concerns regarding the visualisations.		
South Kesteven District Council	4.9 Sufficient metadata is provided in support of each visualisation (albeit the enlargement factor is noted as being TBC).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	5.3 The identified findings appear reasonable and are generally well substantiated with respect to judgements on the magnitude and significance of effects. However, little to no commentary is provided as to the nature of the effect (i.e. adverse, neutral or beneficial). Furthermore, the value and susceptibility of the receptors is not expressly identified or substantiated within the text and only an overall judgement on sensitivity is provided.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual of the ES states whether the effects are adverse, neutral or beneficial and identifies the value and susceptibility to determine the sensitivity of the visual receptors.
South Kesteven District Council	5.4 Further clarification on value and susceptibility judgements leading to conclusions on sensitivity is necessary for the ES chapter.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	5.5 The conclusions on night-time effects appear reasonably sound, albeit no night-time photography is provided at this stage and will need to be incorporated within the ES chapter to evidence the findings of the night-time effects.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant considers that the provision of night-time photography would not be necessary to inform the decision-making process.
South Kesteven District Council	5.6 The PEIR is considered to provide sufficient information at this stage.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	5.7 On the whole the conclusions appear well-considered, albeit greater detail will be required on	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	the likely effects within the ES chapter once the design of the scheme is finalised.		
South Kesteven District Council	The report makes reference to the MAFF 1988 ALC guidelines, and follows the methodology within the guidelines.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Yes, correct soil associations have been identified. However, no soil association or soil type map is provided which would be helpful to understand the distribution of the five soil associations within the site. The Sherborne association is repeatedly referred to as the “Sherbroune association”.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Please see ES Chapter 12 [EN010127/APP/6.1] , submitted as part of this DCO application.
South Kesteven District Council	The three climate data sets given have been verified.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	5.2 Although spread out across multiple sections within the technical appendix, the background data is all present and correct. The report includes the profile logs, results of laboratory analysis and pit descriptions which are all required in best practice.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	5.3 There are a few mistakes in the WC allocations in the profile logs but, given the volume of data, some minor errors are to be expected.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	During the current statutory consultation the applicant is seeking views on the proposed solar farm. Specifically, the statutory consultation is to provide feedback on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) that has been presented at this stage. The PEIR incorporates the results of the environmental surveys that have been carried out and sets out	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	the applicant's preliminary conclusions on any potential significant effects of the proposal on the environment.		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	It is also important to note that any comments expressed at this stage about the PEIR do not bind the Local Authority to a particular position or view about the development during later consultations. The PEIR includes a number of chapters that cover the likely environmental impacts associated with the proposal. These include: Landscape and Visual; Ecology and Biodiversity; Cultural heritage and Archaeology; Access and Highways; Noise and Vibration; Air Quality; Water Resources and Ground Conditions; Agricultural Land Use; Glint and Glare; Climate Change, Socio-economics; and Cumulative Effects.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	6.7Mallard Pass Solar Farm PEIR Review (July 2022) 6.7.1The review draws the following conclusion: "The review has identified that the PEIR is in compliance with the Infrastructure EIA Regulations requirements, comprehensively identifies the likely significant effects for assessment in the final ES, and provides sufficient information to allow an informed consultation process. As with the EIA Scoping Report, the PEIR includes some superfluous detail but this is not a critical failure. This PEIR Review has identified some areas that should be scoped into the final ES, comprising:	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The ES provides the baseline environmental information available for the study area relevant for the environmental assessment, the description of the likely environmental effects arising from the Proposed Development, and the mitigation measures envisaged to mitigate or reduce adverse environmental effects for the Proposed Development as well as any necessary monitoring measures. Mitigation measures that have been identified through the development of the Proposed Development have been

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Clearer mapping and inclusion of further plans/figures to aid the understanding of the assessment; •Baseline evolution to be included for all technical assessments; •Climate resilient planting to be included addressed; and •Secondary mitigation measures should be clearly specified.” 		<p>embedded into the design and layout, referred to as embedded mitigation. In addition to these embedded mitigation measures, the assessment of potential effects presented within this ES have identified the need for additional mitigation measures to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects. These mitigation measures have been developed as part of an iterative process and therefore will be developed throughout the EIA process in response to the findings of the initial assessments and stakeholder feedback (see ES Chapter 2 [EN010127/APP/6.1]).</p>
Rutland County Council	<p>Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The visual receptors considered in the PEIR are split into thirteen [13] distinct receptor groups. For the purposes of the PEIR this is considered appropriate, however, for the ES chapter it is considered that a finer grain of assessment is required for the assessment of visual effects. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. Chapter 6 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] sets out the visual receptor groups which are considered within the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, and are mapped on Figure 6.7 [EN010127/APP/6.3]. The assessment of the Visual Receptor Groups (VRG's) has been informed by twenty representative viewpoints and eight illustrative viewpoints to provide a finer grain of assessment.</p>
Rutland County Council	<p>Judgement of effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The identified findings appear reasonable and are 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant considers that</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	<p>generally well substantiated with respect to judgements on the magnitude and significance of effects. However, little to no commentary is provided as to the nature of the effect (i.e., adverse, neutral, or beneficial). Furthermore, the value and susceptibility of the receptors is not expressly identified or substantiated within the text and only an overall judgement on sensitivity is provided. Further clarification on value and susceptibility judgements leading to conclusions on sensitivity is necessary for the ES chapter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No night-time photography has been provided at this stage and will need to be incorporated within the ES chapter 		<p>the provision of night-time photography would not be necessary to inform the decision-making process.</p> <p>Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual of the ES states whether the effects are adverse, neutral or beneficial and identifies the value and susceptibility of the landscape and visual receptors.</p>
Rutland County Council	<p>AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several mistakes have been identified in the WC allocations in the profile logs but given the volume of data, some minor errors are to be expected. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many profiles were not assessed to a full depth of 120cm, however. As demonstrated in the attached full comments, depending on what was below the assessed depth, profiles currently assessed as Grade 4 may all be upgraded to Subgrade 3b, and a small number of profiles in Subgrade 3b will upgrade to Subgrade 3a. This will affect grade boundaries. Other limitations have been identified during the process of the peer review that are not stated in the report. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although pits were dug and samples were submitted for laboratory analysis, there are too few to constitute a fully robust assessment considering the size of the site. Where BMV land was identified, the observation density should ideally have been increased. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, the quality and clarity of the assessment in the Agricultural Land and Soils PEIR Chapter could be much improved. The chapter does not assess the up-to-date proposal for the solar PV arrays as set out in Chapter 5 but a previous iteration of the scheme which does not inspire confidence. The assessment methodology and criteria need consideration if the conclusion is reached that the loss of less than 5ha of BMV agricultural land from soil sealing is a moderate or large adverse effect (which incidentally cannot be mitigated by careful soil handling, as claimed in the chapter) but the consequential effect of removing approximately 900ha of agricultural land from food production for a period of 40 years is not even assessed. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information on land use and soils, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], which assess the impact on ALC of the Solar PV Site. As set out in Natural England's TIN049, the ALC system considers the inherent potential, rather than the current use or intensity of use. Therefore, land use, cropping choice or yield are not relevant to land quality considerations. In the context of the productivity of agricultural land being an economic land-use consideration, rather than an environmental consideration, Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, of the ES, seeks to put production from the Solar PV Site in a national and regional context. The assessment methodology draws upon the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guide: a new perspective on land and soil in Environmental Impact</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
			Assessment, IEMA (February 2022).
Rutland County Council	<p>MAIN PEIR REVIEW</p> <p>The review of the wider PEIR undertaken by Stantec has identified that the PEIR is in compliance with the Infrastructure EIA Regulations requirements, comprehensively identifies the likely significant effects for assessment in the final ES and provides sufficient information to allow an informed consultation process. As with the EIA Scoping Report, the PEIR includes some superfluous detail, but this is not a critical failure. This PEIR Review has identified some areas that should be scoped into the final ES, comprising:</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer mapping and inclusion of further plans/figures to aid the understanding of the assessment. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Please see the Figures submit as part of this DCO application for more information.
Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline evolution to be included for all technical assessments. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	<p>Report Purpose</p> <p>1.1 This document sets out the findings of an independent review of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Preliminary Environmental Information Report1 undertaken on behalf of Rutland County Council in their role as statutory consultees to a proposed application for a Development Consent Order under the Planning Act 2008 . The PEIR is provided as part of the statutory consultation process undertaken by Windel Energy</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	and Canadian Solar in accordance with Section 47(20) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 2.		
Rutland County Council	<p>Limitations</p> <p>1.4 There are a number of limitations of this review as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review has been desk based and has not involved a site visit so statements about the baseline and existing site description and context are taken as correct; • It is not the purpose of the review to provide an in-depth technical check of the individual specialist discipline areas. This means that the review does not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check the actual survey work undertaken was fully executed according to the cited methods; or - Review the consultation undertaken. • The review has not been undertaken by a legal professional. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	<p>2 PEIR REVIEW TABLES Table 2.1: PEIR Regulatory Compliance. The consultation document included on the applicant's website - https://www.mallardpasssolar.co.uk/documents explains that the development is EIA development and how the applicant intends to consult; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PEIR Document has been compiled by the applicant and sets out the information reasonably required by the consultation bodies to develop an 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	informed view of the likely significant effects of the proposed development.		
Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PEIR is considered accessible. Only one version has been provided however it is well written and easily understood. Some technical reporting has been provided as an appendix rather than within the main text which may assist a more general reader but as noted below was unhelpful for understanding some topics. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	<p>Overview of the EIA Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard information provided. Chapter clear. Unclear why only primary (embedded) and tertiary mitigation. Are there secondary mitigation measures proposed? PEIR response to scoping comments in Appendix 2.3 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The ES provides the baseline environmental information available for the study area relevant for the environmental assessment, the description of the likely environmental effects arising from the Proposed Development, and the mitigation measures envisaged to mitigate or reduce adverse environmental effects for the Proposed Development as well as any necessary monitoring measures.
Rutland County Council	<p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments – approach to assessment in accordance with best practice Proposed planting lists to be confirmed as climate resilience. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Cumulative Effects Plan showing the cumulative schemes would have been helpful – especially as a visual aid to the Tier coded scheme and respective distances to site – perhaps overlain by the Zones of Influence for each topic	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Summary of

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some planning references appear missing from Table 19.3 • Move 'Next Steps' section to Next Steps chapter? 		Cumulative Effects, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Rutland County Council	Summary of Mitigation and Conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor point - title of chapter different to that set out in Chapter 1 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	CONCLUSIONS 3.1 This document provides an independent review of the Mallard Pass Preliminary Environmental Information Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of an application for a Development Consent Order to permit the construction of a 350mw solar farm on 900 hectares of land at Essendine. The review has identified that the PEIR is in compliance with the Infrastructure EIA Regulations requirements, comprehensively identifies the likely significant effects for assessment in the final ES, and provides sufficient information to allow an informed consultation process. As with the EIA Scoping Report, the PEIR includes some superfluous detail but this is not a critical failure.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	This PEIR Review has identified some areas that should be scoped into the final ES, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer mapping and inclusion of further plans/figures to aid the understanding of the assessment; 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Please see the Figures submitted as part of this DCO application for more information.
Rutland County Council	Baseline evolution to be included for all technical assessments;	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
Rutland County Council	1.3 Any considered omissions, inconsistencies and suggestions for further clarity are provided (and underlined) in order to advise on the robustness of the work undertaken by LDA Design. Our Peer Review and the views expressed herein should be taken without prejudice and are based solely on the information provided as part of the PEIR.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	2.0 REVIEW OF METHODOLOGY LVIA Method and Approach 2.1 The chapter sets out that the approach to the assessment of potential landscape and visual effects is centered around the Solar PV Site and Mitigation and Enhancement Areas, albeit this approach will be revisited within the ES when further information is available and revised if necessary.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Assessment Process 2.4 The LVIA methodology is provided within Appendix 6.1 of the PEIR. The PEIR sets out that the threshold for 'significant' landscape and visual effects is Major-Moderate significance and above. While this is not at odds with this reviewers' professional opinion, a more commonly held cautionary threshold for what constitutes a 'significant effect' is Moderate significance and above.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	2.9 The methodology states that greater weight/emphasis is placed on value for landscape receptors and on susceptibility for visual receptors.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
Rutland County Council	<p>Magnitude 2.11 The magnitude of effect is judged on a four-point scale (High-Medium-Low-Negligible), with reference to clearly articulated/described factors on scale (Table 5), duration (Table 6), and extent (Table 7). An infographic is provided for the relationship between these factors (Plate 1), which demonstrates that scale is the primary factor in determining magnitude.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	<p>Significance and Nature 2.13 The significance of an effect is described as being based upon the assessment of magnitude and sensitivity, with an infographic provided (Plate 2). However, it is of note that visual sensitivity in this methodology is only on a three-point scale, as opposed to the four-point scale provided in Plate 2.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The assessment methodology is provided in full at Appendix 6.2 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2]. The assessment of visual sensitivity also includes a four-point scale as in Table 6.2.2 of the methodology being National / International; Local / District; Community; and Limited.
Rutland County Council	<p>2.16 The nature of effects (i.e. positive, adverse, neutral) is clearly described in the context of professional judgement.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	<p>4.3 The ZTV has included for earth curvature and atmospheric light refraction, with the viewer height set at 2m above ground level which is appropriate.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	<p>Photography and Visualisations 4.4 The general approach is sound in terms of photography taken, equipment used, choice of lens used, weather conditions and visibility. There are generally no obvious obstructions in the foreground</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	of views and the viewpoint locations are considered to be suitably representative.		
Rutland County Council	4.5 The photographs purport to be 'Type 1' images. However, whilst perhaps not in direct accordance with the prescriptive examples set out in LI TGN 06/19, they very much are produced in the spirit of this guidance and we do not raise any critical concerns. That said, we consider that it would have been helpful to provide an additional 'complete panorama' for each viewpoint for reference purposes.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Panoramas have been provided for each of the representative viewpoints and illustrative viewpoints within the submission LVIA.
Rutland County Council	4.6 Sufficient metadata is provided in support of each photographic viewpoint (albeit the enlargement factor is noted as being TBC).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For a list of viewpoints, please see Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] . Typical examples of visual receptor susceptibility, value and overall sensitivity is provided in the Table 6.2.8 of the LVIA methodology (ES Appendix 6.2).
Rutland County Council	4.7 Visualisations, noted as being 'Type 3' are also included within the PEIR for 5 [five] viewpoint locations, with the Proposed Development depicted at both Year 1 and Year 15 of operation.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	4.8 The visualisations are stated to be of 53.5 degrees Horizontal Field of View (HFoV) and of planar projection, with the images produced on A1 paper size sheets. However, to directly satisfy the LI TGN 06/19 requirements, such panoramas should ideally be of cylindrical projection at the	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Panoramas have been provided for each of the representative viewpoints and illustrative viewpoints within the submission LVIA.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	scale produced. That said, Appendix 8 of the LI TGN 06/19 does imply that planar projection for images up to 60 degrees HFoV may be permissible generally, while the Type 4 requirements indicate that the approach adopted for the visualisations included within this PEIR are suitable. Accordingly, we raise no obvious concerns regarding the visualisations.		
Rutland County Council	4.9 Sufficient metadata is provided in support of each visualisation (albeit the enlargement factor is noted as being TBC).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	5.3 The identified findings appear reasonable and are generally well substantiated with respect to judgements on the magnitude and significance of effects. However, little to no commentary is provided as to the nature of the effect (i.e. adverse, neutral or beneficial). Furthermore, the value and susceptibility of the receptors is not expressly identified or substantiated within the text and only an overall judgement on sensitivity is provided.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual of the ES states whether the effects are adverse, neutral or beneficial and identifies the value and susceptibility of the receptors.
Rutland County Council	5.4 Further clarification on value and susceptibility judgements leading to conclusions on sensitivity is necessary for the ES chapter.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	5.5 The conclusions on night-time effects appear reasonably sound, albeit no night-time photography is provided at this stage and will need to be incorporated within the ES chapter to evidence the findings of the night-time effects.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant considers that the provision of night-time photography would not be necessary to inform the decision-making process.
Rutland County Council	5.6 The PEIR is considered to provide sufficient information at this stage.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
Rutland County Council	5.7 On the whole the conclusions appear well-considered, albeit greater detail will be required on the likely effects within the ES chapter once the design of the scheme is finalised.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	The report makes reference to the MAFF 1988 ALC guidelines, and follows the methodology within the guidelines.		
Rutland County Council	Yes, correct soil associations have been identified. However, no soil association or soil type map is provided which would be helpful to understand the distribution of the five soil associations within the site. The Sherborne association is repeatedly referred to as the “Sherbroune association”.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Please see Chapter 12: Land Use, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] , and it’s associated appendices and figures.
Rutland County Council	The three climate data sets given have been verified.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	5.2 Although spread out across multiple sections within the technical appendix, the background data is all present and correct. The report includes the profile logs, results of laboratory analysis and pit descriptions which are all required in best practice.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	5.3 There are a few mistakes in the WC allocations in the profile logs but, given the volume of data, some minor errors are to be expected.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	• Table 1 provides limited information to aid judgement, or transparency of the decision made, on the Susceptibility of a receptor. More information would assist the reader understand what “undue consequences” are judged against,	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	which is not specified or clarified in the methodology, or glossary.		
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Analysis of Plant's Energy Output</p> <p>The proposed solar development sits on 906ha of land, however, the solar PV site is approximately 463ha. This falls short of the recommended 2ha for every 1MW of PV size. Mallard Pass value was made based on load factor estimates of solar farms. Energy output in the 1st year was estimated at 350,000MWh. Solar resource assessment tools put the yearly energy output at 342,000MWh (Global Solar Atlas). Another vital element not mentioned is the yearly degradation factor of the solar modules, which influences the yearly energy output of the plant. See Figure 2 for a comparison of energy output from the Global Solar Atlas (GSA) platform with modules degradation (GSA). Figure 2 shows a significant difference of 1,700GWh between the scheme's output if the modules degradation factor is considered.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The proposed area for the Solar PV Site is 420ha which comprises 530,303 panels would be required to deliver approximately 350MW of installed DC capacity, as described within the Grid Connection Statement [EN010127/APP/7.4]. The operational and maintenance activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.7], which includes the Monitoring and maintenance of electrical equipment and management of waste. Section 7.7 of the Statement of Need [EN010127/APP/7.1] explains how solar panels degrade over time and how overplanting solar projects maximises utilisation of their grid connection over the lifetime of the project.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Mallard Pass, PEIR response – LCC Historic Environment Comments</p> <p>We have not been contacted since November 2021 regarding this project and not since the scoping opinion which proposed entirely descoping cultural heritage. We responded in the strongest possible terms in our scoping opinion response on the 2nd</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	of March 2022 with the detailed specific requirements for this proposed development to provide a sufficient evidence base to allow for sufficient understanding of the site-specific archaeological potential across the full extent of the proposed impact zone to produce a mitigation strategy which is reasonable, appropriate and fit for purpose which must be submitted with the EIA.		
Lincolnshire County Council	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.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Historic England	<p>Historic England Advice</p> <p>Thank you for consulting Historic England (The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England). As noted in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) we have previously offered EIA scoping advice and met with</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
EIA Methodology			
	the applicant's consultants virtually and on-site for pre-application discussion.		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
South Kesteven District Council	Mostly, although the Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Member of the Lincolnshire Limestone Formation is also present in the north-west of the site; and superficial glacial head deposits are also mapped. The appendix describes the geological formations, whereas paragraph 3.9.1 of Volume 1 describes the main geological groups (of formations). An explanation of the relationship between groups and formations, or a consistent approach to description, would be helpful.	No	This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] , and its associated appendices.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	16.Waste and contamination when scheme comes to end of life	No	As outlined in Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] , all the solar infrastructure including PV modules, mounting structures, cabling on or near the surface, inverters, transformers, switchgear, fencing and ancillary infrastructure would be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice following the waste hierarchy, with materials being reused or recycled wherever possible. All waste will be disposed of in accordance with the legislation at the time of decommissioning. Outline measures are set out in the oDEMP [EN010127/APP/7.8] and will be replicated in the DEMP, which will be

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
			<p>agreed with local authorities prior to decommissioning work beginning. In addition, given the isolated areas of potential contamination, the impacts associated with the migration of pollutants from contaminated land are considered to be of Negligible Magnitude for receptors of High Sensitivity, such as watercourses, drainage ditches, coastal waters and groundwater. Therefore, this is considered Not Significant. Please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] for more information.</p>
<p>South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee</p>	<p>5.12 Pollution Control 5.12.1 Policy EN4 (Pollution Control) identifies that development should seek to minimise pollution and, where possible, contribute to the protection and improvement of the quality of air, land and water. Development will only be permitted if potential adverse effects can be mitigated to an acceptable level by other environmental controls, or by measures included in the proposals. 5.12.2 In addition, Criterion 5 of the Renewable Energy Appendix identifies that the Council will require solar farm proposals to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be strategically sited so as to minimum the noise experienced by nearby residents and occupiers of 	<p>No</p>	<p>The nature of the Proposed Development will not significantly impact the quality of soils which will be of the same quality as the existing scenario. This is set out in the ES Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. The oCEMP [EN010127/APP/7.6] refers to an obligation to prepare a Pollution Prevention Plan to prior to construction of the Proposed Development and subsequent oDEMP [EN010127/APP/7.8] outlines how the</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
	<p>business premises and important buildings (including, but not limited to hospitals and schools)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In any instance, operate with minimal noise output to avoid undue disturbance to nearby residents, wildlife and livestock. Where necessary, mitigation measures such as the establishment of vegetation buffers for example, should be used to prevent adverse noise impacts. 		<p>Proposed Development will prevent impacts on the quality of soils during the construction and decommissioning phases. Further, pollution prevention measures are also outlined by the Applicant in the oWMP [EN010127/APP/7.13].</p> <p>A detailed and robust noise assessment forms part of the ES (Chapter 10: Noise, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]). This considers the nature of the noise sources associated with the Proposed Development, including construction, operational noise from electrical plant including that of the Onsite Substation, and the construction traffic. When considering the potential noise impacts of the Proposed Development as a result of construction related traffic passing to and from the site, the relevant embedded mitigation measures described within Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, include the general construction working hours (07:00 to 19:00 – Monday to Saturday). This is also considered in the oCEMP, which outlines that these working hours would be further restricted to avoid some works on Saturday afternoons (13:00 to 19:00). This includes</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
			<p>activities such as earthworks, trench construction and any piling, as well as HGV deliveries and movements would not be undertaken at these times.</p> <p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the DAS, of the ES [EN010127/APP/7.3], the Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties, this will include a 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties. For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, EN010127/APP/6.1.</p>
Rutland County Council	<p>Mostly, although the Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Member of the Lincolnshire Limestone Formation is also present in the north-west of the site; and superficial glacial head deposits are also mapped. The appendix describes the geological formations, whereas paragraph 3.9.1 of Volume 1 describes the main geological groups (of formations). An explanation of the relationship between groups and formations, or a consistent approach to description, would be helpful.</p>	No	<p>This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, and its associated appendices.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Chapter 15: Climate Change The following comments and questions have been provided by consultants appointed by LCC who have reviewed the predicted GHG</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. Chapter 13 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] includes a carbon assessment that considers the effects of</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
	emissions and emissions saving of the development.		<p>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions generated at all stages of the Proposed Development, being construction, operation, and decommissioning. Chapter 13 assesses the inbuilt greenhouse gas emissions of the Proposed Development against the greenhouse gases which will be offset by the Proposed Development when in operation using peer reviewed and industry standard data and approaches. The Chapter outlines that the greenhouse gas emissions offset by the Proposed Development are much greater than the embedded emissions associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The CO2 emissions of the Proposed Development will be displaced within approximately 10.5 years, and all savings beyond that would be a net benefit of the Proposed Development to reducing climate change, relative to the baseline. Over 40 years, the saving is estimated at approximately 1.9 million tonnes of CO2.</p>
Health and Safety Executive	"No longer storing Hydrogen Sulphide - 25 October 2005. Cross boundary with South Kesteven Oct 2020 AN survey reveals that this site no longer	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
	stores AN – no info re other substances stored so consent remains for other substances”		
Carlby Parish Council	We feel that the ethical and environmental concerns in the construction of the solar panels along with the long-distance transport of these panels from the country of manufacture should also be considered along with the problems the decommissioning process will bring in the future for the area.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information about the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development, please see the oDEMP, [EN010127/APP/7.8].</p> <p>As detailed in the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan of the ES [EN010127/APP/7.10], the Applicant wishes to ensure the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development is undertaken pursuant to an ethical procurement policy and that this is a legal obligation on anyone who has the powers under the DCO. That would be achieved by securing this Plan by a requirement of the DCO. For more information on the Applicant’s ethical procurement policy, please see the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, of the ES [EN010127/APP/7.10].</p> <p>Chapter 13 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] includes a carbon assessment that considers the effects of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions generated at all stages of the Proposed</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
			<p>Development, being construction, operation, and decommissioning.</p> <p>. This chapter which assesses the inbuilt greenhouse gas emissions of the Proposed Development against the greenhouse gases which will be offset by the Proposed Development when in operation using peer reviewed and industry standard data and approaches. The Chapter outlines that the greenhouse gas emissions offset by the Proposed Development are much greater than the embedded emissions associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The CO² emissions of the Proposed Development will be displaced within approximately 10.5 years, and all savings beyond that would be a net benefit of the Proposed Development to reducing climate change, relative to the baseline. Over 40 years, the saving is estimated at approximately 1.9 million tonnes of CO².</p>
Stamford Town Council	Soil, water and materials impact.	No	<p>The Applicant has assessed impacts of the Proposed Development on soil, water and materials.</p> <p>For more information on soil impacts and mitigation, please see Chapter 12: Land</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
			<p>Use and Soils, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], and its associated appendices. Further, please see the oSMP and oEMMP, which also offer additional information on this topic. The Applicant notes that given the isolated areas of potential contamination, the impacts associated with the migration of pollutants from contaminated land are considered to be of Negligible Magnitude for receptors of High Sensitivity, such as watercourses, drainage ditches and groundwater. Therefore, this is considered Not Significant. Please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1]. for more information.</p> <p>Good construction practice, such as the use of silt traps, cut-off ditches and SuDS, outlined in the oWMP [EN010127/APP/7.13] and oCEMP [EN010127/APP/7.6] of the ES are embedded design measures and mean that effects on the Hydrological environment are assessed in Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, of the ES</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
			<p>[EN010127/APP/6.1] as Not Significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.</p> <p>As outlined in Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES</p> <p>[EN010127/APP/6.1], following the operational phase of the development, all the solar infrastructure including PV modules, mounting structures, cabling on or near the surface, inverters, transformers, switchgear, fencing and ancillary infrastructure would be removed.</p> <p>Section 15.7 of Chapter 15 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] considers waste streams during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The chapter describes how the Solar infrastructure will be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice following the Waste Hierarchy, with materials being reused or recycled wherever possible. All waste will be disposed of in accordance with the legislation at the time of decommissioning. Waste Hierarchy principles are embedded into environmental management plans such as the outline Excavated Material</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
			<p>Management Plan (oEMMP) included within the outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010127/APP/7.12]. These include requirements for preparation of a Construction Resource Management Plan (CRMP) as required in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010127/APP/7.6], and the preparation of a Decommissioning Resource Management Plan (DRMP) as required in the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.8]. These documents will include measures to control and manage waste onsite in line with the Wates Hierarchy.</p>
Stamford Town Council	<p>Degradation of plastic Small particles of plastic from the panels will degrade over the lifetime of the Solar Farm. Where will these go? They will eventually find their way into the water supply and poison animals, fish, birds and Humans! This process has not been tested over the duration of 40 years. What will happen to the panels after this time?</p>	No	<p>Typically, solar panels are made of glass and aluminium. However, the final design and materials for the Proposed Development have yet to be determined. The Applicant therefore makes note of this comment.</p> <p>As is outlined in Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1], all the solar infrastructure including PV modules, mounting structures, cabling on or near the surface, inverters, transformers, switchgear, fencing and ancillary</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
			<p>infrastructure would be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice following the waste hierarchy, with materials being reused or recycled wherever possible.</p> <p>Section 15.7 of Chapter 15 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] considers waste streams during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>All waste will be disposed of in accordance with the legislation at the time of decommissioning. Outline measures are set out in the oDEMP [EN010127/APP/7.8] and will be replicated in the DEMP, which will be agreed with local authorities prior to decommissioning work beginning.</p> <p>In addition, given the isolated areas of potential contamination, the impacts associated with the migration of pollutants from contaminated land are considered to be of Negligible Magnitude for receptors of High Sensitivity, such as watercourses, drainage ditches, coastal waters and groundwater. Therefore, this is considered Not Significant. Please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions,</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
			[EN010127/APP/6.1], for more information.
Environment Agency	PEIR Chapter 12 – Water resources and ground conditions Land contamination and hydrogeology We note that desk studies have been carried out and the findings outlined. We have no concerns with the work undertaken to date and are satisfied with the proposed approach to fully assess the risk to controlled waters from the proposed development. We have no further comments to add to those provided at scoping opinion stage.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	We would welcome confirmation as to whether any cleaning chemicals such as algicides would be used on the panels, or whether herbicides would be used to control vegetation around the panels.	No	The Applicant outlines pollution prevention measures in the oOEMP [EN010127/APP/7.7] and oWMP, [EN010127/APP/7.6]. Further, the appointed maintenance contractor will have management procedures to prevent spillage impacts of these cleaning chemicals. The Applicant makes note of this comment, however cannot confirm this as the use of herbicides to control vegetation around the panels is the choice of the landowner. The Applicant notes that the use of herbicides will be restricted to ensure the efficient functioning of solar panels and prevent

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
			<p>damage to adjacent grassland and vegetation areas. Herbicide application would additionally be limited to spot applications used to control invasive weed species within areas of tussocky grassland with wildflowers and only then when absolutely necessary. Any herbicide application will be carried out by suitably licensed persons following appropriate guidance and legislation. For more information, please see the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.</p>
Cadent Gas	<p>Cadent Infrastructure within or in close proximity to the development</p> <p>Cadent has identified the following apparatus within the redline boundary or within the vicinity of the proposed works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High Pressure (above 2 bar) Gas Pipelines and associated equipment ▪ Medium Pressure mains and associated equipment ▪ Low Pressure mains and associated equipment 	No	<p>The Applicant notes that adequate land rights must be granted to Cadent (e.g., following the exercise of compulsory powers to acquire such rights included within the DCO) to enable works to proceed to Cadent's satisfaction.</p> <p>The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.</p>
Cadent Gas	<p>Note: No liability of any kind whatsoever is accepted by Cadent Gas Limited or their agents, servants or contractors for any error or omission. Please note that Cadent has existing easements for these pipelines which prevents the erection of</p>	No	<p>The Applicant notes that operations within existing easement strips are not permitted without approval and Deed of Consent being put in place.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
	permanent / temporary buildings/structures, change to existing ground levels or storage of materials etc within the easement strip.		The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.
Cadent Gas	Diversions: Where diversions of apparatus are required to facilitate the scheme, Cadent will require adequate notice and discussions should be started at the earliest opportunity. Please be aware that diversions for high pressure apparatus can take in excess of two years to plan and procure materials.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.
Cadent Gas	Where diversions of apparatus are required to facilitate the scheme, Cadent will require the party requesting the diversion works to obtain any necessary planning permissions and other consents to enable the diversion works to be carried out. Details of these consents should be agreed in writing with Cadent before any applications are made. Cadent would ordinarily require a minimum of C4/Conceptual Design study to have been carried out to establish an appropriate diversion route ahead of any application being made.		
Cadent Gas	Key Considerations: • Cadent has a Deed of Grant of Easement for each pipeline, which prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings/structures, change to existing ground levels or storage of materials etc within the easement strip.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
Cadent Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The below guidance is not exhaustive and all works in the vicinity of Cadent's asset shall be subject to review and approval from Cadent's plant protection team in advance of commencement of works on site. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.</p>
Cadent Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cadent will also need to ensure that our pipelines remain accessible throughout and after completion of the works. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.</p>
Cadent Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The actual depth and position must be confirmed on site by trial hole investigation under the supervision of a Cadent representative. Ground cover above our pipelines should not be reduced or increased. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.</p>
Cadent Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If any excavations are planned within 3 metres of Cadent High Pressure Pipeline or, within 10 metres of an AGI (Above Ground Installation), or if any embankment or dredging works are proposed then the actual position and depth of the pipeline must be established on site in the presence of a Cadent representative. A safe working method agreed prior to any work taking place in order to minimise the risk of damage and ensure the final depth of cover does not affect the integrity of the pipeline. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.</p>
Cadent Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Below are some examples of work types that have specific restrictions when being undertaken in the vicinity of gas assets therefore consultation with Cadent's Plant Protection team is essential: 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demolition ▪ Blasting ▪ Piling and boring ▪ Deep mining ▪ Surface mineral extraction ▪ Landfilling ▪ Trenchless Techniques (e.g. HDD, pipe splitting, tunnelling etc.) ▪ Wind turbine installation ▪ Solar farm installation ▪ Tree planting schemes 		
Cadent Gas	Pipeline Crossings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where existing roads cannot be used, construction traffic should ONLY cross the pipeline at agreed locations. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment and agrees that existing crossing would most likely be utilised. The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.
Cadent Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pipeline shall be protected, at the crossing points, by temporary rafts constructed at ground level. The third party shall review ground conditions, vehicle types and crossing frequencies to determine the type and construction of the raft required. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.
Cadent Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of raft shall be agreed with Cadent prior to installation. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.
Cadent Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No protective measures including the installation of concrete slab protection shall be installed over or near 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
	to the Cadent pipeline without the prior permission of Cadent.		The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.
Cadent Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cadent will need to agree the material, the dimensions and method of installation of the proposed protective measure. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.</p>
Cadent Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The method of installation shall be confirmed through the submission of a formal written method statement from the contractor to Cadent. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.</p>
Cadent Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Cadent representative shall monitor any works within close proximity to the pipeline. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.</p>
Cadent Gas	<p>New Service Crossing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New services may cross the pipeline at perpendicular angle to the pipeline i.e. 90 degrees. • Where a new service is to cross over the pipeline a clearance distance of 0.6 metres between the crown of the pipeline and underside of the service should be maintained. If this cannot be achieved the service shall cross below the pipeline with a clearance distance of 0.6 metres. • A new service should not be laid parallel within an easement strip • A Cadent representative shall approve and supervise any new service crossing of a pipeline. • An exposed pipeline should be suitable supported and removed prior to backfilling 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of these comments.</p> <p>0.6 metres is the minimum acceptable clearance. The Applicant would prefer a clearance distance of 1 metre below the existing pipeline.</p> <p>The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An exposed pipeline should be protected by matting and suitable timber cladding • For pipe construction involving deep excavation (<1.5m) in the vicinity of grey iron mains, the model consultative procedure will apply therefore an integrity assessment must be conducted to confirm if diversion is required 		
National Grid Gas	<p>I refer to your letter current Stage 2 Statutory Consultation regarding the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm DCO. This is a response on behalf of National Grid Gas PLC (NGG). Having reviewed the consultation documents, NGG wishes to make the following comments regarding gas infrastructure which may be affected by proposals.</p> <p>NGG has two high pressure (major accident hazard pipelines) located either within the Order limits or in close proximity to the order boundary. These pipelines form an essential part of the gas transmission network in England and Wales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feeder Main 9 – Kirkby Underwood to Tallington ▪ Feeder Main 22 – Aslackby to Braceborough 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>
National Grid Gas	<p>Please note that NGG has existing easements for these pipelines which provides rights for ongoing access and prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings/structures, change to existing ground levels or storage of materials etc within the easement strip.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant notes that NGG has existing easements for these pipelines which provides rights for ongoing access and prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings/structures, change to existing ground levels or storage of materials within the easement strip.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
			Cable crossings at 90 degrees should be at minimum 600mm above or below. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Gas	Should any diversions be required to facilitate the scheme, NGG will require adequate notice and discussions should be started at the earliest opportunity. Please be aware that diversions for high pressure apparatus can take in excess of two years to plan and procure materials	No	No diversions will be required as part of the Proposed Development. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGG will also need to ensure that its pipelines remain accessible during and after completion of the works. 	No	The Applicant notes that NGG require undeterred access. The Applicant notes that NGG has a Deed of Grant of Easement for each pipeline, which prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings, or structures, change to existing ground levels, and storage of materials for example. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
National Grid Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our pipelines are normally buried to a depth cover of 1.1 metres, however actual depth and position must be confirmed on site by trial hole investigation under the supervision of a NGG representative. Ground cover above our pipelines should not be reduced or increased. 	No	<p>The Applicant notes that trial holes would be required prior to works.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that NGG has existing easements for these pipelines which provides rights for ongoing access and prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings/structures, change to existing ground levels or storage of materials within the easement strip. Cable crossings at 90 degrees should be at minimum 600mm above or below.</p> <p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>
National Grid Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If any excavations are planned within 3 metres of NGG High Pressure Pipeline or, within 10 metres of an AGI (Above Ground Installation), or if any embankment or dredging works are proposed then the actual position and depth of the pipeline must be established on site in the presence of a NGG representative. A safe working method agreed prior to any work taking place in order to minimise the risk of damage and ensure the final depth of cover does not affect the integrity of the pipeline. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>
National Grid Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Below are some examples of work types that have specific restrictions when being undertaken 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
	<p>in the vicinity of gas assets therefore consultation with NGG's Plant Protection team is essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demolition ▪ Blasting ▪ Piling and boring ▪ Deep mining ▪ Surface mineral extraction ▪ Landfilling ▪ Trenchless Techniques (e.g. HDD, pipe splitting, tunnelling etc.) ▪ Wind turbine installation ▪ Solar farm installation ▪ Tree planting schemes 		<p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>
National Grid Gas	<p>Pipeline Crossings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where existing roads cannot be used, construction traffic should ONLY cross the pipeline at agreed locations. • The pipeline shall be protected, at the crossing points, by temporary rafts constructed at ground level. The third party shall review ground conditions, vehicle types and crossing frequencies to determine the type and construction of the raft required. • The type of raft shall be agreed with NGG prior to installation. • No protective measures including the installation of concrete slab protection shall be installed over or near to the NGG pipeline without the prior permission of NGG 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGG will need to agree the material, the dimensions and method of installation of the proposed protective measure. • The method of installation shall be confirmed through the submission of a formal written method statement from the contractor to NGG. • An NGG representative shall monitor any works within close proximity to the pipeline to comply with NGG specification T/SP/SSW22 		
National Grid Gas	<p>Cable Crossings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cables may cross the pipeline at perpendicular angle to the pipeline i.e. 90 degrees. • Where a new cable is to cross over the pipeline a clearance distance of 0.6 metres between the crown of the pipeline and underside of the service should be maintained. If this cannot be achieved the service shall cross below the pipeline with a clearance distance of 0.6 metres. • A new service should not be laid parallel within an easement strip • Clearance must be at least 600mm above or below the pipeline • An NGG representative shall approve and supervise any cable crossing of a pipeline. • A Deed of Consent is required for any cable crossing the easement 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment and would prefer for the cable to be beneath pipeline should maintenance on the line be required. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Gas	<p>Further Advice We would request that the potential impact of the proposed scheme on NGG's existing assets as set</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
	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. Please engage early with NGG's plant protection team to understand the specific requirements and constraints in relation to working close to high pressure pipelines.		Engagement with NGG's plant protection team is underway. Further, the Applicant notes that DLA Piper are acting on behalf of NGG. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Gas	Adequate access to NGG pipelines must be maintained at all times during construction and post construction to ensure the safe operation of our network.	No	The Applicant notes that NGG require undeterred access. The Applicant notes that NGG has a Deed of Grant of Easement for each pipeline, which prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings, or structures, change to existing ground levels, and storage of materials for example. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	I refer to your email dated 26th May 2022 regarding the Proposed Development. This is a response on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (NGET). Due to the proximity of some of our assets, NGET	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
	wishes to express their interest in further consultation while the impact on our assets is still being assessed. In particular, we are keen to understand the clearance distances of the solar farm apparatus from the NGET assets and the proposed access and other arrangements to enable NGET to continue to maintain their apparatus where it is in proximity to the proposed development.		template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	National Grid Electricity Transmission has high voltage electricity overhead transmission lines and substations within or in close proximity to the order boundary. The overhead lines and substations form an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	Overhead Lines • 4VK 400kV Cottam-Eaton Socon-Wymondley 2	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	Substations • Ryhall 400kV substation • Essendine 25kV substation	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
			template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	Other Apparatus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essendine to Ryhall Cable Circuits. • Associated fibre cables. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	The following points should be taken into consideration. Electricity Infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Grid’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 	No	The Applicant notes that NGET has existing easements for these assets which provides rights for ongoing access and prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings/structures, change to existing ground levels or storage of materials within the easement strip. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statutory electrical safety clearances must be maintained at all times. Any proposed buildings must not be closer than 5.3m to the lowest conductor. National Grid recommends that no permanent structures are built directly beneath overhead lines. These distances are set out in EN 43 – 8 Technical Specification for “overhead line clearances Issue 3 (2004). 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Grid Electricity Transmission 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 National Grid 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 National Grid prior to any works taking place. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	No	<p>Not applicable.</p> <p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	<p>I hope the above information is useful. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, we look forward to receipt of further information and consultation relating to potential impacts on our assets. The information in this letter is provided notwithstanding any discussions taking place in relation to connections with electricity customer services.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	Small particles of plastic from the panels will degrade over the lifetime of the Solar Farm. Where will these go? They will eventually find their way into the water supply and poison animals, fish, birds and Humans! This process has not been tested over the duration of 40 years. What will happen to the panels after this time?	No	<p>Typically, solar panels are made of glass and aluminium. However, the final design and materials for the Proposed Development have yet to be determined. The Applicant therefore makes note of this comment.</p> <p>As outlined in Chapter 5: Project Description, [EN010127/APP/6.1], all the solar infrastructure including PV modules, mounting structures, cabling on or near the surface, inverters, transformers, switchgear, fencing and ancillary infrastructure would be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice following the waste hierarchy, with materials being reused or recycled wherever possible. All waste will be disposed of in accordance with the legislation at the time of decommissioning.</p> <p>In addition, given the isolated areas of potential contamination, the impacts associated with the migration of pollutants from contaminated land are considered to be of Negligible Magnitude for receptors of High Sensitivity, such as watercourses, drainage ditches, coastal waters and groundwater. Therefore, this is considered Not Significant. Please see</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Onshore Ground Conditions and Contamination			
			<p>Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, [EN010127/APP/6.1], for more information.</p> <p>For more information about the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development, please see the oDEMP, [EN010127/APP/7.8]</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
South Kesteven District Council	Water Resources and Ground Conditions • No comments – approach to assessment in accordance with best practice	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	• Paragraph 4.9 states that “there are no records (data) to show that agricultural land in any part of the Site is limited by flooding”. There is clear photographic evidence that parts of the site within the West Glen River valley are affected annually by flooding (see Appendix 1).		As outlined in the FRA (ES Appendix 11.5 Flood Risk Assessment [EN010127/APP/6.2] , hydraulic modelling of the surrounding watercourses has been conducted by the EA and their appointed partners, and this data was used to sequentially design the Proposed Development to locate PV Arrays outside of Flood Zone 3 to prevent an increase in flood risk elsewhere. SuDS measures to limit flow rates from the Onsite Substation and RSuDS measures to slow the flow within the PV Arrays areas will ensure there is no increase in flooding downstream of the Order Limits. For more information, please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.3.4 Development proposals shall consider how they can proactively avoid: • Developing land at risk of flooding or where development would exacerbate the risk of flooding elsewhere. The pollution of air, land, water, noise, and light.	No	The FRA outlines the development will not increase flood risk elsewhere. For more information, please see ES Appendix 11.5 Flood Risk Assessment, [EN010127/APP/6.2] and Chapter 11:

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
			<p>Water Resources and Ground Conditions, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. As outlined in the GI Strategy, areas for potential solar development have been removed along the West Glen River corridor in order to remove Solar PV Arrays from the flood plain. This has also provided the opportunity to reduce any potential impacts on protected species using the river corridor and provide ecological habitat enhancement. For more information on the GI Strategy, please see the Design and Access Statement [EN010127/APP/7.3].</p>
<p>South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee</p>	<p>5.6 Flood Risk and Drainage 5.6.1 Policy EN5 (Water Environment and Flood Risk Management) of the Local Plan states that “Development should be located in the lowest areas of flood risk, in accordance with the South Kesteven Strategic Flood Risk Assessment [SRFA]. Where this is not possible the sequential approach to development will be applied. Where the requirements of the sequential test are met, the exception test will be applied where necessary”. 5.6.2 Paragraph 162 of the Framework provides further guidance in respect of the application of the sequential test. It identifies that “The aim of the sequential test is to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding from any</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant has taken a sequential approach to the design of the site, locating electrically sensitive infrastructure (such as the substation and the solar stations) outside the flood extents. Only minor sections of PV arrays are located in the modelled 1:1,000 year extent and the thin racking system used to support the arrays will not materially impact on flood conveyance of storage capacity during extreme flood events. The FRA ES Appendix 11.5 Flood Risk Assessment, [EN010127/APP/6.2] outlines the development will not increase flood risk elsewhere. For more</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
	source. Development should not be allocated or permitted if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower risk of flooding”.		information, please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Rutland County Council	Water Resources and Ground Conditions • No comments – approach to assessment in accordance with best practice	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	• Paragraph 4.9 states that “there are no records (data) to show that agricultural land in any part of the Site is limited by flooding”. There is clear photographic evidence that parts of the site within the West Glen River valley are affected annually by flooding (see Appendix 1).	No	As outlined in the FRA ES Appendix 11.5 Flood Risk Assessment, [EN010127/APP/6.2] hydraulic modelling of the surrounding watercourses has been conducted by the EA and their appointed partners, and this data was used to sequentially design the Proposed Development to locate PV Arrays outside of Flood Zone 3 to prevent an increase in flood risk elsewhere. However, the following measures relating to the hydrological environment are embedded into the design and construction of the Proposed Development: • 50m watercourse buffers for major construction works (i.e. compound) with the exception of watercourse crossings along access tracks; and • 10m watercourse buffers for minor construction works (i.e. solar panel installation) with the exception of

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
			<p>watercourse crossings along access tracks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proposed Development will utilise existing access road and tracks already in place at this location, this will help to minimise ground disturbance and requirement for further watercourse crossings. <p>For more information, please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Chapter 12: Water Resources and Ground Conditions</p> <p>LCC, as the Highway & Lead Local Flood Authority, has commented that the scope set out within Section 3 of Appendix 12.3 for Surface Water Management is acceptable. The increased run-off from any large areas of impermeability that may be created (particularly during construction) such as plant compounds, access roads and battery facilities will need to be determined and mitigated in accordance with SUDS principles.</p> <p>LCC's PRow Team has also commented that the solar farm may potentially impact on land drainage in the vicinity of the proposed development and so it is necessary to fully consider the likely drainage changes on the PRow</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of these comments.</p> <p>The Outline Surface Water Management Strategy details that soil availability will remain similar to the baseline scenario in relation to its availability to absorb surface water runoff.</p> <p>Surface water runoff from hardstanding areas associated with the Proposed Development will be managed by the SuDS measures detailed in the Outline Surface Water Management Strategy.</p> <p>The panels will have multiple drip lines with planting beneath to allow surface water to fall in multiple areas beneath the panel and not just the end. As such the areas beneath the panels are not</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
	<p>network both within and adjacent to the proposed solar farm. Further comments will be provided as the project continues and the Environmental Statement is completed.</p>		<p>impermeable, in line with the approach applied in other solar developments in the UK. RSuDS measures such as the use of grassland and wildflower mix under the PV Array drip lines will act to slow surface water flows. For more information, please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]..</p>
Uffington Parish Council	<p>Nine respondents were worried about an increased risk of flooding and four were concerned about potential destruction of undiscovered archaeological sites. One felt that tourism would suffer.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The FRA outlines the development will not increase flood risk elsewhere. For more information, please see ES Appendix 11.5 Flood Risk Assessment, [EN010127/APP/6.2] and Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Greatford Parish Council	<p>1. Flooding. The Parish Council and our local Flood Warden have grave concerns regarding the potential for the proposed solar farm to increase the speed and severity of flooding in the village of Greatford. The information about flooding that was made available to us in the PEIR during the consultation does not give adequate consideration to the downstream effects that the potential runoff from solar panels, tracks, hard standing and buildings</p>	No	<p>As outlined in the FRA (ES Appendix 11.5 Flood Risk Assessment, [EN010127/APP/6.2]) hydraulic modelling of the surrounding watercourses has been conducted by the EA and their appointed partners, and this data was used to sequentially design the Proposed Development to locate PV Arrays outside of Flood Zone 3 to prevent an increase in flood risk elsewhere.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
	will have upon the speed and severity of flooding in Greatford.		<p>However, the following measures relating to the hydrological environment are embedded into the design and construction of the Proposed Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50m watercourse buffers for major construction works (i.e. compound) with the exception of watercourse crossings along access tracks; and • 10m watercourse buffers for minor construction works (i.e. solar panel installation) with the exception of watercourse crossings along access tracks; • The Proposed Development will utilise existing access road and tracks already in place at this location, this will help to minimise ground disturbance and requirement for further watercourse crossings. <p>The Outline Surface Water Management Strategy details that soil availability will remain similar to the baseline scenario in relation to its availability to absorb surface water runoff.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
Greatford Parish Council	The construction of the solar farm will reduce the soil area available to receive rainfall as a circa 50% of the soil in the proposed panel area will be covered by panels, around 232 Ha undercover.	No	Surface water runoff from hardstanding areas associated with the Proposed Development will be managed by the SuDS measures detailed in the Outline Surface Water Management Strategy. The panels will have multiple drip lines with planting beneath to allow surface water to fall in multiple areas beneath the panel and not just the end. As such the areas beneath the panels are not impermeable, in line with the approach applied in other solar developments in the UK. RSuDS measures such as the use of grassland and wildflower mix under the PV Array drip lines will act to slow surface water flows.
Greatford Parish Council	The ability of the uncovered land to absorb the additional water running off the panels will be severely compromised as it will inevitably be compacted by construction traffic during the construction of the panel arrays. The PEIR states that the soil is at field capacity (ie full of water) for a minimum of 110 days per annum and any trafficking of the soil in this condition will inevitably cause severe compaction which significantly will reduce the ability of the soil to absorb water in the future.	No	The Outline Surface Water Management Strategy [EN010127/APP/6.2] details that hardstanding will not increase substantially across the Order Limits, especially under the PV Arrays meaning the ability of the soil to absorb and infiltrate rainfall will remain similar to the baseline scenario in relation to its availability to absorb surface water runoff.
Greatford Parish Council	Reduced infiltration and water holding in the soil will lead to increased runoff from the site. The	No	The Outline Surface Water Management Strategy details that soil availability will

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
	runoff will enter the West Glen River which is at present unable to cope with peak flows which leads to flooding in Greatford. Runoff will also enter drainage channels to the north of Greatford which flow directly to the village, and overflow into the village in periods of high rainfall.		remain similar to the baseline scenario in relation to its availability to absorb surface water runoff. The improvement of flood defences associated with the West Glen is managed by the EA. The FRA (ES Appendix 11.5 Flood Risk Assessment, [EN010127/APP/6.2] outlines the development will not increase flood risk elsewhere. For more information, please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Greatford Parish Council	Construction of panel arrays should not be permitted by the DCO when the soil in these areas is too wet to traffic without causing compaction.	No	The Outline Surface Water Management Strategy details that soil availability will remain similar to the baseline scenario in relation to its availability to absorb surface water runoff.
Greatford Parish Council	Also to protect Greatford from the flood risk posed by this a condition of the Development Consent Order (DCO) should be the improvement of flood defences for Greatford, such as the raising of the riverbank to contain the rapid runoff from the site after it enters the West Glen upstream of Greatford.	No	As outlined in Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] , defences along the River Gwash are located approximately 600m west of the Order and comprise privately owned engineered high ground. The flood defence is shown to have crest levels in the range of approximately 19.1 to 29.5m above ordnance datum (AOD) and a Standard of Protection (SoP) of 25 years.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
			<p>In addition, defences along the West Glen River run along the banks of the watercourse through the centre of the Order limits and comprise privately owned natural high ground. The flood defence is shown to have crest levels in the range of approximately 13.6m to 21.8m AOD and a SoP of 50 years. The improvement of flood defences associated with the West Glen is managed by the EA. The FRA in Appendix 11.5 Flood Risk Assessment of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.2] outlines the Proposed Development will not increase flood risk elsewhere.</p>
Environment Agency	<p>Surface hydrology – Water Framework Directive (WFD) We are generally satisfied with this section. Impacts on surface water quality must be avoided where possible or mitigated. It is therefore good to see proposed pollution prevention measures and a plan to monitor surface water quality in Appendix 12.2 before, during and after construction. Remedial actions must be taken if any deterioration is found.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.</p>
Environment Agency	<p>Although there are references to the WFD status of the West Glen (12.2.31) and the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) as implemented in England via the Water</p>	No	<p>As outlined in the GI Strategy, areas for potential solar development have been removed along the West Glen River corridor in order to remove the majority of</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
	Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (12.3.2), we have not found any clear acknowledgement that the project must prevent deterioration of current WFD status. As advised in our Scoping Opinion response, we would like to see proposals for measures that might be employed to improve the overall or elemental WFD status of the West Glen.		Solar PV Arrays from the flood plain. This has also provided the opportunity to reduce any potential impacts on protected species using the river corridor and provide ecological habitat enhancement. For more information on the GI Strategy, please see the Design and Access Statement [EN010127/APP/7.3] . The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	Flood risk Our review has included the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), located in PEIR Appendix 12.3 and relevant maps.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	As noted within the FRA and elsewhere, the River West Glen runs through the site.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	The site is largely in Flood Zone 1 of our Flood Map for Planning, indicating a low probability of flooding; there is therefore little concern in relation to fluvial flood risk.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	However, there are areas of the site adjacent to the River Glen within Flood Zones 2 and 3 (medium and high probability respectively). We are satisfied that the FRA has addressed this appropriately and would expect the	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
	mitigation measures within the FRA to be applied.		
Environment Agency	Flood Zone 3 is important for storing flood water; this has been addressed adequately with a proposed buffer strip between the river and proposed solar panel mounted structures (PEIR Table 5.13).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	We note from the FRA that the PV modules will be mounted on narrow footings, with the base a minimum of 0.8m above ground level and therefore above the 1% probability plus climate change modelled flood level. Electrically sensitive elements are to be located outside of the 1% annual probability plus climate change flood extent.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. As reported in Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, [EN010127/APP/6.1], of the ES, modelling of various flooding scenarios has been carried out, in consultation with the Environmental Agency, considering increases in rainfall intensities associated with climate change. In light of this, the Proposed Development infrastructure has been located outside areas identified to be at risk of flooding during a 1 in 100-year fluvial event, accounting for the increases in flows associated with climate change. This sequential design methodology ensures that the Proposed Development is not vulnerable to increases in rainfall intensities leading to extreme flood events.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
			The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	We would recommend that no solar panels should be located within Flood Zone 3 throughout the site, to protect the floodplain.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	Please note that our comments cover fluvial flood risk only. The relevant lead local flood authorities will advise on surface water runoff management to ensure flood risk will not be increased.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	Paragraph 12.4.16 of the FRA states that there are watercourse crossings required. We also note the proposed new nature area alongside the West Glen, with a permissive path and wet woodland. Any works within 8m of the river will require a flood risk activity permit as set out below:	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	<p>Environmental permitting</p> <p>The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 require a permit or exemption to be obtained for any activities which will take place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on or within 8 metres of a main river (16 metres if tidal) • on or within 8 metres of a flood defence structure or culverted main river (16 metres if tidal) • on or within 16 metres of a sea defence • involving quarrying or excavation within 16 metres of any main river, flood defence (including a remote defence) or culvert • in a floodplain more than 8 metres from the river 		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
	bank, culvert or flood defence structure (16 metres if it's a tidal main river) unless the works already have planning permission		
Environment Agency	For further guidance please visit https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits or contact our National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm) or by emailing enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk . The applicant should not assume that permits will automatically be forthcoming and we advise them to consult with us at the earliest opportunity.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board	Some of the proposed site is within the Extended Area of the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board	Within this area Under the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Land Drainage Act. 1991, the prior written consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council) is required for any proposed works or structures in any watercourse outside those designated main rivers and Internal Drainage Districts. At this location this Board acts as Agents for the Lead Local Flood Authority and as such any works, permanent or temporary, in any ditch, dyke or other such watercourse will require consent from the Board.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority and relevant Internal Drainage Boards will be obtained for any works where applicable.
Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board	It is noted that Reagan Duff of Arcus Consulting who is working on the project is aware of this and	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment and has no further comments.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
	other IDB areas. It is also noted there is a proposed 6m maintenance access strip adjacent to all watercourses.		
<p>Witham First District Internal Drainage Board Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board North East Lindsey Drainage Board</p>	<p>Some of the proposed site is within the 'extended area' of Upper Witham IDB.</p> <p>Within this area Under the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Land Drainage Act. 1991, the prior written consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council) is required for any proposed works or structures in any watercourse outside those designated main rivers and Internal Drainage Districts. At this location this Board acts as Agents for the Lead Local Flood Authority and as such any works, permanent or temporary, in any ditch, dyke or other such watercourse will require consent from the Board.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>Consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority and relevant Internal Drainage Boards will be obtained for any works where applicable.</p>
<p>Witham First District Internal Drainage Board Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board North East Lindsey Drainage Board</p>	<p>It is noted that Reagan Duff of Arcus Consulting who is working on the project is aware of this and other IDB areas. It is also noted there is a proposed 6m maintenance access strip adjacent to all watercourses.</p>		<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p>
Canal & River Trust	Having reviewed the location of the project and the relationship of the proposed solar project and	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
	associated development sites with our network, we do not believe that the proposals as shown would cross land owned or operated by the Trust. Our closest waterway is the Grantham Canal approximately 14miles north of the northernmost area of the site. Should the scheme be amended to potentially affect the Grantham Canal, we would welcome further consultation on the proposals, so that we can advise about any potential impact for our network.		
Anglian Water	I work for Anglian Water in the Water Resources team, and I am looking for a contact to speak to in relation to the Mallard Pass Solar Farm development near Essendine, Rutland. Under our WINEP (Water Industry National Environment Programme) we have identified the West Glen River as one of the rivers prioritised for river restoration works to help improve flow and habitat conditions in the river. The intention would be to carry out improvement works on the river within the next 2 years.	No	The Applicant met with engineers and designs in September 2022 to understand the interaction between the two projects.
Anglian Water	It would be very helpful if we could speak to someone within your team to understand how the development might influence any of our planned works on the river and any opportunities which might exist for collaboration.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment and met with engineers and designs in September 2022 to understand the interaction between the two projects.
Gareth Davies MP for Grantham and Stamford	Flooding risk - owing to the rain run-off being different for areas covered by PV arrays than for open land, this development increases the flood	No	As outlined in the FRA (ES Appendix 11.5 Flood Risk Assessment, [EN010127/APP/6.2] hydraulic modelling

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
	<p>risk to my constituents in Greatford and the surrounding areas along the West Glen River. Whilst I recognise that you have reduced development around the river, any increased risk is not acceptable.</p>		<p>of the surrounding watercourses has been conducted by the EA and their appointed partners, and this data was used to sequentially design the Proposed Development to locate PV Arrays outside of Flood Zone 3 to prevent an increase in flood risk elsewhere.</p> <p>However, the following measures relating to the hydrological environment are embedded into the design and construction of the Proposed Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50m watercourse buffers for major construction works (i.e. compound) with the exception of watercourse crossings along access tracks; and • 10m watercourse buffers for minor construction works (i.e. solar panel installation) with the exception of watercourse crossings along access tracks; • The Proposed Development will utilise existing access road and tracks already in place at this location, this will help to minimise ground disturbance and requirement for further watercourse crossings. <p>For more information, please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
			Ground Conditions of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	<p>Flooding The developers recognise that solar panels increase the risk of flooding but claim that the area around the site rarely experience floods. This is untrue. Greatford and Essendine have both experienced flooding in recent years, including of Essendine's 12th Century St Mary Magdalene Church. If given approval, the development would accelerate a trend of increasingly frequent floods and risk further damaging the property around the site.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the FRA [EN010127/APP/6.2], hydraulic modelling of the surrounding watercourses has been conducted by the EA and their appointed partners, and this data was used to sequentially design the Proposed Development to locate PV Arrays outside of Flood Zone 3 to prevent an increase in flood risk elsewhere. Further, the FRA outlines the Proposed Development will not increase flood risk elsewhere. However, the following mitigation measures relating to the hydrological environment are embedded into the design and construction of the Proposed Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50m watercourse buffers for major construction works (i.e. compound) with the exception of watercourse crossings along access tracks; and • 10m watercourse buffers for minor construction works (i.e. solar panel installation) with the exception of

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
			<p>watercourse crossings along access tracks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proposed Development will utilise existing access road and tracks already in place at this location, this will help to minimise ground disturbance and requirement for further watercourse crossings. <p>For more information, please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
			The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	There will be a risk of flooding from the runoff on the PV Panels themselves and possible chemical pollution to the water supplies of the area. The Environment Agency and Anglian Water have been contacted but according to the PER they have not given a response and further assessment of public water supplies will be needed from these two agencies.	No	Surface water runoff from hardstanding areas associated with the Proposed Development will be managed by the SuDS measures detailed in the Outline Surface Water Management Strategy. The panels will have multiple drip lines with planting beneath to allow surface water to fall in multiple areas beneath the panel and not just the end. As such the areas beneath the panels are not impermeable, in line with the approach applied in other solar developments in the UK. RSuDS measures such as the use of grassland and wildflower mix under the PV Array drip lines will act to slow surface water flows. Pollution prevention measures are outlined in the oCEMP and oWMP [EN010127/APP/7.6]
Environment Agency	There is one section of mitigation area which sits along both sides of a very straightened section of the West Glen (screenshot below). If you look on	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
	satellite imagery and LiDAR you can see that there were historically some meanders at this location:		The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	There could be value in investigating opportunities to improve the morphology of the channel and the connectivity between the river and its floodplain.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	The flood risk activity permit requirement would apply to any works within 8m of the existing watercourse.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Stamford Town Council	<p>Water Resources and Ground Conditions</p> <p>There will be a risk of flooding from the runoff on the PV Panels themselves and possible chemical pollution to the water supplies of the area. The Environment Agency and Anglian Water have been contacted but according to the PEIR they have not given a response and further assessment of public water supplies will be needed from these two agencies.</p>	No	<p>Surface water runoff from hardstanding areas associated with the Proposed Development will be managed by the measures detailed in the Outline Surface Water Management Strategy and will include RSuDS techniques such as the use of a wildflower or grassland mix under the PV Array drip lines.</p> <p>Given the isolated areas of potential contamination, the impacts associated with the migration of pollutants from contaminated land are considered to be of Negligible Magnitude for receptors of High Sensitivity, such as watercourses, drainage ditches, coastal waters and groundwater. Therefore, this is considered Not Significant. Please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions,</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Water Resources and Flood Risk			
			<p>[EN010127/APP/6.1], for more information.</p> <p>Pollution prevention measures are outlined in the oCEMP [EN010127/APP/7.6] and oWMP [EN010127/APP/7.13]. Further, the appointed maintenance contractor will have management procedures to prevent spillage impacts of cleaning chemicals.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
South Kesteven District Council	<p>The proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm would represent a solar development on an unparalleled scale, particularly for this rural context. Whilst the proposed development would make a positive contribution to reducing carbon emissions over its proposed life span, there would undoubtedly be adverse effects that need to be balanced against the benefits. SKDC is robustly challenging the information provided with this pre-application on the grounds of potential detriment to our agricultural output, harms to our environment and communities. Therefore, of paramount importance is the requested further information identified below.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], not all areas of the Site would contain solar development and 234ha of agricultural farmland would continue to be managed under an agricultural regime. In addition, fields that are completely Grade 2 fields have been removed, however, fields with Grade 2 within them will remain. The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.</p>
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Agricultural Land Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate review issued to RCC 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Arboriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments. Chapter scoped out of final ES. • Arboricultural Impact Assessment to be completed. 	No	<p>As outlined in Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1], measures to protect trees from accidental damage during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development have been set out within the oCEMP and the oDEMP. The management of trees (as well as other landscape elements) will be</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			undertaken in accordance with the oLEMP. The oLEMP will be implemented by qualified arboriculturists where required to avoid adverse effects on trees during the operational phase. Therefore, no additional mitigation is required to avoid significant adverse effects on trees.
South Kesteven District Council	General comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source of stone for paths/roads? • Minor typos - as to be expected in a document of this length 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment however to date there are no procurement contracts in place regarding the sourcing of materials for paths/roads. For more information on how the Applicant intends to create opportunities for the improvement and employment of local skills and engage in ethical procurement for the Proposed Development, please see the Outline, Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/7.10] .
South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate resilient planting to be included addressed; and 	No	All new planting specifications will be resilient to a changing climate to ensure the longevity of planting throughout the lifespan of the Proposed Development. This is outlined in the Design and Access Statement, [EN010127/APP/7.3] .
South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary mitigation measures should be clearly specified. 	No	This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12:

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			Land Use and Soils, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
South Kesteven District Council	1 Introduction 1.1 Reading Agricultural Consultants Ltd (RAC) is instructed by Stantec UK Limited on behalf of Rutland County Council and South Kesteven District Council to undertake a technical review of the Agricultural Land and Soils chapter of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the technical appendix produced in support of the application for the Mallard Pass Solar Project.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	1.2 The technical appendix (Appendix 13.1) comprises an Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) report prepared by Kernon Countryside Consultants Ltd (KCC). The report details the site and soil conditions and classifies the agricultural land based on the findings of a semi-detailed survey. In total, 217 observations were made across the site area of 906ha, giving an observation density of approximately one per four hectares. The survey classified approximately half of the land (415ha or 47%) as Subgrade 3b, a large portion (320ha or 36%) as Subgrade 3a, around one-fifth (110ha or 12%) as Grade 2, and around 10ha or 1% as Grade 4.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
South Kesteven District Council	1.3 The report comprises: • Section 1, Introduction;	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2, Methodology; • Section 3, Known and Predictive Land Quality; • Section 4, Factors Affecting Land Quality; • Section 5, ALC Grading of the Site • Annex 1, Natural England Technical Information Note TIN0491; • Annex 2, Available ALC from www.magic.gov.uk; • Annex 3, Soil Profile Log; • Annex 4, Description of Soil Pits; • Annex 5, Certificate of Analysis; • Plan KCC3051/01A Auger Point Plan; and • Plan KCC3051/02A Agricultural Land Classification Plan. 		
South Kesteven District Council	1.4 In addition, a review has been undertaken of Appendix 13.2, Agricultural Land Use Assessment Methodology; and Chapter 13, Agricultural Land and Soils of Volume 1 of the PEIR.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	2 Background to Agricultural Land Classification 2.1 Guidance for assessing the quality of agricultural land in England and Wales is set out in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land ² , and summarised in Natural England's TIN049.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	2.2 Agricultural land in England and Wales is graded between 1 and 5, depending on the extent to which physical or chemical characteristics impose long-term limitations on agricultural use. The principal physical factors influencing grading	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	are climate, site conditions and soil which, together with interactions between them, form the basis for classifying land into one of the five grades.		
South Kesteven District Council	2.3 Grade 1 land is excellent quality agricultural land with very minor or no limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown, and yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	2.4 Grade 2 is very good quality agricultural land, with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can usually be grown but there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	2.5 Grade 3 land has moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield, and is subdivided into Subgrade 3a (good quality land) and Subgrade 3b (moderate quality land).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	2.6 Subgrade 3a land is capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops or moderate yields of a wide range of crops. Subgrade 3b is land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
South Kesteven District Council	2.7 Grade 4 land is poor quality agricultural land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or level of yields.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	2.8 Grade 5 is very poor quality land, with severe limitations which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	2.9 Land which is classified as Grades 1, 2 and 3a in the ALC system is defined in Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework ³ (NPPF) as best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	2.10 As explained in Natural England's TIN049, the whole of England and Wales was mapped from reconnaissance field surveys in the late 1960s and early 1970s, to provide general strategic guidance on agricultural land quality for planners. This Provisional Series of maps was published on an Ordnance Survey base at a scale of One Inch to One Mile (1:63,360). The Provisional ALC map shows the site undifferentiated Grade 3. However, TIN049 explains that: "These maps are not sufficiently accurate for use in assessment of individual fields or development sites, and should not be used other than as general guidance. They show only five grades: their preparation preceded the subdivision of Grade 3 and the refinement of criteria, which occurred after 1976. They have not been updated and are out of print. A 1:250 000 scale map series based on the same information is	No	An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	available. These are more appropriate for the strategic use originally intended ..."		
South Kesteven District Council	2.11 TIN049 goes on to explain that a definitive ALC grading should be obtained by undertaking a detailed survey according to the published guidelines, at an observation density of one boring per hectare. The site had not previously been surveyed.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The chapter presents the methodology followed and provides a review of the baseline conditions in the vicinity of the Proposed Development and surrounding area.</p> <p>The chapter then presents the results of the assessment and the impact of the Proposed Development on the baseline environment in order to determine the anticipated magnitude of impact and significance of effect. Mitigation measures are presented and discussed to minimise the impacts of the Proposed Development during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases to an acceptable level.</p>
South Kesteven District Council	<p>3 Technical Review of the ALC Survey Report</p> <p>3.1 The data, report and conclusions have been reviewed, as summarised in Table 1 below. The review has concentrated on the methodology and approach used in the survey, the quality and consistency of data with published data, and the interpretation of the data in the light of the ALC</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	guidelines. The review has had regard to the British Society of Soil Science Guidance Document 1 on assessing ALC surveys ⁴ .		
South Kesteven District Council	The survey was carried out at a semi-detailed scale of one observation per 4ha. This does not accord with Natural England's TIN049 recommendation of one observation per hectare for detailed surveys. Although TIN049 does not comment on semi-detailed surveys, it is common practice on very large sites such as this to reduce the observation density as ALC surveys are time consuming and expensive.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	However, it is often advisable within the survey to increase the observation density in those parts of the site where BMV land is found in order to define the extent of BMV land accurately. It is noted in paragraph 5.2 that "the soils within the Site are ... quite variable spatially over short distances... This leads to a quite complex pattern of ALC Grade". The survey was generally undertaken on a regular 200m x 200m grid pattern and so may have missed localised variability that has been acknowledged to exist.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment and removed fields that are completely Grade 2 fields. However, some fields with Grade 2 within them mixed with other grades will remain. The methodology of Agricultural Land Use Assessment is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
South Kesteven District Council	Generally Yes but with some minor comments and inconsistencies: • The site extends to 906ha (as in paragraph 1.1) but the classification in Table 5 (including non-agricultural/other land and urban land) is of 889ha.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
South Kesteven District Council	The report references and provides extracts from the Provisional ALC, the Predictive BMV and the available detailed ALC maps.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	The report contains no description of the main soil types found or an indication of their distribution.	No	This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
South Kesteven District Council	209 profile logs are appended to the report; six are omitted. No reason given. 46 soil profiles are not logged to a full depth of 120cm due to increasing stoniness/limestone in the subsoil. The soil profile logs in Annex 3 are set out for 11 'sites' which, as explained in paragraph 2.4, were established for the purposes of organising and managing the ALC survey. These sites bear no relation to the development proposals (e.g. areas proposed for solar panels, areas for mitigation etc) and the presentation of data in this format is not particularly helpful to the reader or for cross-referencing with other parts of the PEIR.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	There is variability between the profiles, as would be expected in a natural soil. The soil profile logs are generally consistent with the mapped soil descriptions.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Two pits were dug. More pits would be expected in a site of this size (over 900ha) and with five soil	No	An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	<p>associations mapped. There should be a soil pit per main soil type identified but, as the report is silent on the number of soil types actually identified during the survey, the number of pits that should have been dug is unknown.</p> <p>Annex 4, Description of Soil Pits includes two recording sheets for the soil pit data. One of the two is incomplete (no ALC grade given; topsoil shown as borderline medium clay loam/heavy clay loam (not verified by laboratory analysis); the log notes limestone at 30cm but it is not noted whether the limestone is solid, fragmented or very stony).</p>		<p>Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p>
South Kesteven District Council	Three samples were analysed and demonstrate a range of textures (heavy clay loam, sandy silt loam, clay) but this is a low number to cover approximately 900ha of land.	No	For more information regarding the Applicant's Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Furthermore, the samples are not distributed evenly across the site but are all from the east. Neither of the pit locations was sampled which is surprising given that the texture is described as borderline medium clay loam/heavy clay loam which could influence grading.</p> <p>Profile 119 is shown in Table 2 as a medium sandy silt loam (based on the laboratory analysis) but recorded and assessed as a medium clay loam in Annex 3. If this sample was used as a typical</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>Please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices for more information.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	example of a soil texture found on site, it is possible that many other profile logs shown as medium clay loam should be described as sandy silt loam, which again could influence grading, potentially over large areas of the site. There are no profile logs in Annex 3 shown with a sandy silt loam topsoil.		
South Kesteven District Council	<p>As above, profiles that could have sandy silt loam topsoils (on the basis of laboratory analysis) but classified on the basis of medium clay loam topsoils may not be correctly graded (and could be upgraded).</p> <p>Similarly, those profiles borderline to medium and heavy clay loam as found in one of the soil pits, may not be correctly graded.</p> <p>Profiles logged as being limited by droughtiness to Grade 4 may not be graded correctly. If the limestone is soft or fragmented/fissured, the limitation would be less severe to Subgrade 3b.</p> <p>Similarly, deeper profiles with fewer stones listed as Subgrade 3b could improve to Subgrade 3a.</p> <p>See Appendix 2 for a comparison of the calculations for the applicable profiles.</p>	No	<p>An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p>
South Kesteven District Council	Only one profile (201) is noted as having a topsoil stone limitation. Several profiles have undeclared topsoil stone limitations equal to the reported most limiting factor (wetness or droughtiness) but based on the percentages of stone larger than 2cm and 6cm, a more severe limitation is applicable to:	No	This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile 69 to Subgrade 3b (currently 3a); • Profile 83 to Subgrade 3b (currently 3a); • Profile 179 to Subgrade 3b (currently 3a); • Profile 198 to Subgrade 3a (currently 2); • Profile 203 to Subgrade 3b (currently 3a). 		
South Kesteven District Council	For completeness, photographs should be included, particularly to illustrate the structures identified from the soil pits and the nature of the underlying limestone.	No	This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
South Kesteven District Council	Overall, whilst there are a number of mostly minor errors, inconsistencies and uncertainties, and areas where clear improvements could be made, the survey is considered to be adequate to describe the agricultural land quality of a very large site. Further work could be carried out to address the deficiencies identified above, in particular where observations are borderline to soil textures and grading.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more detailed information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
South Kesteven District Council	4 Review of PEIR Chapter and Impact Assessment Introduction and Background 4.1 The Agricultural Land and Soils Chapter considers the effects of the Proposed Development on agricultural land and businesses through the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	The section identifies three key receptors; agricultural land quality, soil structure and local	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the DAS,

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	<p>farm businesses.</p> <p>Soil structure is a very specific receptor, and it would be more commonplace to assess the effects of a development on a soil resource.</p> <p>Perhaps the most obvious effect of removing approximately 900ha of agricultural land from agricultural production for a period of 40 years is the effect on food production but this effect has not been addressed in the assessment.</p>		<p>[EN010127/APP/7.3] not all areas of the Site would contain solar development and 234ha of agricultural farmland would continue to be managed under an agricultural regime.</p> <p>In addition, fields that are completely Grade 2 fields have been removed, however, fields with Grade 2 within them mixed with other grades will remain.</p> <p>Further, the majority of Mitigation and Enhancement Areas identified on the Green Infrastructure Strategy will support agricultural uses, including arable production. A total of 234ha of the Site will be retained in arable farmland.</p> <p>The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.</p>
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Paragraph 13.2.4 indicates that the ALC survey undertaken has made it possible to map the distribution of land quality and soil types. No map showing the distribution of soil types has been presented in Appendix 13.1.</p> <p>Table 13.2 presents the ALC grades for a larger area than the current proposal for the solar PV area which is 463ha (in paragraph 3.1.4). The ALC</p>	No	<p>This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	of the current proposal is not stated (and presumably therefore not assessed).		
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Not the same receptor as identified in 13.2.1. 13.2.8 states that the soils identified in the survey were grouped into the five associations – but this is not evident from the survey report. The five mapped soil associations are described in the survey report but the actual observed soil profiles are not described outside the survey logs, let alone grouped into associations.</p> <p>Paragraph 13.2.11 states that “the better quality land has soils least susceptible to damage from construction traffic”. This statement is not strictly true: there are profiles of Subgrade 3a quality with heavy clay loam or clay topsoil, and profiles of Subgrade 3b quality with medium clay loam topsoil. As well as reporting what might be affected, this section explains how soils would be affected, how effects would be mitigated and what further consultation will take place.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p> <p>The nature of the Proposed Development will not significantly impact the quality of soils which will be of the same quality as the existing scenario. The oCMP and subsequent oDMP will prevent impacts on the quality of soils during the construction and decommissioning phases.</p>
South Kesteven District Council	<p>The section lacks specific data on the four farm businesses occupying the site, other than they are mostly arable.</p> <p>The section also summarises the assessment (only a proportion of the wider farm holdings, no key infrastructure affected).</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The farm businesses all stated that, although agricultural practices within the Order limits will change, continued arable use is considered very unlikely to change across their wider land areas outside the Order limits. Within the Order limits a proportion of the mitigation and enhancement areas will continue to be</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<p>farmed, whilst land management, which could include sheep grazing, will take place within the Order limits.</p> <p>Once the Proposed Development is operational, the owners of the four farm operations within the Order limits predict that the 13 FTEs currently directly supported will remain the same and that the diversification of operations will help to sustain their commercial viability.</p>
South Kesteven District Council	Reference made to Appendix 13.2 which relies to a large extent on IEMA guidance for land and soil.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	The IEMA guidance is quite prescriptive and its use in this particular instance leads to a number of questions as to its widespread application. All BMV land is assessed in the guidance as being of high or very high sensitivity, such that any impact above a negligible impact (more than 5ha of permanent sealing, for example) will lead the assessor to identify a significant effect on agricultural land. That does not seem a helpful approach to take for the decision maker in this case where potentially 900ha of land is affected and the ES identifies that BMV land is not a rare resource nationally (paragraph 13.3.6) or regionally (paragraph 13.4.11), and where policy is that BMV land should be avoided “where possible” but “should not be a predominating factor in determining the suitability of the site location.” The use of this guidance	No	<p>An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	therefore suggests that the sensitivity of the land has been overstated, leading to results that do not differentiate in any helpful manner between different levels of effect on the resource.		
South Kesteven District Council	The soil sensitivity criteria in Appendix 13.2 and paragraph 13.3.11 concentrate on 'high clay soils' which is not a known soil category description. Paragraph 13.3.11 identifies the high sensitivity soils in the wetter regions but this is of no relevance to this assessment which is concerned with soils in a dry region. There is no indication of which soils on the site are of high sensitivity. The section does not describe how the magnitude of impact on the soil resource has been assessed. Table 13.4 identifies the sensitivity of soils as mostly medium, without explanation, and the magnitude of impact as minor, without explanation.	No	This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
South Kesteven District Council	The section identifies that the effect on agricultural land is expected to be adverse moderate or large. The effect during construction on soil resources does not appear to have been assessed (the summary Table 13.4 says slight adverse effect but there is no text to support this). The assessment in paragraph 13.4.3 that the magnitude of effect on farm businesses will be moderate adverse seems overstated, given the definition in Appendix 13.2. The only impact identified – “closure or severance of field accesses at key times of the farming year” – does not equate	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment The nature of the Proposed Development will not significantly impact the quality of soils which will be of the same quality as the existing scenario. The oCMP and subsequent oDMP will prevent impacts on the quality of soils during the construction and decommissioning phases. In addition to this, an Outline Soil Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO Application, and details

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	<p>to “The impact of the development would require significant changes in the day-to-day management of a full-time agricultural business, or closure of a part-time agricultural business.”</p> <p>Table 13.4 identifies the magnitude as minor adverse, giving rise to a slight adverse effect, which is not consistent with the text but seems more appropriate.</p>		<p>the handling of soils through the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p>
<p>South Kesteven District Council</p>	<p>The assessment of agricultural land used during the operation of the solar farm refers to Table 3.2 which is not correct for the current proposal of 463ha of land for solar PV arrays.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p>
<p>South Kesteven District Council</p>	<p>There is no assessment of the consequential effects on food supplies of taking nearly 900ha out of arable production for a period of 40 years other than an unsubstantiated comment in paragraph 13.4.11 that “the removal of the Solar PV Site from agricultural production is considered to be insignificant in a regional context”.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards. Please see the Design and Access Statement, [EN010127/APP/7.3] and Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p> <p>The assessment of likely cumulative effects will be undertaken and will set out measures envisaged to reduce or avoid any identified significant adverse cumulative effects and, where appropriate, any proposed monitoring</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			arrangements. For more information, please see Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Cumulative Summary, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
South Kesteven District Council	All effects on decommissioning are identified as adverse but there could be beneficial effects from bringing land that has laid fallow for 40 years back into food production.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	No comments, other than careful management and soil handling in the CEMP does not mitigate the effect on agricultural land loss/sealing.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
South Kesteven District Council	Given that agricultural land loss/sealing is not mitigated by careful soil handling, it is not clear how a moderate or large adverse effect on agricultural land can be reduced to a slight adverse residual effect in Table 13.4.	No	The nature of the Proposed Development will not significantly impact the quality of soils which will be of the same quality as the existing scenario. The oCEMP and subsequent oDEMP will prevent impacts on the quality of soils during the construction and decommissioning phases. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
South Kesteven District Council	ALC assessment not consistent with previous text that identified a moderate or large adverse effect on BMV agricultural land (that is not mitigated by a CEMP).	No	An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
South Kesteven District Council	Paragraph 13.8.5 is finally a recognition that the potential to use approximately 900ha of land for arable or livestock uses will be reduced as a result of the proposal. The conclusion is “that is neither a policy not an environmental impact” appears too much of a throwaway comment for a very clear consequential effect of the proposal.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment, however the impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.
South Kesteven District Council	5 Conclusions 5.1 The site of the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm was subject to a semi-detailed ALC survey in winter 2021. Other than the scale, the survey followed the established guidelines and methodology for classifying agricultural land. The survey work was undertaken by competent surveyors, each with decades of experience.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	5.4 However, many profiles were not assessed to a full depth of 120cm. As demonstrated, depending on what was below the assessed depth, profiles currently assessed as Grade 4 may all be upgraded to Subgrade 3b, and a small number of profiles in Subgrade 3b will upgrade to Subgrade 3a. This will affect grade boundaries. Other limitations have been identified during the process of the peer review that are not stated in the report.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	5.5 Although pits were dug and samples were submitted for laboratory analysis, there are too few	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment, and fields that are completely

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	to constitute a fully robust assessment considering the size of the site. Where BMV land was identified, the observation density should ideally have been increased.		Grade 2 fields have been removed, however, fields with Grade 2 within them will remain.
South Kesteven District Council	5.6 Overall, the quality and clarity of the assessment in the Agricultural Land and Soils PEIR Chapter could be much improved. The chapter does not assess the up-to-date proposal for the solar PV arrays as set out in Chapter 5 but a previous iteration of the scheme which does not inspire confidence. The assessment methodology and criteria need consideration if the conclusion is reached that the loss of less than 5ha of BMV agricultural land from soil sealing is a moderate or large adverse effect (which incidentally cannot be mitigated by careful soil handling, as claimed in the chapter) but the consequential effect of removing approximately 900ha of agricultural land from food production for a period of 40 years is not even assessed.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	3.Lack of local benefits	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	4.Loss of productive agricultural land		The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the Design and Access Statement (DAS), [EN010127/APP/7.3] , not all areas of the Site would contain solar development and 234ha of agricultural farmland would

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<p>continue to be managed under an agricultural regime. In addition, fields that are completely Grade 2 fields have been removed, however, fields with Grade 2 within them will remain.</p> <p>The Applicant has prepared an outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) to support the DCO application. The decommissioning phase would include the removal of any permissive paths and potential reversion of grassland underneath the Solar PV Arrays. Any planting of trees, hedgerows, and scrubs will remain in-situ when the Site is handed back to landowners. Landowners can then use their land for whatever they wish.</p> <p>The majority of Mitigation and Enhancement Areas identified on the Green Infrastructure Strategy will support agricultural uses, including arable production. A total of 234ha of the Site will be retained in arable farmland. In addition to the above, an Outline Soil Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO Application, and details the handling of soils through the construction, operational and</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.Loss of residential amenity	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties through 50m offsets for solar stations from PRowS and 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties.</p> <p>All existing PRowS will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset from PRowS to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRowS.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.</p>
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	8.Cumulative impacts alongside other developments	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The assessment of likely cumulative effects will be undertaken and will set out measures envisaged to reduce or avoid any identified significant adverse cumulative effects and, where</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			appropriate, any proposed monitoring arrangements. For more information, please see Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	15.Detrimental impact on recreational amenity, including use of public right of way networks	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties through 50m offsets for solar stations from PRowS and 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties.</p> <p>All existing PRowS will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset from PRowS to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRowS.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.</p>
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.4 The proposed development scheme would involve the diversification of existing farmland and, therefore, falls within the “rural diversification project” exception identified above.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>5.5 Impact on Agricultural Land Quality</p> <p>5.5.1 As referenced above, Policy SD1 (Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven) seeks to enhance the District's natural environment, and likewise, Policy SP1 (Spatial Strategy) identifies that development affecting best and most versatile agricultural land will only be permitted if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •There is insufficient lower grade land available at that settlement (unless development of such lower grade land would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations); and •Where feasible, once any development which is permitted has ceased its useful life, the land will be restored to its former use and will be of at least equal quality to that which existed prior to the development taking place (this requirement will be secured by planning condition where appropriate). 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The combination of measures identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy results in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers against the Department for Agricultural and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1. The Order limits was selected on the basis that it was predominantly Grade 3, offering the potential for Grade 3b land subject to further survey, with small pockets of Grade 2. This was also supplemented by initial conversations with the landowners regarding the quality and viability of the Order limits for agriculture. Following further analysis, some additional Grade 2 land was identified and as noted below, where this was in single fields, this was removed from the areas proposed for PV Arrays. The regional level ALC maps show that the agricultural land within relatively close proximity to the grid connection is either Grade 2 or 3, with higher quality land (Grade 1) further east of Peterborough. There are very small pockets of Grade 4 land, coinciding with the SSSIs to the</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<p>north of Pickworth, but none of sufficient size to deliver a solar farm and there would be the potential for significant adverse effects on the SSSIs. Further information on ALC is provided in Chapter 13 of this ES [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>An outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) has been prepared to support the DCO application. The decommissioning phase would include the removal of any permissive paths and potential reversion of grassland underneath the Solar PV Arrays. Any planting of trees, hedgerows, and scrubs will remain in-situ when the Site is handed back to landowners. Landowners can then use their land for whatever they wish. Further, the majority of Mitigation and Enhancement Areas identified on the Green Infrastructure Strategy will support agricultural uses, including arable production. A total of 234ha of the Site will be retained in arable farmland. In addition to the above, an Outline Soil Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO Application, and details the handling of soils through the</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>5.5.3 Criterion 9 also provides guidance in relation to the layout of any solar development on such sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Solar technology should be sited at the periphery of fields rather than in central positions. ii. Where it is not possible to locate on the periphery due to physical constraints or another material consideration rendering such positioning unviable, the development should be sited in a strategic position which avoids unnecessary disruption to agricultural operations. iii. At the end of the operational life of the installation, all equipment should be removed in its entirety and the land restored to its former use. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The Order limits was selected on the basis that it was predominantly Grade 3, offering the potential for Grade 3b land subject to further survey, with small pockets of Grade 2. This was also supplemented by initial conversations with the landowners regarding the quality and viability of the Order limits for agriculture. Following further analysis, some additional Grade 2 land was identified and as noted below, where this was in single fields, this was removed from the areas proposed for PV Arrays. Further information on ALC is provided in Chapter 13 of this ES [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. An outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) has been prepared to support the DCO application. The decommissioning phase would include the removal of any permissive paths and potential reversion of grassland</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			underneath the Solar PV Arrays. Any planting of trees, hedgerows, and scrubs will remain in-situ when the Site is handed back to landowners. Landowners can then use their land for whatever they wish.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.9 Cumulative Impacts 5.9.1 Criterion 3 of the Renewable Energy Appendix requires a cumulative impact assessment to be undertaken to consider the impact of any other solar farms that are either visible or will be visible from the site or in views to the site. Such assessment is required to consider solar farm developments that are under construction, consented or the subject of a valid planning application, or formally notified at the scoping stage. The study area for cumulative assessment shall be proportionate to the size of the development and enable the assessment to focus on significant cumulative effects.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The assessment of likely cumulative effects will be undertaken and will set out measures envisaged to reduce or avoid any identified significant adverse cumulative effects and, where appropriate, any proposed monitoring arrangements. For more information, please see Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Cumulative Summary, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	6.4 These areas were chosen for focus as part of this stage two consultation, recognising the role and input from statutory consultees and other local experts on other topic areas. It also recognises the topics where potential environmental effects could be significant. Chapter 20 of the PEIR presents the potential significant environmental effects of the proposed development and the proposed mitigation measures and the residual effects for each of the	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	<p>assessed environmental topics. In summary, prior to mitigation, significant effects are predicted in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Land 		
<p>South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee</p>	<p>6.9 Peer Review of the Agricultural Land and Soils PEIR Chapter and Appendix prepared by LDA Design (July 2022)</p> <p>6.9.1 The report provides a detailed technical review of the agricultural land classification survey and reviews the PEIR chapter and impact assessment. The report draws the following conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The site of the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm was subject to a semi-detailed ALC survey in winter 2021. Other than the scale, the survey followed the established guidelines and methodology for classifying agricultural land. The survey work was undertaken by competent surveyors, each with decades of experience. • Although spread out across multiple sections within the technical appendix, the background data is all present and correct. The report includes the profile logs, results of laboratory analysis and pit descriptions which are all required in best practice. • There are a few mistakes in the WC allocations in the profile logs but, given the volume of data, some minor errors are to be expected. • However, many profiles were not assessed to a full depth of 120cm. As demonstrated, depending 	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	<p>on what was below the assessed depth, profiles currently assessed as Grade 4 may all be upgraded to Subgrade 3b, and a small number of profiles in Subgrade 3b will upgrade to Subgrade 3a. This will affect grade boundaries. Other limitations have been identified during the process of the peer review that are not stated in the report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although pits were dug and samples were submitted for laboratory analysis, there are too few to constitute a fully robust assessment considering the size of the site. Where BMV land was identified, the observation density should ideally have been increased. • Overall, the quality and clarity of the assessment in the Agricultural Land and Soils PEIR Chapter could be much improved. The chapter does not assess the up-to-date proposal for the solar PV arrays as set out in Chapter 5 but a previous iteration of the scheme which does not inspire confidence. The assessment methodology and criteria need consideration if the conclusion is reached that the loss of less than 5ha of BMV agricultural land from soil sealing is a moderate or large adverse effect (which incidentally cannot be mitigated by careful soil handling, as claimed in the chapter) but the consequential effect of removing approximately 900ha of agricultural land from food production for a period of 40 years is not even assessed.” 		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The loss of BMV agricultural land is of critical concern to the council and this will need to be addressed and covered in detail as part of any formal submission. It should also consider the cumulative impacts of other NSIP projects which are also proposed within the wider Lincolnshire area and the potential wider loss of BMV land. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment, and notes that an Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p> <p>The assessment of likely cumulative effects will be undertaken and will set out measures envisaged to reduce or avoid any identified significant adverse cumulative effects and, where appropriate, any proposed monitoring arrangements. For more information, please see Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Cumulative Summary, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate resilient planting to be included addressed; and 	No	All new planting specifications will be resilient to a changing climate to ensure the longevity of planting throughout the

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			lifespan of the Proposed Development. This is outlined in the Design and Access Statement, [EN010127/APP/7.3] .
Rutland County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary mitigation measures should be clearly specified. 	No	This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Rutland County Council	<p>Agricultural Land Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate review issued to RCC 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	<p>Arboriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments. Chapter scoped out of final ES. • Arboricultural Impact Assessment to be completed. 	No	As outlined in Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics, [EN010127/APP/6.1] , measures to protect trees from accidental damage during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development have been set out within the oCEMP and the oDEMP. The management of trees (as well as other landscape elements) will be undertaken in accordance with the oLEMP. The oLEMP will be implemented by qualified arboriculturists where required to avoid adverse effects on trees during the operational phase. Therefore, no additional mitigation is required to avoid significant adverse effects on trees.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
Rutland County Council	General comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source of stone for paths/roads? • Minor typos - as to be expected in a document of this length 		The Applicant makes note of this comment however to date there are no procurement contracts in place regarding the sourcing of materials for paths/roads. For more information on how the Applicant intends to create opportunities for the improvement and employment of local skills and engage in ethical procurement for the Proposed Development, please see the Outline, Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan, of the ES [EN010127/APP/7.10] .
Rutland County Council	1 Introduction 1.1 Reading Agricultural Consultants Ltd (RAC) is instructed by Stantec UK Limited on behalf of Rutland County Council to undertake a technical review of the Agricultural Land and Soils chapter of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and the technical appendix produced in support of the application for the Mallard Pass Solar Project.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	1.2 The technical appendix (Appendix 13.1) comprises an Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) report prepared by Kernon Countryside Consultants Ltd (KCC). The report details the site and soil conditions and classifies the agricultural land based on the findings of a semi-detailed survey. In total, 217 observations were made across the site area of 906ha, giving an	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	observation density of approximately one per four hectares. The survey classified approximately half of the land (415ha or 47%) as Subgrade 3b, a large portion (320ha or 36%) as Subgrade 3a, around one-fifth (110ha or 12%) as Grade 2, and around 10ha or 1% as Grade 4.		
Rutland County Council	1.3 The report comprises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1, Introduction; • Section 2, Methodology; • Section 3, Known and Predictive Land Quality; • Section 4, Factors Affecting Land Quality; • Section 5, ALC Grading of the Site • Annex 1, Natural England Technical Information Note TIN0491; • Annex 2, Available ALC from www.magic.gov.uk; • Annex 3, Soil Profile Log; • Annex 4, Description of Soil Pits; • Annex 5, Certificate of Analysis; • Plan KCC3051/01A Auger Point Plan; and • Plan KCC3051/02A Agricultural Land Classification Plan. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	1.4 In addition, a review has been undertaken of Appendix 13.2, Agricultural Land Use Assessment Methodology; and Chapter 13, Agricultural Land and Soils of Volume 1 of the PEIR.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	2 Background to Agricultural Land Classification 2.1 Guidance for assessing the quality of agricultural land in England and Wales is set out in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	(MAFF) revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land ² , and summarised in Natural England's TIN049.		
Rutland County Council	2.2 Agricultural land in England and Wales is graded between 1 and 5, depending on the extent to which physical or chemical characteristics impose long-term limitations on agricultural use. The principal physical factors influencing grading are climate, site conditions and soil which, together with interactions between them, form the basis for classifying land into one of the five grades.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	2.3 Grade 1 land is excellent quality agricultural land with very minor or no limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown, and yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	2.4 Grade 2 is very good quality agricultural land, with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can usually be grown but there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	2.5 Grade 3 land has moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield, and is	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	subdivided into Subgrade 3a (good quality land) and Subgrade 3b (moderate quality land).		
Rutland County Council	2.6 Subgrade 3a land is capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops or moderate yields of a wide range of crops. Subgrade 3b is land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	2.7 Grade 4 land is poor quality agricultural land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or level of yields.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	2.8 Grade 5 is very poor quality land, with severe limitations which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	2.9 Land which is classified as Grades 1, 2 and 3a in the ALC system is defined in Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework ³ (NPPF) as best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	2.10 As explained in Natural England's TIN049, the whole of England and Wales was mapped from reconnaissance field surveys in the late 1960s and early 1970s, to provide general strategic guidance on agricultural land quality for planners. This Provisional Series of maps was published on an Ordnance Survey base at a scale of One Inch to One Mile (1:63,360). The Provisional ALC map shows the site undifferentiated Grade 3. However, TIN049 explains that: "These maps are not	No	An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	sufficiently accurate for use in assessment of individual fields or development sites, and should not be used other than as general guidance. They show only five grades: their preparation preceded the subdivision of Grade 3 and the refinement of criteria, which occurred after 1976. They have not been updated and are out of print. A 1:250 000 scale map series based on the same information is available. These are more appropriate for the strategic use originally intended ..."		(18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Rutland County Council	2.11 TIN049 goes on to explain that a definitive ALC grading should be obtained by undertaking a detailed survey according to the published guidelines, at an observation density of one boring per hectare. The site had not previously been surveyed.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] . The chapter presents the methodology followed and provides a review of the baseline conditions in the vicinity of the Proposed Development and surrounding area. The chapter then presents the results of the assessment and the impact of the Proposed Development on the baseline environment in order to determine the anticipated magnitude of impact and significance of effect. Mitigation measures are presented and discussed to minimise the impacts of the Proposed Development during the construction,

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			operation, and decommissioning phases to an acceptable level.
Rutland County Council	3 Technical Review of the ALC Survey Report 3.1 The data, report and conclusions have been reviewed, as summarised in Table 1 below. The review has concentrated on the methodology and approach used in the survey, the quality and consistency of data with published data, and the interpretation of the data in the light of the ALC guidelines. The review has had regard to the British Society of Soil Science Guidance Document 1 on assessing ALC surveys ⁴ .	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	The survey was carried out at a semi-detailed scale of one observation per 4ha. This does not accord with Natural England's TIN049 recommendation of one observation per hectare for detailed surveys. Although TIN049 does not comment on semi-detailed surveys, it is common practice on very large sites such as this to reduce the observation density as ALC surveys are time consuming and expensive.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	However, it is often advisable within the survey to increase the observation density in those parts of the site where BMV land is found in order to define the extent of BMV land accurately. It is noted in paragraph 5.2 that "the soils within the Site are ... quite variable spatially over short distances... This leads to a quite complex pattern of ALC Grade". The survey was generally undertaken on a regular	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment and notes that fields that are completely Grade 2 have been removed from the solar development area, however, fields with Grade 2 within them mixed with other grades will remain. The methodology of Agricultural Land Use Assessment is assessed in the ES

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	200m x 200m grid pattern and so may have missed localised variability that has been acknowledged to exist.		chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Rutland County Council	Generally Yes but with some minor comments and inconsistencies: • The site extends to 906ha (as in paragraph 1.1) but the classification in Table 5 (including non-agricultural/other land and urban land) is of 889ha.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	The report references and provides extracts from the Provisional ALC, the Predictive BMV and the available detailed ALC maps.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	The report contains no description of the main soil types found or an indication of their distribution.	No	This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Rutland County Council	209 profile logs are appended to the report; six are omitted. No reason given. 46 soil profiles are not logged to a full depth of 120cm due to increasing stoniness/limestone in the subsoil. The soil profile logs in Annex 3 are set out for 11 'sites' which, as explained in paragraph 2.4, were established for the purposes of organising and managing the ALC survey. These sites bear no relation to the development proposals (e.g. areas	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	proposed for solar panels, areas for mitigation etc) and the presentation of data in this format is not particularly helpful to the reader or for cross-referencing with other parts of the PEIR.		
Rutland County Council	There is variability between the profiles, as would be expected in a natural soil. The soil profile logs are generally consistent with the mapped soil descriptions.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Two pits were dug. More pits would be expected in a site of this size (over 900ha) and with five soil associations mapped. There should be a soil pit per main soil type identified but, as the report is silent on the number of soil types actually identified during the survey, the number of pits that should have been dug is unknown. Annex 4, Description of Soil Pits includes two recording sheets for the soil pit data. One of the two is incomplete (no ALC grade given; topsoil shown as borderline medium clay loam/heavy clay loam (not verified by laboratory analysis); the log notes limestone at 30cm but it is not noted whether the limestone is solid, fragmented or very stony).	No	An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Rutland County Council	Three samples were analysed and demonstrate a range of textures (heavy clay loam, sandy silt loam, clay) but this is a low number to cover approximately 900ha of land.	No	For more information regarding the Applicant's Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
Rutland County Council	<p>Furthermore, the samples are not distributed evenly across the site but are all from the east. Neither of the pit locations was sampled which is surprising given that the texture is described as borderline medium clay loam/heavy clay loam which could influence grading.</p> <p>Profile 119 is shown in Table 2 as a medium sandy silt loam (based on the laboratory analysis) but recorded and assessed as a medium clay loam in Annex 3. If this sample was used as a typical example of a soil texture found on site, it is possible that many other profile logs shown as medium clay loam should be described as sandy silt loam, which again could influence grading, potentially over large areas of the site. There are no profile logs in Annex 3 shown with a sandy silt loam topsoil.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>Please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices for more information.</p>
Rutland County Council	<p>As above, profiles that could have sandy silt loam topsoils (on the basis of laboratory analysis) but classified on the basis of medium clay loam topsoils may not be correctly graded (and could be upgraded).</p> <p>Similarly, those profiles borderline to medium and heavy clay loam as found in one of the soil pits, may not be correctly graded.</p> <p>Profiles logged as being limited by droughtiness to Grade 4 may not be graded correctly. If the limestone is soft or fragmented/fissured, the limitation would be less severe to Subgrade 3b.</p>	No	<p>An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	Similarly, deeper profiles with fewer stones listed as Subgrade 3b could improve to Subgrade 3a. See Appendix 2 for a comparison of the calculations for the applicable profiles.		For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Rutland County Council	Only one profile (201) is noted as having a topsoil stone limitation. Several profiles have undeclared topsoil stone limitations equal to the reported most limiting factor (wetness or droughtiness) but based on the percentages of stone larger than 2cm and 6cm, a more severe limitation is applicable to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile 69 to Subgrade 3b (currently 3a); • Profile 83 to Subgrade 3b (currently 3a); • Profile 179 to Subgrade 3b (currently 3a); • Profile 198 to Subgrade 3a (currently 2); • Profile 203 to Subgrade 3b (currently 3a). 	No	This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Rutland County Council	For completeness, photographs should be included, particularly to illustrate the structures identified from the soil pits and the nature of the underlying limestone.	No	This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Rutland County Council	Overall, whilst there are a number of mostly minor errors, inconsistencies and uncertainties, and areas where clear improvements could be made, the survey is considered to be adequate to describe the agricultural land quality of a very large site. Further work could be carried out the address the deficiencies identified above, in particular	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more detailed information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	where observations are borderline to soil textures and grading.		
Rutland County Council	4 Review of PEIR Chapter and Impact Assessment Introduction and Background 4.1 The Agricultural Land and Soils Chapter considers the effects of the Proposed Development on agricultural land and businesses through the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	The section identifies three key receptors; agricultural land quality, soil structure and local farm businesses. Soil structure is a very specific receptor, and it would be more commonplace to assess the effects of a development on a soil resource. Perhaps the most obvious effect of removing approximately 900ha of agricultural land from agricultural production for a period of 40 years is the effect on food production but this effect has not been addressed in the assessment.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3] , not all areas of the Site would contain solar development and 234ha of agricultural farmland, would continue to be managed under an agricultural regime. In addition, fields that are completely Grade 2 fields have been removed, however, fields with Grade 2 within them will remain (check once ALC survey is complete). Further, the majority of Mitigation and Enhancement Areas identified on the Green Infrastructure Strategy will support agricultural uses, including arable production. A total of 234ha of the Site will be retained in arable farmland. The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.
Rutland County Council	<p>Paragraph 13.2.4 indicates that the ALC survey undertaken has made it possible to map the distribution of land quality and soil types. No map showing the distribution of soil types has been presented in Appendix 13.1.</p> <p>Table 13.2 presents the ALC grades for a larger area than the current proposal for the solar PV area which is 463ha (in paragraph 3.1.4). The ALC of the current proposal is not stated (and presumably therefore not assessed).</p>	No	<p>This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p>
Rutland County Council	<p>Not the same receptor as identified in 13.2.1. 13.2.8 states that the soils identified in the survey were grouped into the five associations – but this is not evident from the survey report. The five mapped soil associations are described in the survey report but the actual observed soil profiles are not described outside the survey logs, let alone grouped into associations.</p> <p>Paragraph 13.2.11 states that “the better quality land has soils least susceptible to damage from construction traffic”. This statement is not strictly true: there are profiles of Subgrade 3a quality with heavy clay loam or clay topsoil, and profiles of Subgrade 3b quality with medium clay loam topsoil. As well as reporting what might be affected, this</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p> <p>The nature of the Proposed Development will not significantly impact the quality of soils which will be of the same quality as the existing scenario. The oCEMP and subsequent oDEMP will prevent impacts on the quality of soils during the construction and decommissioning phases.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	section explains how soils would be affected, how effects would be mitigated and what further consultation will take place.		
Rutland County Council	The section lacks specific data on the four farm businesses occupying the site, other than they are mostly arable. The section also summarises the assessment (only a proportion of the wider farm holdings, no key infrastructure affected).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The farm businesses all stated that, although agricultural practices within the Order limits will change, continued arable use is considered very unlikely to change across their wider land areas outside the Order limits. Within the Order limits a proportion of the mitigation and enhancement areas will continue to be farmed, whilst land management, which could include sheep grazing, will take place within the Order limits. Once the Proposed Development is operational, the owners of the four farm operations within the Order limits predict that the 13 FTEs currently directly supported will remain the same and that the diversification of operations will help to sustain their commercial viability.
Rutland County Council	Reference made to Appendix 13.2 which relies to a large extent on IEMA guidance for land and soil.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	The IEMA guidance is quite prescriptive and its use in this particular instance leads to a number of questions as to its widespread application. All BMV land is assessed in the guidance as being of high or very high sensitivity, such that any impact above	No	An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	<p>a negligible impact (more than 5ha of permanent sealing, for example) will lead the assessor to identify a significant effect on agricultural land. That does not seem a helpful approach to take for the decision maker in this case where potentially 900ha of land is affected and the ES identifies that BMV land is not a rare resource nationally (paragraph 13.3.6) or regionally (paragraph 13.4.11), and where policy is that BMV land should be avoided “where possible” but “should not be a predominating factor in determining the suitability of the site location.”</p> <p>The use of this guidance therefore suggests that the sensitivity of the land has been overstated, leading to results that do not differentiate in any helpful manner between different levels of effect on the resource.</p>		<p>good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (110ha), Grade 3a (320ha), Grade 3b (415ha) and Grade 4 (10ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p>
Rutland County Council	<p>The soil sensitivity criteria in Appendix 13.2 and paragraph 13.3.11 concentrate on ‘high clay soils’ which is not a known soil category description. Paragraph 13.3.11 identifies the high sensitivity soils in the wetter regions but this is of no relevance to this assessment which is concerned with soils in a dry region. There is no indication of which soils on the site are of high sensitivity. The section does not describe how the magnitude of impact on the soil resource has been assessed. Table 13.4 identifies the sensitivity of soils as</p>	No	<p>This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	mostly medium, without explanation, and the magnitude of impact as minor, without explanation.		
Rutland County Council	<p>The section identifies that the effect on agricultural land is expected to be adverse moderate or large. The effect during construction on soil resources does not appear to have been assessed (the summary Table 13.4 says slight adverse effect but there is no text to support this).</p> <p>The assessment in paragraph 13.4.3 that the magnitude of effect on farm businesses will be moderate adverse seems overstated, given the definition in Appendix 13.2. The only impact identified – “closure or severance of field accesses at key times of the farming year” – does not equate to “The impact of the development would require significant changes in the day-to-day management of a full-time agricultural business, or closure of a part-time agricultural business.”</p> <p>Table 13.4 identifies the magnitude as minor adverse, giving rise to a slight adverse effect, which is not consistent with the text but seems more appropriate.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment</p> <p>The nature of the Proposed Development will not significantly impact the quality of soils which will be of the same quality as the existing scenario. The oCEMP and subsequent oDEMP will prevent impacts on the quality of soils during the construction and decommissioning phases. In addition to this, an Outline Soil Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO Application, and details the handling of soils through the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p>
Rutland County Council	The assessment of agricultural land used during the operation of the solar farm refers to Table 3.2 which is not correct for the current proposal of 463ha of land for solar PV arrays.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	There is no assessment of the consequential effects on food supplies of taking nearly 900ha out of arable production for a period of 40 years other	No	The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	than an unsubstantiated comment in paragraph 13.4.11 that “the removal of the Solar PV Site from agricultural production is considered to be insignificant in a regional context”.		not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards. Please see the Design and Access Statement, of the ES [EN010127/APP/7.3] and Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices. The assessment of likely cumulative effects will be undertaken and will set out measures envisaged to reduce or avoid any identified significant adverse cumulative effects and, where appropriate, any proposed monitoring arrangements. For more information, please see Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Cumulative Summary, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Rutland County Council	All effects on decommissioning are identified as adverse but there could be beneficial effects from bringing land that has laid fallow for 40 years back into food production.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	No comments, other than careful management and soil handling in the CEMP does not mitigate the effect on agricultural land loss/sealing.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Rutland County Council	Given that agricultural land loss/sealing is not mitigated by careful soil handling, it is not clear how	No	The nature of the Proposed Development will not significantly impact the quality of

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	a moderate or large adverse effect on agricultural land can be reduced to a slight adverse residual effect in Table 13.4.		soils which will be of the same quality as the existing scenario. The oECMP and subsequent oDEMP will prevent impacts on the quality of soils during the construction and decommissioning phases. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Rutland County Council	ALC assessment not consistent with previous text that identified a moderate or large adverse effect on BMV agricultural land (that is not mitigated by a CEMP).	No	An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Rutland County Council	Paragraph 13.8.5 is finally a recognition that the potential to use approximately 900ha of land for arable or livestock uses will be reduced as a result of the proposal. The conclusion is “that is neither a policy not an environmental impact” appears too much of a throwaway comment for a very clear consequential effect of the proposal.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment, however the impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.
Rutland County Council	5 Conclusions 5.1 The site of the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm was subject to a semi-detailed ALC survey in winter 2021. Other than the scale, the survey followed the established guidelines and methodology for classifying agricultural land. The	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	survey work was undertaken by competent surveyors, each with decades of experience.		
Rutland County Council	5.4 However, many profiles were not assessed to a full depth of 120cm. As demonstrated, depending on what was below the assessed depth, profiles currently assessed as Grade 4 may all be upgraded to Subgrade 3b, and a small number of profiles in Subgrade 3b will upgrade to Subgrade 3a. This will affect grade boundaries. Other limitations have been identified during the process of the peer review that are not stated in the report.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	5.5 Although pits were dug and samples were submitted for laboratory analysis, there are too few to constitute a fully robust assessment considering the size of the site. Where BMV land was identified, the observation density should ideally have been increased.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment, and fields that are completely Grade 2 fields have been removed, however, fields with Grade 2 within them will remain (check once ALC survey is complete).
Rutland County Council	5.6 Overall, the quality and clarity of the assessment in the Agricultural Land and Soils PEIR Chapter could be much improved. The chapter does not assess the up-to-date proposal for the solar PV arrays as set out in Chapter 5 but a previous iteration of the scheme which does not inspire confidence. The assessment methodology and criteria need consideration if the conclusion is reached that the loss of less than 5ha of BMV agricultural land from soil sealing is a moderate or large adverse effect (which incidentally cannot be mitigated by careful soil handling, as claimed in the	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	chapter) but the consequential effect of removing approximately 900ha of agricultural land from food production for a period of 40 years is not even assessed.		
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4.2 – this should refer to any arboricultural reports and impact assessments, which we would expect would identify and survey (to BS5837) any proposed vegetation removal. 	No	<p>As outlined in Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1], measures to protect trees from accidental damage during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development have been set out within the oCEMP and the oDEMP. The management of trees (as well as other landscape elements) will be undertaken in accordance with the oLEMP. The oLEMP will be implemented by qualified arboriculturists where required to avoid adverse effects on trees during the operational phase. Therefore, no additional mitigation is required to avoid significant adverse effects on trees.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 13: Agricultural Land and Soils LCC does not have an in-house specialist and however the following comments are offered at this stage. We also recommend and endorse any recommendations or comments made by South Kesteven District Council and Rutland County Council on this particular topic.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
Lincolnshire County Council	All arable land of whatever agricultural classification produces food, whether for animal feed or human consumption, and so LCC considers this should be protected for its own sake.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment and further notes that the impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.
Lincolnshire County Council	Table 13.1 within the PEIR confirms that 430 hectares or 48% of the total study area comprises of agricultural land falling within ALC Grade 2 and 3a and so is classed as best and most versatile (BMV). Table 13.2 presents the ALC results for the Solar PV Site (which excludes the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas and Potential Highway Works) and reduces the total area of BMV land to 309 hectares. On face value this suggests a reduction in the amount of BMV lost to the development however the areas removed from the main Solar PV Site have still been retained to provide “ecological mitigation, green infrastructure opportunities and access routes for low voltage distribution cables” (see paragraph 4.3.36).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	Having compared Figures 3.1 (Extents of the Site, Solar PV Site, Mitigation and Enhancement Areas and Potential Highway Works), Figure 3.2 (Field Numbering System) and Figure 13.1 (Agricultural Land Classification) it appears areas	No	The majority of Mitigation and Enhancement Areas identified on the Green Infrastructure Strategy will support agricultural uses, including arable

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	<p>of Grade 2 and Grade 3a land are to be retained as Mitigation and Enhancement Areas (e.g. Field Nos. 39, 40, 41 and 42, 51, 52, and 54, etc) and so it would appear significant areas of BMV land would still be taken out of arable production for at least 40 years. Whilst paragraph 5.13.4 of the PEIR suggests that the majority of the fields within the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas will continue to be farmed under arable rotation this needs to be clarified with more evidence presented to demonstrate how much of the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas would be retained in arable use at any one time.</p>		<p>production. A total of 234ha of the Site will be retained in arable farmland. As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], not all areas of the Site would contain solar development and 234ha of agricultural farmland, would continue to be managed under an agricultural regime. In addition, fields that are completely Grade 2 fields have been removed, however, fields with Grade 2 within them will remain. The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Furthermore, it is also noticeable that within the current site layout, there are still fields/areas of Grade 2 land that have been retained and proposed for the siting of Solar PV (e.g. Field No. 35) and therefore consideration should be given to alternative layouts to remove this field from the scheme altogether or, at the very least, to retain its arable use on a rotational basis as part of the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas described above.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant notes that fields that are completely Grade 2 fields have been removed, however, fields with Grade 2 within them will remain.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 17: Arboriculture LCC has no specific comments to offer at this stage.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	Other comments/matters: Public Rights of Way LCC's Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Team has confirmed that there are 5 Public Rights of Way in Lincolnshire that are directly affected by the development and it is likely that the solar farm will be visible from the surrounding network. The Public Rights of Way directly affected are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braceborough Public Bridleway No. 1; • Braceborough Public Footpath Nos. 3, 7 and 9, and; • Uffington Public Footpath No. 5. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. All existing PRoWs will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset from PRoWs to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRoWs. For more information, please see the ES Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils [EN010127/APP/6.1] and Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Lincolnshire County Council	In addition to the above, LCC has received 3 Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMOs) applications as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMMO 188 – Application for public bridleway along Cobbs Nook Lane to the south of Belmesthorpe linking into Rutland public bridleway. • DMMO 440 – Gravel Pit Road - Application for a cul-de-sac restricted byway from Carlby Road in a southerly direction. • DMMO 451 – Claimed BOAT connecting 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	Belmesthorpe Road and the ford at the West Glen River.		
Lincolnshire County Council	The Macmillan Way also passes through the application site. Plans indicating the location and alignment of the above routes are attached to this response for your information and reference.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	The affected area is a popular destination for walking, cycling and horseriding and so the proposed provision of new routes that interconnect with existing Public Rights of Way is welcomed. LCC however would prefer such routes to be secured as permanent routes that would be adopted as part of wider PRoW network rather than permissive routes which could potentially be removed at any point during the life of the project.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment, however includes permissive paths (rather than permanent routes) because these are being secured for the lifetime of the Proposed Development. As part of the Proposed Development, all existing PRoWs will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to wider network and creating joined up routes. Further, an outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) has been prepared to support the DCO application. The decommissioning phase would include the removal of any permissive paths and potential reversion of grassland underneath the Solar PV Arrays. Any planting of trees, hedgerows, and scrubs will remain in-situ when the Site is handed back to landowners. Landowners

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			can then use their land for whatever they wish.
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>The PRow Team also wishes to remind you at this stage that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the development should not involve any access along public rights of way during the construction phase or for ongoing maintenance activities; • the developer may not disturb the surface of any affected public rights of way for resurfacing, cable installation or any other construction activities without the prior consent of the Highway Authority; • it is expected that there will be no encroachment, either permanent or temporary, onto any right of way as a result of the proposal; and • the proposed development should not pose any dangers or inconvenience to the public using the right of way. 	No	The Applicant notes that (Power to be included in DCO and identified on plans) ES will make assumption; Agricultural Track shared with Bridleway track- Action - Rob to check
Lincolnshire County Council	Finally, the installation of security fencing on either side of a Public Rights of Way should be carefully considered to avoid the creation of narrow claustrophobic corridors. 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. Any fencing proposed should be taken into consideration as part of the LVIA.	No	Among other examples proposed by the Applicant, a 50m offset of solar stations from PRowS is part of the Proposed Development. Perimeter fencing and CCTV systems around the solar array will comprise of wooden posts and wire mesh fencing. Perimeter fences will not be constructed through existing hedgerows or across ditches. There will also be clearances above ground, or the inclusion of

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<p>mammal gates to permit the movement of wildlife. For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>There is an extensive range of mitigation and enhancement measures proposed to reduce the landscape and visual effects in the long term. These are identified within the LVIA, the DAS and further illustrated on the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan.</p>
Natural England	We will be providing comment on Chapter 13: Agricultural Land Use shortly, apologise for the delay.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Natural England	Cumulative effects from the use of BMV land is restricted to the NSIP solar developments, as identified in the long list of cumulative schemes and have been included within the short list for further consideration at this stage, specifically: Land at Six Hundreds Farm (Leicestershire) ; Little Crow ; Gate Burton; West Burton; and Cottam. Natural England will provide comment on this in our forthcoming soils response.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The assessment of likely cumulative effects will be undertaken and will set out measures envisaged to reduce or avoid any identified significant adverse cumulative effects and, where appropriate, any proposed monitoring arrangements. For more information, please see Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Cumulative Summary, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]
Natural England	Chapter 5: Project Description Green Infrastructure We welcome that measures will be designed to integrate with and enhance the local green	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment and notes that the combination of measures identified in the Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy results in the

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	<p>infrastructure network, improving ecological and recreational connectivity across the site. Natural England will be happy to provide detailed comment on receipt of the ES. We also recommend the use of Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (BOM) to identify key areas of habitat creation and network expansion. However, we would also encourage greater enhancements outside these areas, to go above and beyond the BOM to create additional habitat, where this is possible/appropriate.</p>		<p>Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.9% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers against the Department for Agricultura and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1.</p> <p>The habitat creation and enhancement works being proposed for within the Order limits will provide a high net gain in biodiversity value for the area within it. This has been shown to be just over 79% with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1, carried out on the basis of the Green Infrastructure Plan [EN010127/APP/7.9]. This constitutes a beneficial effect of significance at a District level.</p> <p>The GI strategy for the Proposed Development is also secured through the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010127/APP/7.9]. For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Natural England	<p>The existing Public Rights of Way (ProW) that cross the Solar PV Site and Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Areas will be retained and incorporated within multifunctional green corridors. Subject to the construction phasing and methodology there may be a requirement to</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	temporarily divert or close a PRow for a period during the construction phase.		
Natural England	We are also supportive of the commitment to contribute to the improvement of the amenity value of the Public Rights of Way (ProW) network via provision of new permissive routes that interconnect with existing PRow along new and enhanced GI corridors.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Essendine Parish Council	1. Loss of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land	No	An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Essendine Parish Council	3. Damage to the landscape and existing underlying soil structure	No	The nature of the Proposed Development will not significantly impact the quality of soils which will be of the same quality as the existing scenario. The oCEMP and subsequent oDEMP will prevent impacts on the quality of soils during the

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<p>construction and decommissioning phases. Further, an Outline Soil Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO Application, and details the handling of soils through the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>An outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) has been prepared to support the DCO application. The decommissioning phase would include the removal of any permissive paths and potential reversion of grassland underneath the Solar PV Arrays. Any planting of trees, hedgerows, and scrubs will remain in-situ when the Site is handed back to landowners. Landowners can then use their land for whatever they wish.</p>
Essendine Parish Council	4. Loss of Recreational amenity and Wellbeing	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties through 50m offsets for solar stations from PRoWs and 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<p>All existing PRowS will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset from PRowS to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRowS. The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.</p>
Essendine Parish Council	<p>1. Loss of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land</p> <p>I strongly object to using BMV (best and most versatile) food producing agricultural land, set in a rural environment, for the construction of an industrial development.</p> <p>The proposed solar farm development will remove more than 2200 acres (906ha) of food producing agricultural land of which 845ha is considered by your own companies research to be Best and Most Versatile land.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], not all areas of the Site would contain solar development and 234ha of agricultural farmland would continue to be managed under an agricultural regime.</p> <p>In addition, fields that are completely Grade 2 fields have been removed, however, fields with Grade 2 within them will remain.</p> <p>The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.
Essendine Parish Council	<p>Definition of BMV land. Please see below a quotation from Rt Hon George Eustice MP Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This quotation comes from an answer to question eight submitted by James Gray MP to George Eustace MP at the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee on Wednesday 29 June 2022.</p> <p>“...a strong presumption against solar farms on the best and most versatile land and that is classified in law as grade 3b or above. Grade 3b land is classified as BMV land best and most versatile.”</p> <p>Please see below a screenshot of your own published (via your website) Agricultural Land Classification Results for the proposed development area in chapter 13-2 of your Preliminary Environmental Information Report. I draw your attention to the content surrounded by the red box.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Essendine Parish Council	We find our country and the planet in the middle of a global food security crisis, where some nations are using food as a weapon, this development proposal wishes to trade the use of BMV agricultural food producing land for the	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	production of electricity. I do not believe this is right to do.		
Essendine Parish Council	The paths, lanes and roads used by local residents adults and children, walkers, cycle riders and horse riders who travel through and beside the existing agricultural land on which the solar farm is proposed to be built, will find the land impassable during the construction phase due to the amount of vehicle movements and vehicles that need to be parked.	No	The management of landscape elements will be undertaken in accordance with the oLEMP, [EN010127/APP/7.9] . The oLEMP will be implemented where required to avoid adverse effects on land and landscape during the operational phase. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices. Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. For more information, please see Chapter 9: Access and Highways of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Essendine Parish Council	Once constructed the solar farm will be secured by the installation of a manmade fence surrounding the solar farm excluding the public from the land.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			Further, the Applicant notes that perimeter fencing and CCTV systems around the solar array will comprise of wooden posts and wire mesh fencing. Perimeter fences will not be constructed through existing hedgerows or across ditches. There will also be clearances above ground, or the inclusion of mammal gates to permit the movement of wildlife. For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Essendine Parish Council	Essendine is currently blessed with local farmers allowing the public to walk around the margins of their fields. In the future these fields will be potentially fenced off and the public denied access.	No	All existing PRowWs will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset from PRowWs to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRowWs.
Essendine Parish Council	5. Construction chaos The construction phase is planned to last two years, anything can potentially happen that will extend this two year construction phase. Four hundred workers working daily on a construction site that is currently agriculture land will decimate the existing ecosystems, recreational amenity and infrastructure. The proposed development area is	No	The nature of the Proposed Development will not significantly impact the quality of soils which will be of the same quality as the existing scenario. The oCEMP and subsequent oDEMP will prevent impacts on the quality of soils during the construction and decommissioning phases.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	unlikely to currently have the road system, water availability, drainage and commercial infrastructure to accommodate four hundred construction workers, and associated temporary buildings and construction yards, working up to six days a week and potentially twelve hours a day.		In addition to the above, an Outline Soil Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO Application, and details the handling of soils through the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.
Essendine Parish Council	7. Swapping a carbon and climate crisis for an environmental disaster. 2000 plus acres of best and most versatile prime agriculture food producing land in a rural location will be potentially changed for a huge industrial complex surrounded by 2 metre high fences, keeping the public and wildlife away from solar panels that are 3.3 metres high mounted on concrete and or metal piles with hundreds of security cameras installed with security lighting to deter people and animals, the existing character, recreational and visual amenity and biodiversity will be changed, not for the better, for 40 years or more.	No	An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (110ha), Grade 3a (320ha), Grade 3b (415ha) and Grade 4 (10ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices. For more information regarding visual amenity, please see Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<p>For more information regarding the scale of Onsite Substation, Solar PV Arrays, security fencing and lighting, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>For more information regarding wildlife and biodiversity, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council	It is accepted that a more green and renewable source of energy is required for the future of the planet. Solar panels and the destruction of quality arable land is also not the only means to ensure or achieve a better future.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council	Arable land – the majority of the land designated for construction is of good quality and can offer a significant addition to the food produced for the people of this country. Government have spoken about the need to be a little more self -sufficient as a nation, yet we are seeking to throw away significant acreage of arable land. And not just for the near future but with a stated 40 year life span of the solar panels it is likely even if there is a full decommissioning programme, that the land will be a wasteland for generations that follow. Soil erosion, compaction and run-off will occur lowering the potential productivity of the land all while we continue to import food products from abroad which could have been grown on the land and yet we	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], not all areas of the Site would contain solar development and 234ha of agricultural farmland would continue to be managed under an agricultural regime.</p> <p>In addition, fields that are completely Grade 2 fields have been removed, however, fields with Grade 2 within them will remain .</p> <p>The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	increase our carbon footprint by importing more food.		change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.
Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council	In addition to the arable land producing food the whole area contains a very wide variety of flora and wildlife. Much of this will be destroyed should this planned development take place. Biodiversity is essential and significant areas will be damaged beyond repair. The proposed addition of a number of footpaths will add nothing as the solar panels will be significant in height and any hedgerows that are added will not be developed enough to screen the panels for up to 15 years at best! Public rights of way and recreational facilities so much enjoyed at the moment will be stripped away for ever. Even the existing footpaths will be ignored as the view of the solar panels will dominate the surrounding countryside and the skyline from any point on the development. As has been stated in the documentation this is undulating countryside and the visual impact will be significant. Habitats of the wildlife (animals/birds/reptiles and pollinating insects) will be destroyed.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties through 50m offsets for solar stations from PRowS and 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties.</p> <p>All existing PRowS will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset from PRowS to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRowS. The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils [EN010127/APP/6.1], Chapter 5: Project Description [EN010127/APP/6.1], Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual [EN010127/APP/6.1], and Chapter 7:</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			Ecology and Biodiversity, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council	While the Mallard Pass solar farm seek to convert vast areas of pleasant and arable useful landscape into an industrial wasteland; we have a significant volume of industrial units that could house smaller solar panels on their roofs. The roofs of these buildings already hold a higher vantage point and a clearer access point to the sky. A supporting framework and smaller solar panels will offer a simpler solution. Access is already available to the sites and it will negate the need for additional and costly infrastructure work and damage to the environment.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], 443ha of land (48%) would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland. A total of 234ha of the Site will be retained in arable farmland, with the creation of skylark plots to enhance nesting opportunities.</p> <p>As outlined in the Planning Statement Appendix, [EN010127/APP/7.2], there is relatively little previously developed land located within a sufficient distance of the National Grid Ryhall Substation that an appropriate grid connection could be provided to. The previously developed land registers maintained by South Kesteven District Council and Rutland County Council show 22ha and 3.4ha respectively, which even together would be significantly below the area required to deliver a utility-scale solar farm.</p> <p>For more information on the assessment of Site alternatives, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
Uffington Parish Council	The principal objection to centring the solar farm on Essendine and its neighbouring rural villages, expressed by 33 respondents (94%), related to the loss of prime agricultural land with the resultant need to import more food from abroad; it was observed that this would paradoxically increase the carbon footprint of the food supply chain.	No	The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.
Carlby Parish Council	Loss of productive Agricultural land & Recreational space	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], not all areas of the Site would contain solar development and 234ha of agricultural farmland would continue to be managed under an agricultural regime.</p> <p>Further, the farm businesses the Applicant engaged with all stated that, although agricultural practices within the Order limits will change, continued arable use is considered very unlikely to change across their wider land areas outside the Order limits. Within the Order limits a proportion of the mitigation and enhancement areas will continue to be farmed, whilst land management, which could include sheep grazing, will take place within the Order limits.</p> <p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Proposed Development</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<p>will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties through 50m offsets for solar stations from PRowS and 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties.</p> <p>All existing PRowS will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset from PRowS to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRowS.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.</p>
Carlby Parish Council	The claimed 40year life of the industrial landscape being restored to its original condition is an anecdote.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. An outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) has been prepared to support the DCO application. The decommissioning phase would include the removal of any permissive paths and potential reversion of grassland underneath the Solar PV Arrays. Any planting of trees, hedgerows, and scrubs</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<p>will remain in-situ when the Site is handed back to landowners. Landowners can then use their land for whatever they wish.</p> <p>The majority of Mitigation and Enhancement Areas identified on the Green Infrastructure Strategy will support agricultural uses, including arable production. A total of 234ha of the Site will be retained in arable farmland.</p> <p>In addition to the above, an Outline Soil Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO Application, and details the handling of soils through the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p>
Carlby Parish Council	The fact that the land proposed for solar panels will not be viable again to grow food on is off deep concern to the PC as this is truly not the legacy we want to leave for the area.	No	The nature of the Proposed Development will not significantly impact the quality of soils which will be of the same quality as the existing scenario. The oCEMP and subsequent oDEMP will prevent impacts on the quality of soils during the construction and decommissioning phases.
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	2. There is general concern about the loss of valuable agricultural land capable of growing good wheat crops. Over 50% of the area to be covered with panels is on Grade 2 and 3a soils. This is	No	An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	<p>completely against Government policy which advocates brownfield sites and poorer agricultural land for solar farms (grades 3b,4 & 5) The Governments Food Strategy Policy (June2022) wants to maintain or increase, but not decrease, domestic arable crops, particularly because of the Ukraine conflict.</p>		<p>(BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (10ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p>
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	<p>3. Residents of Careby choose to live in rural locations because they enjoy the countryside and enjoy cycling, riding, and walking. They do not want to carry out these activities in an industrial landscape.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties through 50m offsets for solar stations from PRowS and 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties. All existing PRowS will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset from PRowS to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRowS. The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	scale ... 900 H loss of agricultural, food producing land	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3] , not all areas of the Site would contain solar development and 234ha of agricultural farmland would continue to be managed under an agricultural regime. In addition, fields that are completely Grade 2 fields have been removed, however, fields with Grade 2 within them will remain. The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	location ... set on prime farming land,		
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	I respect that the UK needs to continue to drive the growth of renewable forms of power generation and clearly solar has a role to play in this. But this should never be at the expense of productive, food growing land given the need for increased UK independence in food production highlighted by the recent Ukraine situation. Nor should renewable energy development be at the expense of our natural habitat, which is under constant and	No	As outlined, the impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards. Further, all new planting specifications will be resilient to a changing climate to

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	<p>increasing threat from man and industrialisation as it is. Finally, the scale of this proposed project will have significant negative impact on the rural community around this, peoples chosen way of life in this rural area, and during 2 years of construction, real physical impact in terms of transportation, noise pollution and overall construction pollution.</p>		<p>ensure the longevity of planting throughout the lifespan of the Proposed Development. This is outlined in the Design and Access Statement (DAS), [EN010127/APP/7.3]. The Applicant has sought opportunities to improve the quality of life for people who live and work nearby and taken steps to mitigate negative impacts. There is an extensive range of mitigation and enhancement measures proposed to reduce the landscape and visual effects in the long term. These are identified within Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices, in the LVIA. These are also identified in the Design and Access Statement, of the ES [EN010127/APP/7.3] and further illustrated on the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan. For more information, please see Appendix 6.5 Amenity and Recreation Assessment and Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p>
Greatford Parish Council	<p>2. Best most Valuable Farmland. More than half of the proposed solar farm is to be developed on agricultural land that has been</p>	No	<p>An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	classified as best and most valuable (BMV). Government policy is that BMV land should not be developed and should be maintained and used for food production.		guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Greatford Parish Council	The BMV agricultural land is only being proposed for use as it is close to a sub-station with spare capacity, it is quite possible to develop substantial brownfield sites within the locality and cable the power to the sub-station at Ryhall but this has option has been dismissed out of hand as it would cost more to develop.	No	The Order limits was selected on the basis that it was predominantly Grade 3, offering the potential for Grade 3b land subject to further survey, with small pockets of Grade 2. This was also supplemented by initial conversations with the landowners regarding the quality and viability of the Order limits for agriculture. Following further analysis, some additional Grade 2 land was identified and as noted below, where this was in single fields, this was removed from the areas proposed for PV Arrays. The regional level ALC maps show that the agricultural land within relatively close proximity to the grid connection is either Grade 2 or 3, with higher quality land

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<p>(Grade 1) further east of Peterborough. There are very small pockets of Grade 4 land, coinciding with the SSSIs to the north of Pickworth, but none of sufficient size to deliver a solar farm and there would be the potential for significant adverse effects on the SSSIs. Further information on ALC is provided in Chapter 13 of this ES</p> <p>[EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the Planning Statement Appendix, [EN010127/APP/7.2], there is relatively little previously developed land located within a sufficient distance of the National Grid Ryhall Substation that an appropriate grid connection could be provided to.</p> <p>The previously developed land registers maintained by South Kesteven District Council and Rutland County Council show 22ha and 3.4ha respectively, which even together would be significantly below the area required to deliver a utility-scale solar farm.</p> <p>For more information on the assessment of Site alternatives, please see Chapter</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			4: Alternatives and Design Development of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Greatford Parish Council	BMV land is a finite natural resource that should not be developed. BMV land is critical to our countries food security and as agriculture inevitably moves towards less intensive and lower yielding production systems such as regenerative farming we will need more BMV land to compensate for yields dropping under less intensive production systems.	No	<p>An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p> <p>In addition, fields that are completely Grade 2 fields have been removed, however, fields with Grade 2 within them will remain (check once ALC survey is complete).</p> <p>The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
Greatford Parish Council	BMV agricultural land can be used to grow most agricultural crops, it is the life blood of our Parish and our County. BMV agricultural land should not be wasted on energy production when previously developed land in the locality could be used for this purpose.	No	<p>An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p> <p>The Solar PV Area has decreased from approximately 570 ha at non-statutory stage of the Proposed Development to 463 ha. The area of land now occupied by the proposed PV Arrays, ancillary buildings, highways works, and grid connection corridor would equate to approximately 463 ha, which makes up 52% of the Site. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site. For more information, please see the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
Greatford Parish Council	<p>4. Community benefits.</p> <p>This proposed development would change for ever the character of our cherished rural landscape, and the amenity that this provides to our residents.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties through 50m offsets for solar stations from PRowS and 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties.</p> <p>All existing PRowS will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset from PRowS to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRowS.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.</p>
Greatford Parish Council	<p>Local country walks with far reaching views will be changed and the only compensation offered is 2.9 miles of permissive footpath through the low lying and flood susceptible part of the proposed development, and a picnic bench. This is frankly an insult to the communities likely to be significantly affected by this huge development for generation to come.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
Greatford Parish Council	At the very least a large scale, permanent and long term gift for the benefit of the communities affected should be offered. An example of this might be the construction and improvement of a network of local cycle paths between the affected villages and local towns. This should be a condition of the development.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment, however includes temporary proposals rather than permanent ones) because these are being secured for the lifetime of the Proposed Development.
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	There will be a loss of over 55% of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land at a time when we have a major food shortage in this country and the Government Food Strategy Policy paper in June 2022 clearly wants to maintain agricultural production.	No	An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	There appear to be no guarantees for the future use of the land to return it to its present condition and in all probability, it will never be able to be used again for farming because of the damage to the soil. There also appears not to be a bond in place for the deconstruction and clear up of the site after use.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. An outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) has been prepared to support the DCO application. The decommissioning phase would include the removal of any permissive paths and

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<p>potential reversion of grassland underneath the Solar PV Arrays. Any planting of trees, hedgerows, and scrubs will remain in-situ when the Site is handed back to landowners. Landowners can then use their land for whatever they wish.</p> <p>The majority of Mitigation and Enhancement Areas identified on the Green Infrastructure Strategy will support agricultural uses, including arable production. A total of 234ha of the Site will be retained in arable farmland. In addition to the above, an Outline Soil Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO Application, and details the handling of soils through the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p>
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	Public rights of way will be closed or diverted during construction and even when opened again with some additional permissive paths, who wants to walk, run or cycle through a corridor of giant solar panel arrays?	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Proposed Development will be sensitivity sited and offset from residential properties through 50 offsets for solar stations from PRowS and 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties.</p> <p>All existing PRowS will be retained in their existing alignment and</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<p>complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset from PRoWs to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRoWs. The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.</p>
Stamford Town Council	<p>Loss of Food Crops Mallard Pass is situated on large tracts of agricultural land. The UK is a net importer of food and taking productive arable land out of circulation only worsens this position. The UK needs to become more self-sufficient regarding food production, minimising food miles and contributing to a lower carbon footprint. Repurposing agricultural land in this way is counterproductive. As the Solar PV Farm has a life span of 40 years, this will have a devastating effect on the condition of the soil once the site is decommissioned.</p>	No	<p>The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.</p>
Stamford Town Council	<p>Arboriculture According to the PEIR, the loss of trees during the construction process, either by design or accident, is going to be low.</p>	No	<p>As outlined in Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics, [EN010127/APP/6.1], measures to protect trees from accidental damage during the construction and</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development have been set out within the oCEMP and the oDEMP. The management of trees (as well as other landscape elements) will be undertaken in accordance with the oLEMP. The oLEMP will be implemented by qualified arboriculturists where required to avoid adverse effects on trees during the operational phase. Therefore, no additional mitigation is required to avoid significant adverse effects on trees.
Stamford Town Council	Does nothing to enhance the local natural environment and biodiversity, and reduces the potential for local food production.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Environment Agency	PEIR Chapter 20 – Summary of mitigation and conclusions We note that ‘The effects presented within this chapter are preliminary and further certainty of the potential environmental effects as a result of the Proposed Development will be gained as the EIA process progresses alongside the development of the project design’ (paragraph 20.1.1). At this stage we do not disagree with the conclusions in paragraphs 20.1.6 and 20.1.7 regarding likelihood of significant effects.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
Gareth Davies MP for Grantham and Stamford	Agricultural impact - the loss of prime, graded agricultural land at a time of great international food insecurity and when we are supporting and encouraging farmers to grow more of our food domestically. 53% of the proposed site for photovoltaic (PV) array coverage is highly graded land.	No	<p>An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded.</p> <p>The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p>
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	Loss of Graded Agricultural Land At a meeting of the Environmental Audit Committee on the 29th June, Rt Hon. George Eustice MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs clarified Government guidance on the use of agricultural land for solar developments. Pointing to guidance issued in 2015, Eustice highlighted that there is 'a strong presumption against solar farms	No	<p>An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	<p>on Best and Most Versatile land, and that is classified in law as grade 3B and above.'</p> <p>The proposed site for the Mallard Pass development consists of 6% grade 2 land, 47% grade 3a land, and 47% grade 3b land.</p>		<p>(260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	As such, Government guidance is clear that this site is not suitable for solar development.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	At a time of global food shortages, it is vital that we protect agricultural land for food production. There is no situation to justify the loss of over 2,000 acres of Best and Most Versatile land, and I expect that	No	An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	Government guidance will be followed and this development application rejected.		<p>good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (439ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded.</p> <p>The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	Importantly, the proposal fails to mention the determination of ' an optimum sustainable local green energy solution' for the Stamford, Bourne and the Rutland area. The prime focus appears to be that of a mega solar farm to the exclusion of other green technical proposals potentially providing a more sustainable (greener) solution. An off-the-shelf standard solution is appearing to be offered, where a simplified local solution and shorter distribution network would be economically preferable, if technically and commercially feasible. There should be more domestic solar panels instead on proposed future housing developments such as Quarry Farm and Stamford North.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant did not consider delivering a smaller scheme with less generation capacity on a smaller area. This is because a smaller scheme would not deliver the same capacity or energy security and climate change benefit as the Proposed Development, and as such would not represent a reasonable alternative. For more information, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The Solar PV Area has decreased from approximately 570 ha at non-statutory stage of the Proposed Development to 463 ha. The area of land now occupied by the proposed PV Arrays, ancillary</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			buildings, highways works, and grid connection corridor would equate to approximately 463 ha, which makes up 52% of the Site. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site. For more information, please see the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3] .
Environment Agency	Further to our formal Section 42 response of 4 August 2022, I've received an additional suggestion from a colleague that may be of interest in relation to the references to wet woodland and wetland planting.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Natural England	Chapter 13: Agricultural Land Use Natural England has reviewed the soils information currently available in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). We note that the report indicates that the environmental impacts on soils have been considered and the outcomes are in keeping with solar developments, minimal impacts on soil and land quality. We would expect this to be fully addressed in the Environmental Statement (ES).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment and this was fully addressed in Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Natural England	We welcome the consideration of soils and land quality in the PEIR. We note that a semi detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey has been carried out. This has shown that 48% of the application site is Best and Most Versatile Land	No	An Agricultural land Classification (ALC) survey has been undertaken for the Order limits. Under Natural England guidance, Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV), i.e. land that of is excellent to

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	(BMV) and 52% of the solar PV area is BMV. As this is a significant area of high quality land likely to be affected by the development, even if deemed temporary, a detailed ALC survey is required so that the planning authority can make an informed decision.		good quality agricultural, comprises Grades 1, 2 and 3a. The survey has found that Grades 2 (100ha), Grade 3a (260ha), Grade 3b (4395ha) and Grade 4 (18ha) is present within the Order limits. No Grade 1 was recorded. This matter is further assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Natural England	In preparation of the ES we request that you revisit the site to carry out a detailed survey of all the BMV areas and some supplementary sampling in the adjacent non BMV to confirm its extent. We also require detailed ALC data for the substation sites etc. and the cabling route. We welcome the proposals to use Soil Management Plans (SMP) at both construction and decommissioning stages. The ALC survey will inform the SMPs for any areas to be disturbed (temporary and permanent) to ensure correct handling and restoration of soils, and onsite reuse of any surplus soils stripped from areas of permanent development.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. This matter is assessed in the ES chapter and associated appendices. For more information, please see Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and its associated appendices.
Natural England	During the life of the proposed development it is likely that there will be a reduction in agricultural production over the whole development area. We would point out that the local planning authority will	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	<p>need to consider whether this is an effective use of land in line with planning practice guidance which encourages the siting of large scale solar farms on previously developed and non-agricultural land. Paragraph 174b and footnote 53 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by’: • ‘recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.’ 		
Natural England	Footnote 53: Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3] not all areas of the Site would contain solar development and 234ha of agricultural farmland would continue to be managed under an agricultural regime. Wherever possible, the Applicant preferred poorer quality land to those of a higher quality. In addition, fields that are completely Grade 2 fields have been removed, however, fields with Grade 2 within them will remain .</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
Natural England	We would also draw to your attention to Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (March 2015) (in particular paragraph 013), and advise you to fully consider best and most versatile land issues in accordance with that guidance.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Natural England	Further General Advice Should you have any questions about ALC or the reliability of information submitted with regard to BMV land please refer to Natural England's 'Guide to assessing Development proposals on Agricultural Land'. This document describes the ALC system including the definition of BMV land, existing ALC data sources and their relevance for site level assessment of land quality and the appropriate methodology for when detailed surveys are required. Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Natural England	Natural England would advise that any grant of planning permission should be made subject to conditions to safeguard soil resources and agricultural land, including a required commitment for the preparation of reinstatement, restoration and aftercare plans; normally this will include the return to the former land quality (ALC grade).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. An outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) has been prepared to support the DCO application. The decommissioning phase would include the removal of any permissive paths and potential reversion of grassland underneath the Solar PV Arrays. Any

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
			<p>planting of trees, hedgerows, and scrubs will remain in-situ when the Site is handed back to landowners. Landowners can then use their land for whatever they wish.</p> <p>The majority of Mitigation and Enhancement Areas identified on the Green Infrastructure Strategy will support agricultural uses, including arable production. A total of 234ha of the Site will be retained in arable farmland. In addition to the above, an Outline Soil Management Plan will be submitted as part of the DCO Application, and details the handling of soils through the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p>
Natural England	General guidance for protecting soils during development is also available in Defra's Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites, and should the development proceed, we recommend that relevant parts of this guidance are followed, e.g. in relation to handling or trafficking on soils in wet weather.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Natural England	The British Society of Soil Science has published the Guidance Note 'Benefiting from Soil Management in Development and Construction' which sets out measures for the protection of soils	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation			
	within the planning system and the development of individual sites, which we also recommend is followed.		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
South Kesteven District Council	Ecology and Biodiversity • No comments – approach to assessment in accordance with best practice	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	1.Detrimental impact on biodiversity and ecology	No	<p>As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas (approximately 633ha) will comprise of areas for landscape screening, habitat creation and provision of permissive paths. Examples of new habitats include riparian habitats, wildflower with calcareous species grassland, and hedgerow planting.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure (GI) strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared to consider opportunities for connecting habitats within the Order limits that would deliver environmental and / or biodiversity net gain and consider other community enhancements. The GI Strategy is secured through the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>The combination of measures identified in the GI Strategy will result in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0%</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			for Rivers (as no river or ditches are being formally enhanced as assessed by the metric) As assessed via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>5.13 Nature Conservation Considerations</p> <p>5.13.1 Local Plan Policy EN2 (Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity) identifies that the Council will facilitate the conservation, enhancement and promotion of the District's biodiversity and geological interests of the natural environment. This includes seeking to enhance ecological networks and seeking to deliver a net gain on all proposals.</p> <p>5.13.2 Furthermore, Criterion 7 of the Renewable Energy Appendix identifies that proposals should demonstrate that due consideration has been given to the potential impacts of the proposal on local, national and international designated sites, including those outside the District. Where a proposal is likely to have adverse impacts; applicants should demonstrate how these potential impacts have been addressed in the proposal, with proposed mitigation measures being commensurate to the significance of the designation, in relation to the local, national and international hierarchy. In instances where a proposal would have an adverse impact on a</p>	No	<p>The habitat creation and enhancement works being proposed for within the Order limits will provide a high net gain in biodiversity value for the area within it. This has been shown to be just over 70% with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1, carried out on the basis of the Green Infrastructure Plan [EN010127/APP/7.9]. This constitutes a beneficial effect of significance at a District level.</p> <p>The design of the Proposed Development also includes the retention of all statutory designated sites and the majority of non-statutory designated sites, with the exception of small temporary losses which will be mitigated for.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	protected habitat or species, the applicant should demonstrate that the need for and public benefits of the development clearly outweigh the harm caused, and that mitigation and / or compensation measures can be secured to offset the harm and achieve, where possible, a net gain for biodiversity.		
Rutland County Council	Ecology and Biodiversity • No comments – approach to assessment in accordance with best practice	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	4. Vegetation loss • The extent of any vegetation loss to facilitate construction access or the permanent site access points identified in Section 5.11, is not identified. While paragraph 5.11.3 identifies that site access will be taken from existing agricultural tracks and field entrances, it is likely these may need vegetation cut back for sight lines and/or widening to 10.2 and 6.5m, as identified in paragraph 15.12.1: “The primary point of access into the Primary Onsite Substation will be 10.2m wide to facilitate two-way HGV traffic. The secondary points of access from the adopted highway will be up to 6.5m wide.”	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Areas of Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI have been removed from the Order limits in order to avoid direct impacts as cabling routing or site access works are no longer being considered in this location. Areas of the SSSI that remain within the Order limits are for vegetation management only. In addition, sections of the A6121 and Ryhall Road have been removed from the Order Limits, avoiding direct impacts on the Tolethorpe Verges SSSI as it has been agreed with the Local Highway Authority that localised road improvements are not required to facilitate the movement of construction vehicles, with the exception of the A6121/B1176 and the Ryhall Road/Old Great North Road Junction.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			Small losses to LWS have been identified and will be mitigated for. For more information during construction and decommissioning phases, please see the oCEMP and oDEMP.
Lincolnshire County Council	5. Green infrastructure proposals are provided in Section 5.13 and Table 5.13 clearly states the Minimum Offsets to Landscape and Ecological Features and Designations that are illustrated on Figures 5.1 and Illustrative Sections. If the plans and sections for the LVIA are still intended to be indicative, the LVIA needs to clearly state what layout, offsets and mitigation the assessment has been based upon, as different mitigation strategies will likely alter potential effects, and we would expect the layout to not just deliver green infrastructure to the minimum offsets provided in Table 5.13. The Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) at Appendix 5.2 of the PEIR should be developed to provide a clear strategy to secure any mitigation and enhancement areas, as identified on Figure 5.1.	No	The GI strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared to consider opportunities for connecting habitats within that would deliver environmental and / or biodiversity net gain and consider other community enhancements and is secured through the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9] . For more information on what the key principles are for the GI Strategy, please see the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3] .
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity LCC does not have an in-house ecologist however having reviewed the information contained within the PEIR, the approach taken thus far appears reasonable and we have no specific comments to offer at this stage other than the	No	Areas of Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI have been removed from the Order limits in order to avoid direct impacts as cabling routing or site access works are no longer being considered in this location. Areas of the SSSI that

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	<p>following: Impact of proposed highway works – it is noted that discussions are on-going with the Highway Authorities about potential improvement works that may be needed between the A1 and the Solar PV Site. Full details of any proposed works and the extent of any vegetation/habitat loss must be clearly identified and defined as part of the ES in order to understand the potential impacts of such works. This is of particular importance where works may affect the LWS's and/or SSSI and so all areas identified as necessary and likely to be affected must be fully surveyed and assessed in order to understand the impact such works could have in terms of loss of roadside verge, hedgerows etc. Further comments will be provided as the project continues and the Environmental Statement is completed.</p>		<p>remain within the Order limits are for vegetation management only. In addition, sections of the A6121 and Ryhall Road have been removed from the Order Limits, avoiding direct impacts on the Tolethorpe Verges SSSI as it has been agreed with the Local Highway Authority that localised road improvements are not required to facilitate the movement of construction vehicles, with the exception of the A6121/B1176 and the Ryhall Road/Old Great North Road Junction. Small losses to LWS have been identified and will be mitigated for. For more information during construction and decommissioning phases, please see the oCEMP and oDEMP.</p>
Natural England	<p>Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation The potential effects on biodiversity diversity of the proposed development have been assessed and appropriate avoidance or mitigation measures incorporated into the various draft management plans, which will consider designated sites and other ecology and nature conservation during all phases. We note that these plans are preliminary and further certainty of the potential environmental effects as a result of the proposed development will</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The GI strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared to consider opportunities for connecting habitats within that would deliver environmental and / or biodiversity net gain and consider other community enhancements and is secured through the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9]. For more information, please see Chapter 7:</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	be gained as the EIA process progresses alongside the development of the project design.		Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] . For more information on what the key principles are for the GI Strategy, please see the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3] .
Natural England	The following management plans have been developed and provided as appendices to the PEIR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) • outline Framework Landscape Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) • outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) • draft Water and Construction Management Plan' (WCMP) 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Natural England	Designated Sites There are four internationally important statutory designated sites within 10km of the site: Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site; Baston Fen Special Area of Conservation (SAC); Grimethorpe SAC; and Barnack Hills and Holes SAC. Natural England would recommend that a Habitats Regulation screening assessment (HRA) is attached to the ES to confirm no likelihood of significant impact.	No	The Proposed Development will not have any likely significant effects on European sites. The shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment provided to support this ES (Appendix 7.5 [EN010127/APP/6.2] sets out the rationale regarding this conclusion with reference to internationally important designated sites. This is based on the distance to the designated sites and the very low likelihood that the Order limits supports habitats which are functionally linked to the designated sites.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Natural England	Ryhall Pastures and Little Warren Verges Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) was found to be hydrologically connected to and within the site. Construction activities have the potential to impact the SSSI. A 'draft Water and Construction Management Plan' (WCMP) (Appendix 12.2) has been drawn up, which will be secured by a DCO requirement. This describes water management measures to control surface water runoff and drain hardstanding and other structures during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development and will form part of a Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP).	No	Areas of Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI have been removed from the Order limits in order to avoid direct impacts as cabling routing or site access works are no longer being considered in this location. Areas of the SSSI that remain within the Order limits are for vegetation management only. Please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] , for more information.
Natural England	The measures set out in the draft WCMP will be included within the oCEMP, OEMP and oDEMP; watercourses will have buffers by set distances determined as part of the WCMP, which infrastructure will not encroach on. We agree that such an approach, in conjunction with the measures set out in the WCMP, should be sufficient to avoid potential effects on the hydrological and hydrogeological resource. Buffer distances from drains will also be included as part of the WCMP as a sediment control measure.		For more information during construction and decommissioning phases, please see the oCEMP and oDEMP. The following vegetation offsets have been included as part of the Proposed Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offsets of at least 15m from the Proposed Development to existing woodlands will be provided. • Offsets of at least 10m either side from all existing hedgerows will be provided. • Offsets of at least 15m to statutorily and locally designated wildlife sites.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offsets of at least 30m from main badger setts. • There will also be 13.9km of new hedgerow planting and 7.5km of new tree belt planting. Please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] for more information.
Natural England	There is the potential of accidental damage and other indirect effects to the Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Tolethorpe Road Verges SSSI, within and adjacent to the site, to occur during the construction or decommissioning phases. (Ref: 7.4.9) These will be avoided or reduced to insignificant impacts by the implementation of the measures set out in the oCEMP and oDEMP.	No	Areas of Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI have been removed from the Order limits in order to avoid direct impacts as cabling routing or site access works are no longer being considered in this location. Areas of the SSSI that remain within the Order limits are for vegetation management only. In addition, sections of the A6121 and Ryhall Road have been removed from the Order Limits, avoiding direct impacts on the Tolethorpe Verges SSSI as it has been agreed with the Local Highway Authority that localised road improvements are not required to facilitate the movement of construction vehicles, with the exception of the A6121/B1176 and the Ryhall Road/Old Great North Road Junction.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			Small losses to LWS have been identified and will be mitigated for. For more information during construction and decommissioning phases, please see the oCEMP and oDEMP.
Natural England	Details regarding the proposed highway and cabling routes are still being developed and may affect SSSIs adjacent to the site through required excavation works and/or highway access improvements. (Ref: 7.5.2). As the design progresses, it is proposed that opportunities to embed mitigation into the proposal in order to avoid and minimise direct impact. This will be explored and reported on within the Environmental Statement (ES). We advise any works to SSSIs must be discussed in advance with Natural England, at as early a stage as possible.	No	Areas of Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI have been removed from the Order limits in order to avoid direct impacts as cabling routing or site access works are no longer being considered in this location. Areas of the SSSI that remain within the Order limits are for vegetation management only therefore no impacts to these will occur. In addition, sections of the A6121 and Ryhall Road have been removed from the Order Limits, avoiding direct impacts on the Tolethorpe Verges SSSI as it has been agreed with the Local Highway Authority that localised road improvements are not required to facilitate the movement of construction vehicles, with the exception of the A6121/B1176 and the Ryhall Road/Old Great North Road Junction.
Natural England	We welcome that it is recognised that the development poses an opportunity to create additional habitat which could complements the SSSIs in this area, and/or contribute to increasing	No	The GI strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared to consider opportunities for connecting habitats within that would deliver

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	the ecological connectivity of the area. This is noted within the section on Green Infrastructure and we comment further below.		environmental and /or biodiversity net gain and consider other community enhancements and is secured through the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9] . For more information on what the key principles are for the GI Strategy, please see the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3] .
Natural England	Regionally and Locally Important Sites and Habitats and Species of Principal Importance Two Local Wildlife Sites (LWS): Carlby/Essendine Verge LWS and Essendine Dismantled Railway Embankment LWS are located within the Mitigation and Enhancement Area, with both LWSs featuring priority habitats (calcareous grassland and a stream) and nationally scarce species. We note that the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre and the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre were contacted to gain information on pre-existing ecological information (i.e. location and citations of Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs)). We recommend consultation with the relevant site owners/managers, i.e. Wildlife Trusts, who have extensive local knowledge of these sites. Measures to remove or reduce impacts on any affected LWS will be included within the Framework CEMP and submitted with the ES.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Natural England	Ancient Woodland The site does not support any ancient woodland; however, there are parcels of ancient woodland	No	As outlined in Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity, the Order limits do not support any ancient woodland; however,

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	outside of on the north-eastern boundary (replanted ancient woodland at Braceborough Little Wood) and north-western site boundary (ancient woodland and replanted ancient woodland at Newell Wood. (Ref: 7.2.33)		there are parcels of such land located to the north-east adjacent to the Order limits (replanted ancient woodland at Braceborough Little Wood) and north-west, at a distance of approximately 275m (ancient woodland and replanted ancient woodland at Newell Wood). However, buffers and standard environmental protection measures have been put in place to protect these sites, including offsets of at least 15 times the width of the stem diameter of Veteran Trees will be put in place to protect them. For more information, please see Appendix 7.3: Ecology Consultation, [EN010127/APP/6.2] .
Natural England	The PEIR, has examined potential impacts to ancient woodland from changes to air quality.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Natural England	Natural England and the Forestry Commission have produced standing advice in relation to ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees. Natural England will only provide bespoke advice on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees where they form part of a SSSI or in exceptional circumstances. However, we recognise the steps put forward (e.g. undeveloped buffers and standard environmental protection measures) to protect these sites.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
Natural England	There are three potential construction routes to the site, identified in Figures 9.2 (Route 1), 9.3 (Route 2) and 9.4 (Route 3). On proposed construction Route 2, there are two potentially sensitive ecological sites: Math/ Elsea Wood SSSI and Park Wood Ancient Woodland, which are located within 200m of the roadside. A baseline air quality review has been undertaken to determine the existing air quality within 3.5 km of the site. (Ref:11.2.5)	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information on the ecological surveys conducted as part of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Natural England	<p>Protected Species</p> <p>Based on the information provided Natural England agrees that the proposal has the potential to impact protected species. Natural England's Standing Advice provides guidance on how protected species should be dealt with in the planning system. The Standing Advice should not be treated as giving any indication or providing any assurance in respect of European Protected Species (EPS) that the proposed development is unlikely to affect the EPS present on the site; nor should it be interpreted as meaning that Natural England has reached any views as to whether a licence may be granted. Please refer to 'The Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 11, Annex C' which details information regarding licensing of protected species for NSIP applications.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Natural England	Additional surveys were recommended to be carried out in April/May 2022 targeting additional ponds for the presence of GCN. If required further	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information on the ecological surveys conducted as part of

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	<p>Phase 1 habitat surveys will be undertaken if any highway works require any vegetation removal. (Ref: 7.8.3).</p> <p>Natural England can advise you of the of the possibility of applying for District Level Licensing (DLL) which may become available later in the year in Lincolnshire. If this option is available, the applicant would need to either:</p> <p>a) provisionally sign up to DLL before the scheme launch or</p> <p>b) if the scheme has launched, sign up when they need to commence works on the ground and need a licence.</p>		<p>the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Natural England	<p>Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)</p> <p>We welcome that the biodiversity enhancements which are proposed may give rise to significant biodiversity net gains on the site. We recommend use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1, which can be found here, to quantify these gains and demonstrate that the development will benefit biodiversity overall. Although government intends to mandate measurable biodiversity net gain for all new development at present there is no mandatory requirement to do this. We do therefore advise that taking the net gain approach would make this development exemplary and would be illustrative of the intent to work to benefit the environment through development. Natural England would be pleased to advise on any plan of action regarding</p>	No	<p>The Applicant used the Department for Agricultural and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1 to calculate biodiversity net gain, as Natural England has recommended.</p> <p>The combination of measures identified in the GI Strategy will result in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no river or ditches are being formally enhanced as assessed by the metric) As assessed via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	BNG. We would recommend that a BNG calculation and report is included in the ES.		3.1. Overall this is considered a very high gain as delivered by a development.
Natural England	Please be advised that the DEFRA metric should not be used to assess impacts and calculate compensation for habitat damage or loss in designated sites or irreplaceable habitats. Any impacts on such habitats and sites should be assessed in accordance with planning policy and via the environmental assessment.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The Ecology and Biodiversity chapter (Chapter 7 of the ES) assesses the impacts to designated sites separately and in relation to policy.</p> <p>The metric was used to assess impacts to all habitats within the Order limits including a very small area within a SSSI (a statutory designated site) on a precautionary basis but this is being retained.</p> <p>The assessment of the baseline shows that the Order limits do not include any irreplaceable habitats.</p>
Natural England	The oLEMP will be needed to explain how the site will continue to be managed and secured for the lifetime of the development. The oLEMP should also provide details on the planned retention and enhancement of existing habitat features such as hedgerows, woodland and ponds. We would also particularly need details on proposed habitat connectivity to surrounding habitats which would contribute to the wider Nature Recovery Network and if included in an application there should be the presumption of retention at the design stage of the	No	<p>The GI strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared to consider opportunities for connecting habitats within that would deliver environmental and /or biodiversity net gain and consider other community enhancements and is secured through the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>For more information on what the key principles are for the GI Strategy, please see the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3]. For</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	layout. Note that habitat enhanced or created for mandatory BNG must be secured, managed and maintained for at least 30 years and must achieve the distinctiveness and condition as intended.		more information on environmental management, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Natural England	Chapter 19 Cumulative Effects A 'long list' of existing and proposed developments that fall within the ecological Zone of Influence was drawn up and a short list produced. The assessment once undertaken will be reported within the ES. The long list will be kept under continual review up until the point of determination of the DCO application. Where schemes have been discounted, they will continue to be monitored to ensure that any changes to those schemes are identified and their omission from the short list is reassessed. The next stage of the cumulative effects assessment will be to gather further information on the short listed developments, Natural England is happy to provide feedback. (Ref: 19.3.24)	No	The assessment of likely cumulative effects will be undertaken and will set out measures envisaged to reduce or avoid any identified significant adverse cumulative effects and, where appropriate, any proposed monitoring arrangements. For more information, please see Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Cumulative Summary, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Natural England	The existing hedgerows, woodland, ditches, ponds and field margins will be retained within the layout of the PV arrays, with the exception of small breaks and/or crossings required for new access tracks, security fencing and cable routes. Any breaks or crossing will be designed to use existing agricultural gateways/tracks between the fields and the width of any new breaks will be kept to a minimum. We note that the majority of the fields	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	<p>within the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas will continue to be farmed under arable rotation with additional measures to support skylarks. We welcome the production of the Green Infrastructure Strategy (Ref: Figure 6.10) and support the general proposals it makes, which aim to improve the quality and connectivity of habitats at a landscape level across the site, and mitigation and enhancement area, as well as performing important screening and assimilatory functions to respond to and enhance the local landscape fabric.</p>		
Natural England	<p>The minimum offsets/buffers from the solar arrays or security, as set out in Table 5.13, will be incorporated within the design of the proposed development, with the exception of where access tracks, security fencing and/or cable routes are required to cross an existing feature. These offsets/buffers have been established based on best practice and guidance and will be used to deliver additional planting of diverse habitats to either increase habitat connectivity and structural diversity through combinations of hedgerow, scrub, grass / wildflower planting. The buffers/offsets are a minimum and for example may be increased to deliver further mitigation or enhancements and/or respond to root protection areas where required.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Natural England	<p>The Mitigation and Enhancement Areas as identified on Figure 5.1a and 5.1b will also provide areas for GI, including the creation of wildflower</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	grassland adjacent to the West Glen River and the small valley in the north-west of the Site. The majority of the fields within the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas will continue to be farmed under arable rotation with additional measures to support skylarks.		
Natural England	We welcome that an opportunity was identified to improve connectivity of Mallard Pass Solar Farm to Little Warren Wood and Ryhall Pastures SSSI. The extent of solar infrastructure was set back from the northern boundary to reflect the offset to arable on the northern side of the ditch that runs through this part of the site. Natural England will be happy to work with the applicant to achieve this.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Essendine Parish Council	2. Biodiversity destruction The existent biodiversity has the potential to be destroyed and/or driven away by the construction and subsequent operation of the solar farm. This land in this area has been farmed for thousands of years in one way or another. The existent biodiversity has evolved and learnt to coexist with each other over the same thousands of years.	No	As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas (approximately 633ha) will comprise of areas for landscape screening, habitat creation and provision of permissive paths. Examples of new habitats include, riparian habitats, wildflower with calcareous species grassland, and hedgerow planting. The GI strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared to consider opportunities for connecting habitats within that would deliver environmental and /or biodiversity net

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			gain and consider other community enhancements and is secured through the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010127/APP/7.9] . The combination of measures identified in the GI Strategy will result in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no river or ditches are being formally enhanced as assessed by the metric) As assessed via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1.
Essendine Parish Council	Land that is fenced off using manmade fence materials will potentially create undue suffering and potential death to the animals, birds and insects that currently populate the proposed solar panel site.	No	Perimeter fencing and CCTV systems around the solar array will comprise of wooden posts and wire mesh fencing. Perimeter fences will not be constructed through existing hedgerows or across ditches. There will also be clearances above ground, and / or the inclusion of mammal gates to permit the movement of wildlife. For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Essendine Parish Council	The existing resident flora, fauna, animal and bird life that everyone takes great joy in seeing	No	The GI Strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared to

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	and watching will be driven out of the area seeking shelter in neighbouring unfamiliar territory potentially upsetting the biodiversity of the territory they are forced to move into.		consider opportunities for connecting habitats within that would deliver environmental and / or biodiversity net gain and consider other community enhancements and is secured through the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9] . The habitat creation and enhancement works being proposed within the Order limits will provide a high net gain in biodiversity value. This has been shown to be just over 70% with the use of the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 3.1, carried out on the basis of the Green Infrastructure Plan [EN010127/APP/7.9] . This constitutes a beneficial effect of significance at a District level. For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Essendine Parish Council	The existing biodiversity does not need to be “enhanced” as stated by the developers in its marketing materials. It works very well without the intervention of a commercial developer.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council	Future government agricultural schemes seek to enhance biodiversity and address ecological nature; this will only set this back considerably.	No	The combination of measures identified in the GI Strategy will result in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no river or ditches are

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			<p>being formally enhanced as assessed by the metric) As assessed via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1.</p> <p>This constitutes a beneficial effect of significance at a District level. This enhancement would not work against or set back any future enhancement within the Order limits, should agricultural activities recommence nor in the wider area.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council	On behalf of Ryhall and Belmesthorpe Parish Council, its residents, the residents of the surrounding villages and the environment and biodiversity of the area please say NO to the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Uffington Parish Council	Twenty-two residents (79%) objected to the negative visual impact that the solar panels, security fences and lighting would have on the countryside, and twenty were specifically concerned about ecological damage leading to a loss of wildlife habitat and biodiversity.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Proposed Development will have a measurable beneficial effect on biodiversity value as assessed by the Defra metric 3.1 and in terms of beneficial effects for individual species or species groups.</p> <p>For more information, please see the ES Chapter 5: Project Description</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			<p>[EN010127/APP/6.1], Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual [EN010127/APP/6.1], and Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Carlby Parish Council	<p>At the public consultation events there was so much ecological spin that I actually thought I had turned up at PR events for the next new Eden Project to be built on our doorstep, to be welcomed and appreciated by all rather than for a huge Solar Farm site over 2000 acres of land which in its construction period alone will irreparably damage wildlife habitat, wreck the natural landscape, cause untold upheaval and distress for many living in the area. A large % of the land you are proposing to build on is BMV agricultural land, its also undulating ground and can not be ideal land for Solar Panels. We need to protect this land for us now for food production rather than have fields of ineffective and outdated Solar panels that will end up abandoned quickly as technology advances and makes Solar ineffective in much less than the 30 yrs ++ that you are proposing.</p>	No	<p>As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas (approximately 633ha) will comprise of areas for landscape screening, habitat creation and provision of permissive paths. Examples of new habitats include riparian habitats, wildflower with calcareous species grassland, and hedgerow planting.</p> <p>The GI Strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared to consider opportunities for connecting habitats within that would deliver environmental and / or biodiversity net gain and consider other community enhancements and is secured through the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>The combination of measures identified in the GI Strategy will result in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no river or ditches are</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			<p>being formally enhanced as assessed by the metric) As assessed via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1.</p> <p>For more information, please see the ES Chapter 5: Project Description [EN010127/APP/6.1], Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010127/APP/6.1], and Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils [EN010127/APP/6.1]. For more information on the decommissioning process, please see the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) that has been prepared to support the DCO application.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Carlby Parish Council	Destruction and loss of wildlife habitat	No	<p>As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas (approximately 633ha) will comprise of areas for landscape screening, habitat creation and provision of permissive paths. Examples of new habitats include, riparian habitats, wildflower with</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			<p>calcareous species grassland, and hedgerow planting.</p> <p>The GI Strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared to consider opportunities for connecting habitats within that would deliver environmental and / or biodiversity net gain and consider other community enhancements and is secured through the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>The combination of measures identified in the GI Strategy will result in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no river or ditches are being formally enhanced as assessed by the metric) As assessed via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	5. The effects on wildlife, particularly during construction, will be appalling and take years to recover from. The developer's proposals to mitigate this damage are suspect. An industrial site can never be a natural environment.	No	The potential impacts on all protected and notable species and habitats have been assessed in detail including for the construction phase. Appropriate mitigation and enhancement is set out in

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			<p>the oCEMP, oLEMP, oOEMP and oDEMP, and captured in Appendix 17.1 Mitigation Schedule, of the ES. This is based on existing proven impacts of solar arrays and professional judgement and extensive experience on solar array proposals.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	massive natural habitat loss and long term lasting negative impact on all forms of habitat in the area, not just the proposed 900H site,	No	<p>As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], proposed hedgerows will be planted with a variety of fruiting species to provide foraging opportunities for wildlife. Further, 443ha of land (48%) would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland.</p> <p>In addition to this, the following mitigation measures set out how the Applicant proposes to protect existing green infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerows will be managed in accordance with the specifications in the oLEMP. • Perimeter fences will not be constructed through existing hedgerows. • Offsets of at least 10m either side from all existing hedgerows will be provided.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offsets of at least 10m either side from main rivers and 6m from ditches will be provided. • Offsets of at least 15m from the Proposed Development to existing woodlands will be provided. • Offsets of at least 15m to statutorily and locally designated wildlife sites. • Approximately 43ha of wildflower grassland habitat would be created along with approximately 7,500m of structural tree planting, and approximately 14,000m of structural hedgerow planting. <p>For more information, please see the oLEMP, [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>The GI strategy for the Proposed Development has also been prepared to consider opportunities for connecting habitats within that would deliver environmental and / or biodiversity net gain and consider other community enhancements. This is secured through the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>The combination of measures identified in the GI Strategy will result in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no river or ditches are</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			being formally enhanced as assessed by the metric) As assessed via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1.
Greatford Parish Council	6. Wildlife The development site is home to healthy populations of large mammals including deer (Roe, Fallow & Muntjac), foxes, hares and badgers, all of which have territories that currently enable them to roam freely throughout the proposed development site.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Greatford Parish Council	Fencing off large swathes of these territories for the security of the site will inevitably lead to the loss of these animals from our locality which would further alter the character of the landscape.	No	Perimeter fencing and CCTV systems around the solar array will comprise of wooden posts and wire mesh fencing. Perimeter fences will not be constructed through existing hedgerows or across ditches. There will also be the inclusion of passing point at the base of security fencing to permit the movement of wildlife. For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Greatford Parish Council	Populations of other bird, small mammal, invertebrate and plant species will no doubt change as a result of this development, and will no doubt be part of the claimed 10% biodiversity gain, however the large mammals mentioned above will	No	The impacts to protected and notable species have been assessed fully and mitigation put in place as needed. There is also a considerable beneficial effect to

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	largely be lost and this will be a tragedy for our area.		certain species being delivered by the measures in the GI strategy. There may be a reduction in areas available for ungulates (various deer species). However it is likely that these species will continue to be present in unfenced areas and in the wider landscape. In legislative and policy terms there are no specific drivers for the conservation of deer arising from a development project such as this. Deer species displaced from the site by fencing are not considered rare or vulnerable and as such are not considered important ecological features in EIA terms and not scoped into Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity.
Greatford Parish Council	In summary Greatford Parish Council are opposed to the development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm as if constructed it will increase the risk of flooding for our village, reduce the nation's food production capacity, increase an already significant traffic problem in our village, provide no benefit to the community, damage our archaeological heritage and drive local wildlife away from the area.	No	The Applicant makes note of the final part of this comment relating to Ecology Please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] in relation to this.
Braceborough & Wiltsthorpe Parish Council	This will in turn have a detrimental impact on the bio-diversity of the area. Wildlife will lose their habitat and no amount of saying by Mallard Pass that it will all be ok, or in your words 'mitigated' will	No	The combination of measures identified in the GI Strategy will result in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	<p>make it ok. Deer could get caught in the fencing and die a horrible death as well as many other wildlife inhabitants of the fields and woodlands. I fear that bio-diversity net gain, something that the Government insists upon, will not be realised at all.</p>		<p>Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no river or ditches are being formally enhanced as assessed by the metric) As assessed via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1. This will be delivered through habitat creation and enhancement as set out in the oLEMP. Monitoring of the establishment and effectiveness of the measures in the oLEMP will also be carried out regularly.</p> <p>.</p> <p>The fencing will be designed so as to not result in captures or trapping of deer or any other animal as set out in the oLEMP. Gaps created specifically for the movement of small and medium sized mammals will be included in security fencing. This will ensure the Order limits remains permeable to hare, badger and hedgehog, all SPIs.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	Environmental damage caused by the construction of this development will be enormous.	No	Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] assess the impacts to all protected and notable species, designated sites and habitats.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			<p>Mitigation has been embedded in the Proposed Development to avoid damage to retained habitats and features within the Order limits and beyond.</p> <p>The combination of measures identified in the GI Strategy will result in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no river or ditches are being formally enhanced as assessed by the metric) As assessed via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1. This will be delivered through habitat creation and enhancement as set out in the oLEMP. Monitoring of the establishment and effectiveness of the measures in the oLEMP will also be carried out regularly.</p> <p>For more information during construction and decommissioning phases, please see the oCEMP and oDEMP.</p>
Stamford Town Council	<p>Wildlife Habitat Loss</p> <p>The initial and overriding impression is that it would be unacceptable to block access or prevent passage of wildlife across such a large area. The location is abundant with many large herds of deer, muntjac, thriving badger populations, foxes, hares,</p>	No	<p>As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3], the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas (approximately 633ha) will comprise of areas for landscape screening, habitat creation and provision of permissive paths.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	<p>rabbits, weasels, stoats, owls various, red kites, buzzards, kestrel, lapwings, skylarks, etc. All of these animals will be disturbed during the extensive construction work and thereafter, and whilst some of the smaller mammals may be able to try and navigate through the security fences, it will hugely impact some of the larger mammals eg. the deer and badger populations. There is an enormous cross section of birds of prey and other bird species. Having such a large expanse of solar panels will impact their habitat, and could both disorientate and drive them away, due to the intense glare from reflected sunlight. Despite the comprehensive work done by the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), it is still impossible to determine what the overall effects of this PD (Proposed Development) will have on the wildlife during the construction and operational stages of the Solar PV Farm. The PEIR states that additional surveys need to be carried out in April-May 2022 so have these been carried out?</p>		<p>Examples of new habitats include, riparian habitats, wildflower with calcareous species grassland, and hedgerow planting. Fragmentation will be avoided with respect to Species of Principal Importance such as badger and hedgehog through providing gaps in the security fencing.</p> <p>The GI Strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared to consider opportunities for connecting habitats within that would deliver environmental and / or biodiversity net gain and consider other community enhancements and is secured through the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>Impacts to individual species have been assessed in the Ecology and Biodiversity Chapter 7 of the ES. This includes an assessment of displacement and habitat loss of fragmentation.</p> <p>The combination of measures identified in the GI Strategy will result in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no river or ditches are being formally enhanced as assessed by the metric) As assessed via the</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1. For more information on the ecological surveys conducted as part of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	Despite the comprehensive work done by the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), it is still impossible to determine what the overall effects of this PD (Proposed Development) will have on the wildlife during the construction and operational stages of the Solar PV Farm. The PEIR states that additional surveys need to be carried out in April-May 2022 so have these been carried out?	Yes	Please see Chapter 7 of the ES: Ecology and Biodiversity for the Applicant's approach to ecological and wildlife impacts [EN010127/APP/6.1]
Environment Agency	PEIR Chapter 7 - Ecology and biodiversity The presence and significance of the West Glen River is recognised in the PEIR, in particular in paragraph 7.2.29. This chapter, and appendix 5.2, outline plans for ecological surveys and management. However, we have not found any reference to ecological surveys carried out or planned specifically for the Glen, and the aquatic environment.	No	The West Glen was covered by the Phase 1 Habitats surveys and for water voles and otter, as set out in the Appendix 7.4: Baseline Ecology report of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.2] . Given the avoidance of this recognised ecological feature, its retention and likely enhancement by reducing, at least at a site level, the adverse effects of intensive arable farming in its vicinity, no detailed surveys were carried out or considered necessary as no significant specific
Environment Agency	We would wish to see a pre-project aquatic survey of the West Glen in the location of the solar farm		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	covering aquatic invertebrates, fish population and macrophytes. We would also like a specific river habitat survey.		adverse impacts from the Proposed Development have been identified during the scoping exercise or by the EA.
Environment Agency	A monitoring programme should be designed to cover these elements into the future and measure any long-term effects, although we are hopeful that there will be none.		In addition obtaining a baseline and then setting in place a monitoring programme for a river where such a small stretch would be within the Order limits and subject to enhancements would be problematic and result in data which would be very difficult to interpret as any trends would be almost impossible to separate from wider national or local trends or impacts arising from outside the Order limits.
Gareth Davies MP for Grantham and Stamford	Impact upon biodiversity and the local environment - local wildlife experts are concerned over the exclusion of some species in your biodiversity assessments so far and with your lack of planning with regards to the long-term management of the proposed nature and grassland areas.	No	As set out in the ES the nature of the Proposed Development and the control measures as set out in the oCEMP which will be implemented will not result in adverse effects such as pollution events, or effects on hydrology. As such there is not a trigger for the degree of baseline survey and monitoring proposed by the EA. For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] . All species which are either protected or notable (such as Species of Principal Importance listed in Section 41 as

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			<p>defined in the NERC Act 2006) have been considered fully.</p> <p>The oLEMP sets out the principals of the management of the proposed and retained habitats.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.</p>
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	<p>Biodiversity and Environmental Concerns</p> <p>There are widespread concerns about the likely negative impact the solar plant could have on the unique and rich biodiversity of the area.</p> <p>Responding to the scoping report the Inspectorate stated that the developers had sought to scope out '98 national statutory local wildlife sites' within two kilometres of the development (p.11, ID 3,2,1). This request was rejected as the developers had provided no evidence that the sites would not be damaged.</p>	No	<p>The habitat creation and enhancement works being proposed for within the Order limits will provide a high net gain in biodiversity value for the area within it.</p> <p>This has been shown to be just over 70% with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1, carried out on the basis of the Green Infrastructure Plan [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>This constitutes a beneficial effect of significance at a District level.</p> <p>Areas of Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI have been removed from the Order limits in order to avoid direct impacts as cabling routing or site access works are no longer being considered in this location. Areas of the SSSI that remain within the Order limits are for vegetation management only.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			<p>There remain SSSIs and LWS within and adjacent to the Order limits which are considered fully in the assessment set out in Chapter 7 Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES as well as being subject to protection measures as set out in the oCEMP, oOEMP and oDEMP.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	The Inspectorate also raised concerns about the decommissioning of the site 'given the potential	No	An assessment of the impacts at the decommissioning stage have been

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	<p>effects during decommissioning are likely to be similar to those experienced during constructing, including disturbance and damage to habitat.’ (p.12, ID 3,2,3).</p>		<p>included in Chapter 7 Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. Measures to ensure damage to sites, habitats of value and species do not occur are set out in the oDEMP.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP’s Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	<p>Several wildlife experts have also expressed concern, with Tim Appleton, founder of Birdfair and Global Birdfair (Rutland), stating: ‘The development would cancel out the territories of the farmland and hedgerow birds which are currently present. Banthorpe gravel pit is just</p>	No	<p>Impacts to the breeding and wintering birds have been fully assessed and mitigation put in place to avoid losses of skylark. The Proposed Development also includes extensive planting and habitat</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	outside their boundary, but fields used by grazing geese and resting egrets and herons are within it. It also negates all the open land currently used by hunting Red Kites, Buzzards and Kestrels.'		<p>enhancement which will benefit a range of bird species.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	Ron Simpson, Chair of the CPRE, the Countryside Charity stated: 'The Mallard Pass Solar Farm proposal is an outstanding example of how the nation should not address the challenge of climate change and our future energy needs. Its huge scale with consequential damage to the Rutland environment	No	The impacts to the ecology and biodiversity value of the area have been fully assessed. The Proposed Development will deliver a substantial net gain in terms of biodiversity value and mitigation has been included to ensure no adverse effects of significance occur.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	<p>is unacceptable to CPRE Rutland and its membership. The charity is concerned that the project may be approved through a nationally determined planning application. Government can expect vigorous opposition to this project unless it is significantly scaled back and receives the support of neighbouring parishes and the local planning authority.'</p>		<p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	<p>I am particularly concerned about the likely impact on rare birds. Skylarks and barn owls are frequent throughout the site and there has been no explanation of how their habitat would be protected throughout the construction phase and once the development was completed. Quails are known to inhabit the site and have bred there previously but were excluded from the development proposal. As an Amber list species under the Wildlife and</p>	No	<p>As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3] proposed hedgerows will be planted with a variety of fruiting species to provide foraging opportunities for wildlife, including birds. The additional grassland will benefit barn owl by providing a more valuable foraging resource than arable land does. Quail were not recorded in the breeding</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	<p>Countryside Act, their exclusion from the current planning proposal is deeply worrying and needs to be addressed if the application is to proceed.</p>		<p>bird surveys, but if present, would benefit from the grassland creation. Further, Mitigation and Enhancement Areas are to remain in arable production with the creation of skylark plots to enhance nesting opportunities. For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	Rutland Water and Rutland's natural wealth have made our county a sanctuary for a vast array of birds, as demonstrated by the annual Global	No	Impacts to the breeding and wintering birds have been fully assessed and mitigation put in place to avoid losses of

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	<p>Birdfair festival and that it was the first home of the Osprey in the UK. Given the documented danger presented to birds by solar plants this proposal risks undermining the delicate ecosystem which supports these species.</p>		<p>skylark. The Proposed Development also includes extensive planting and habitat enhancement which will benefit a range of bird species.</p>
<p>Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton</p>	<p>Up to this point there has not been sufficient research and mitigation proposals by the developers to suggest that the areas biodiversity would not suffer negatively should Mallard Pass be built. If approval is to be given the developers need to demonstrate that the development would bring a 10% uplift to local biodiversity. Having spoken to experts and examined the documentation up to this point, I believe the current proposals would have a detrimental impact on the local environmental and as such the development should not be given approval.</p>		<p>The combination of measures identified in the GI Strategy will result in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no river or ditches are being formally enhanced as assessed by the metric) As assessed via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	The initial and overriding impression is that it would be unacceptable to block access or prevent passage of wildlife across such a large area. The location is abundant with many large herds of deer, muntjac, thriving badger populations, foxes, hares, rabbits, weasels, stoats, owls various, red kites, buzzards, kestrel, lapwings, skylarks, etc. All of these animals will be disturbed during the extensive construction work and thereafter, and whilst some of the smaller mammals may be able to try and navigate through the security fences, it will hugely impact some of the larger mammals eg. the deer and badger populations. There is an enormous cross section of birds of prey and other bird species. Having such a large expanse of solar panels will impact their habitat, and could both disorientate and drive them away, due to the intense glare from reflected sunlight.	No	As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3] , the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas (approximately 633ha) will comprise of areas for landscape screening, habitat creation and provision of permissive paths. Examples of new habitats include, riparian habitats, wildflower with calcareous species grassland, and hedgerow planting. Fragmentation will be avoided with respect to Species of Principal Importance such as badger and hedgehog through providing gaps in the security fencing. The GI Strategy for the Proposed Development has been prepared to consider opportunities for connecting habitats within that would deliver environmental and / or biodiversity net gain and consider other community enhancements and is secured through the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9] .

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
			<p>Impacts to individual species have been assessed in the Ecology and Biodiversity Chapter 7 of the ES. This includes an assessment of displacement and habitat loss of fragmentation.</p> <p>The combination of measures identified in the GI Strategy will result in the Proposed Development delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of 72.19% for Habitats, 40.83% for Hedgerows and 0% for Rivers (as no river or ditches are being formally enhanced as assessed by the metric) As assessed via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Biodiversity Metric 3.1. For more information on the ecological surveys conducted as part of the Proposed Development, please see Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	Mallard Pass is situated on large tracts of agricultural land. The UK is a net importer of food and taking productive arable land out of circulation only worsens this position. The UK needs to become more self-sufficient regarding food production, minimising food miles and contributing to a lower carbon footprint. Repurposing agricultural land in this way is counterproductive. As the Solar PV Farm has a life span of 40 years,	No	The design of the habitat creation within the site has considered the potential need to return to arable land in future. This has included not carrying out soil inversion for habitat creation purposes (such as diverse, nutrient poor grassland). For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description [EN010127/APP/6.1] , Chapter 7:

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Ecology and Biodiversity			
	this will have a devastating effect on the condition of the soil once the site is decommissioned.		Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010127/APP/6.1], and Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils [EN010127/APP/6.1]. For more information about the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development, please see the oDEMP, [EN010127/APP/7.8].

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
South Kesteven District Council	Cultural Heritage and Archaeology • No comments – approach to assessment in accordance with best practice	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	2.3SKDC Principal Conservation Officer 2.3.1No objection from a conservation point of view given the distances from the development site [to built heritage assets]	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	9.Impact on heritage assets, including sites of archaeological interest	No	A desk-based assessment and Geophysical survey have been undertaken to understand cultural heritage assets within the locality. This work deals with historic buildings (their settings), historic landscape and buried archaeological remains. Trial trenching has also been undertaken across the Site. The results of the work have been reported on in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] (and its appendices). The trial trenching work is being undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology, a professional and industry accredited company with over 30 years of experience in the field. They were responsible for the site work and all of the archival work that will accompany it.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.10Impact on Heritage Assets 5.10.1Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires Local Planning Authorities to have special regard for the desirability of preserving listed buildings and their settings, or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses. 5.10.2Similarly, Section 72 of the Act 1990 requires Local Planning Authorities to give special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhance the character or appearance of Conservation Areas .5.10.3Local Plan Policy EN6 (The Historic Environment) is the primary mechanism through with the Council exercises its statutory requirements. This policy states that the Council will seek to protect and enhance heritage assets and their settings in		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	<p>keeping with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework, and proposals will be expected to take Conservation Area Appraisals into account, where these have been adopted by the Council. Development that is likely to cause harm to the significance of a heritage asset or its setting will only be granted permission where the public benefits of the proposal outweigh the potential harm.5.10.4Furthermore, in respect of the potential impact of the development on archaeological assets, Policy EN6 identifies that where development affecting archaeological assets is acceptable in principle, the Council will seek to ensure mitigation of impacts through preservation of remains in situ as a preferred solution.</p>		
Rutland County Council	<p>Cultural Heritage and Archaeology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments – approach to assessment in accordance with best practice 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The correct National and Local Landscape Character Areas (LCA) have been referred to within the PEIR and cover a range of scales, and there is potential to scope out character areas that would not be affected by the development. We agree with the statement within paragraph 6.2.6 that National Character Areas are at a large scale and typically provide context only, as opposed to being a receptor to be assessed. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be useful to take into account the information collated as part of the Historic landscape characterisation project: The Historic Character of The County of Lincolnshire (September 2011), to ensure that the development is sensitive to the historic landscape. The project documents and the mapping can be accessed here: Historic Landscape Characterisation – Lincolnshire County Council. 	No	<p>Chapter 8 of the ES [N010127/APP/6.1] includes a Cultural Heritage Assessment of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, encompassing assessment of buried archaeological remains, built heritage and the historic landscape including designated and non-designated heritage assets.</p> <p>Appendix 8.1 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2] sets out the Legislation and Planning Policy Relevant to Cultural Heritage which have informed Chapter 8 of the ES.</p> <p>The assessment method for the assessment of cultural heritage interests is set out in Appendix 8.2 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2].</p> <p>The sources of information, including relevant historic records, used to inform the heritage assessment are set out in appendix 8.4 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2]</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology</p> <p>The following only summarises the comments provided by LCC’s Historic Places Team. A full copy of their response is attached to this response and you are therefore advised to refer to that document for full details and comments on this Chapter of the PEIR. Grave concerns remain about the Cultural Heritage section and the submitted documents that form part of the PEIR. The Historic Places Team has not had any direct contact from the project team since the Scoping Opinion was issued. At that stage, we responded setting out in detail specific requirements that we felt were necessary to provide a sufficient evidence base to allow an understanding of the site-specific archaeological potential across the full extent of the development. Since then, it is acknowledged that a geophysical survey has been undertaken of most of the redline boundary area (contained within Appendix 8.1) and some work has been undertaken on a desk-based assessment (DBA). The DBA is not contained within the PEIR and so we have not seen this or been able to comment whether this is sufficient at this stage.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment and subsequent meets and discussions have been had with Lincolnshire County Council. A desk-based assessment and Geophysical survey have been undertaken to understand cultural heritage assets within the locality. Trial trenching has also been undertaken across the Site. The results of the work have been reported on in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices).</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	❖ You are advised to contact the LCC Historic Environment Team immediately to discuss the DBA and are reminded that the DBA will need to	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment and has confirmed to LCC that the desk-based assessment</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	<p>be included within the final ES to form part of the evidence base supporting this Chapter of the ES. The DBA should include full LiDAR coverage and assessment; full aerial photo coverage and assessment; archaeological reports; relevant documents from the Record Office covering each site, and; the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) data must also be consulted. We also advised that map regression should include all available maps to provide a reasonable understanding of the development and time depth of the sites and that the HER search should be for at least 5km for visual impact on designated assets and a minimum 1km search beyond the extent of the full impact zone for non-designated assets.</p>		<p>included lidar assessment, air photo assessment, reference to previous archaeological work, review of documents held by the Record Officer, and the data from PAS. The HER was reviewed on two occasions. The study area extended further than described and the methodology employed adheres to industry guidelines. Full details of this work</p> <p>The sources of information, including relevant historic records, used to inform the heritage assessment are set out in appendix 8.4 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2]</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>The Cultural Heritage section of the PEIR has been based upon only a limited amount of evaluation work (i.e. an on-going DBA and geophysical survey) and yet it is presented as the complete and full understanding of the archaeological resource across the site. Therefore, whilst the geophysical survey has been well done and has identified high archaeological potential across the site, this excludes the cable routes and these will need to be assessed as part of the ES (as we advised in our response to the Scoping</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment and a more detailed assessment is presented in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices).</p> <p>Appendix 8.1 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2] sets out the Legislation and Planning Policy Relevant to Cultural Heritage which have informed Chapter 8 of the ES.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	<p>Opinion). A full desk-based assessment (as indicated above) and a programme of trial trenching for the full potential impact zone (which includes both the cable routes) is therefore required before statements can be made regarding 'Areas of Potential Archaeological Remains' (as indicated on Figure 8.4) or conclusions drawn such as that shown in Table 8.2 - which purports the significance of effects as being 'None or Negligible' despite most activity having no proposed additional mitigation measures (also see comments below).</p>		<p>The assessment method for the assessment of cultural heritage interests is set out in Appendix 8.2 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2].</p> <p>The sources of information, including relevant historic records, used to inform the heritage assessment are set out in appendix 8.4 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2]</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Buried archaeology: Much more desk-based evaluation and field work is required before the potential for buried archaeological remains can be identified. It is notable that paragraph 8.2.28 says the potential for buried archaeological remains 'should not be confused with the potential importance of such remains or the likely impact that the Proposed Development may have on their value (significance)'. The potential importance, value or significance of surviving archaeological deposits is unknown however this reference seems to suggest some sort of cut-off point where archaeological value means it is not important enough to require mitigation. If this is the intention</p>	No	<p>With regard to archaeological interests Chapter 8 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] has been informed by a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA Cotswold Archaeology 2022), a Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022) and a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). The reports on these form Appendix 8.4, Appendix 8.5 and Appendix 8.6 of the ES, respectively [EN010127/APP/6.2].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	we disagree. In our opinion a site which has 'local' rather than 'regional' or 'national' significance remains that would be wholly or partly lost by development would still require mitigation and so still need to be identified and properly evaluated as part of the ES.		<p>The suite of desk-based and field investigations has allowed for confident and robust statements (acknowledging any specific and inherent limitations) to be made on the likelihood of the presence of buried archaeological remains, their potential importance, the likely effects of the Proposed Development and to direct a suitable mitigation strategy.</p> <p>The results of the findings are summarised in Chapter 8 of the ES.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	Cultural Heritage: The Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Assessment Methodology (contained within Appendix 8.2) is based solely on the guidance in Conservation Principles, a guidance document produced by English Heritage in 2008. No further information, proposed approach or assessment methodology is included. We would expect full details of the methodology and approach for the desk-based assessment and evaluation fieldwork phases along with the full suite of potential mitigation options to be included within this section.	No	The full methodological approach adopted within each of the assessment stages of work have been reported on in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices).
Lincolnshire County Council	Trial trenching: We are pleased to see that trial trenching is proposed (paragraph 8.3.7). Trial trenching will need to include not only trenching across known or suspected archaeology to	No	With regard to archaeological interests Chapter 8 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1) has been informed by a Heritage Desk-Based

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	<p>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.</p>		<p>Assessment (HDBA Cotswold Archaeology 2022), a Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022) and a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). The reports on these form Appendix 8.4, Appendix 8.5 and Appendix 8.6 of the ES, respectively [EN010127/APP/6.2].</p> <p>The suite of desk-based and field investigations has allowed for confident and robust statements (acknowledging any specific and inherent limitations) to be made on the likelihood of the presence of buried archaeological remains, their potential importance, the likely effects of the Proposed Development and to direct a suitable mitigation strategy.</p> <p>The results of the findings are summarised in Chapter 8 of the ES. [EN010127/APP/6.1]</p> <p>Trial trenching has been (and is still on-going) across the site, including exploring areas of higher archaeological potential as well as 'blank' areas too. The results of this work is report in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
			(and its appendices) [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Lincolnshire County Council	Paragraph 8.3.8 – with reference to NPPF commonly understood terms such as ‘less than substantial harm’ we would recommend also adding and using ‘any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part)’.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	Potential effects (Paragraph 8.4.2 to 8.4.6) - we do not agree with the statement that construction activities typically result in ‘very minor below-ground disturbance’. As PINS commented in its Scoping Response “the PV panel frames will be pile driven into the ground and grid connection cables will involve underground cabling” to a depth of 1.3m “as well as digging involved in installation of the perimeter fencing and security measures”. Given the size/area of the development and as excavations and piles would be between 1.3m and 1.5m deep (and so far deeper than that of a modern plough), without sufficient evidence at this stage, there is no basis whatsoever to support the statements/conclusion that the “impact on buried archaeological remains as a result of the proposed development would not be significant”.	No	Chapter 8 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] has been informed by a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA Cotswold Archaeology 2022), a Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022) and a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). The reports on these form Appendix 8.4, Appendix 8.5 and Appendix 8.6 of the ES, respectively [EN01017/APP/6.2] . Table 03 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology of the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.6] also includes measures to avoid potential impacts to archaeological deposits and

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
			confirms that a Written Scheme of Investigation will be secured by the DCO to inform the Construction phase of the Proposed Development and will be agreed in advance with the Host Authorities.
Lincolnshire County Council	Settings of heritage assets and the historic landscape (Paragraphs 8.4.8 to 8.4.12) – it is stated that there are little to no impacts affecting most of the settings of heritage assets or the historic landscape, however, there is no evidence base for this. As stated in our scoping opinion response “The Settings Assessment/Heritage Impact Assessment needs to begin from an understanding of the significance of each of those assets 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 assets to ensure any assets subject to proposed descoping has an evidence base demonstrating the lack of direct or indirect impact upon the designated asset and its significance before it can be descoped.	No	A detailed assessment of the ‘setting’ issues (for designated and non-designated) heritage assets is reported in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices). [EN010127/APP/6.1]
Lincolnshire County Council	Mitigation through design – whilst the PEIR notes that further investigations are required before mitigation can be designed, it is important to note	No	

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	<p>that non-ground disturbing construction can also impact on archaeology (for example by compaction) and that preservation in situ would not just involve ‘leaving areas as open space’. Non-ground disturbing construction requires a full understanding of the depth, extent, importance and nature of the surviving archaeology across the site and 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 (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). A mitigation entirely “by design” may result in a significant number and amount of fenced off no-go areas within the redline boundary and cable routes and this could lead to significant ongoing constraints during the construction and decommissioning phases.</p>		<p>Where important archaeological remains are anticipated, they will be excluded from areas of development or specific measures will be put in place to minimise ground disturbance. In some cases, archaeological excavations will take place in advance of construction to ensure those remains that aren’t important enough to warrant preservation in situ are recorded to an appropriate professional standard.</p> <p>For more information, see Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices). [EN010127/APP/6.1]</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Table 8.2 – as stated above, insufficient evidence has been presented at this stage to support or justify the conclusions shown in Table 8.2. For example, under ‘Construction of mounting structures (spikes) and their removal during decommission’ the mitigation measures identified</p>		<p>With regard to archaeological interests Chapter 8 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] has been informed by a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA Cotswold Archaeology 2022), a Geophysical</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	<p>include non-disturbing construction techniques such as concrete shoes with no other mitigation proposed. Firstly, there must be a sufficient evaluation for a full understanding of the archaeology and its context or else it cannot be proved that the impact is not harmful. See appended comments for a fuller and more detailed critique of this section of the PEIR.</p>		<p>Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022) and a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). The reports on these form Appendix 8.4, Appendix 8.5 and Appendix 8.6 of the ES, respectively [EN010127/APP/6.2].</p> <p>The scope and specification of each field investigation will be set out in Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI), which has been consulted upon with the Host Authorities.</p> <p>The suite of desk-based and field investigations has allowed for confident and robust statements (acknowledging any specific and inherent limitations) to be made on the likelihood of the presence of buried archaeological remains, their potential importance, the likely effects of the Proposed Development and to direct a suitable mitigation strategy.</p> <p>The results of the findings are summarised in Chapter 8 of the ES.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Since then a geophysical survey has been undertaken of most of the redline boundary area and some work seems to have been undertaken on a desk-based assessment although we have</p>	No	<p>Further details have been provided in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	<p>yet to see it. The Cultural Heritage section has been based upon only this limited amount of evaluation work and yet it is presented as the complete and full understanding of the archaeological resource across the site (no mention is made of the connector cable routes) even extending to the inclusion of a figure entitled 'Areas of Potential Archaeological Remains' has been produced. The impacts are reduced and dismissive throughout the document culminating in a table of cultural heritage and archaeology significance of effects lists those effects as None of negligible' despite most activity having no proposed additional mitigation measures.</p>		<p>(and its appendices) [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
<p>Lincolnshire County Council</p>	<p>We have grave concerns on the Cultural Heritage section of the submitted documents for this PEIR. With respect to section 3.7.1 in Chapter 3: Description of the Site and Natural Evolution of the Baseline, there is no mention of undesignated or currently unknown archaeology across the site nor is there any mention of the evaluation phases which will be required to provide sufficient baseline information on the archaeology to be impacted across the site as required by EIA Regulation 5 (2d)n which states "The EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner...the direct and indirect significant impacts of the proposed</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Chapter 8 of the ES [N010127/APP/6.1] includes a Cultural Heritage Assessment of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, encompassing assessment of buried archaeological remains, built heritage and the historic landscape including designated and non-designated heritage assets.</p> <p>Appendix 8.1 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2] sets out the Legislation and Planning Policy Relevant to Cultural Heritage which have informed Chapter 8 of the ES.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	development on...material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape."		<p>The assessment method for the assessment of cultural heritage interests is set out in Appendix 8.2 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2].</p> <p>The sources of information, including relevant historic records, used to inform the heritage assessment are set out in appendix 8.4 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2].</p> <p>The assessment has been undertaken in full compliance with the EIA regulation.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 8.2.27 states that ‘the potential for buried archaeological remains within the Solar PV Site has been based on information gated from the on-going desk-based assessment and the geophysical survey’ and this incomplete data set has been used to create Figure 8.4: ‘Areas of Potential Archaeological Remains and Field Numbering System’. While the geophysical survey has been well done and has identified high archaeological potential across the site, full desk-based assessment including LiDAR and air photo analysis and assessment is essential and a full programme of trial trenching is required for the full	No	<p>With regard to archaeological interests Chapter 8 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] has been informed by a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA Cotswold Archaeology 2022), a Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022) and a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). The reports on these form Appendix 8.4, Appendix 8.5 and Appendix 8.6 of the ES, respectively [EN010127/APP/6.2].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	potential impact zone including both the redline boundaries and the cable routes before statements can be made regarding 'Areas of Potential Archaeological Remains'. The list of requirements for the desk-based assessment is listed below, and sufficient trenching is required to identify the presence, extent, depth and significance of surviving archaeology which would be impacted by the development and the results will be used to inform the mitigation strategy which must be submitted with the EIA.		The scope and specification of each field investigation will be set out in Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI), which has been consulted upon with the Host Authorities.
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 8.2.27 deals with the potential for buried archaeological remains 'within the Solar PV Site'. As stated in our scoping opinion response of the 2nd of March 2022 a full programme of evaluation is required for the full impact zone: 'We note the scoping opinion only deals with the red line boundary. The full potential impact zone including all proposed connection corridors as well as the red line boundary area will need to undertake sufficient evaluation to allow for a programme of suitable mitigation. The full extent of the proposed impact area including the connector route corridors must be included in the evaluation process as archaeological impacts and subsequent mitigation have the potential for significant financial and scheduling impacts. The full potential impact zone will require geophysical survey to identify site-	No	Chapter 8 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] has been informed by a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA Cotswold Archaeology 2022), a Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022) and a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). The reports on these form Appendix 8.4, Appendix 8.5 and Appendix 8.6 of the ES, respectively [EN01017/APP/6.2] . Table 03 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology of the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.6] also includes measures to avoid potential

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	specific archaeological potential and to inform a programme of archaeological trial trenching and subsequent mitigation.'		impacts to archaeological deposits and confirms that a Written Scheme of Investigation will be secured by the DCO to inform the Construction phase of the Proposed Development and will be agreed in advance with the Host Authorities.
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 8.2.28 says the potential for buried archaeological remains 'should not be confused with the potential importance of such remains or the likely impact that the Proposed Development may have on their value (significance)'. Much more evaluation desk and field work is required before the potential for buried archaeological remains can be identified. As for potential importance or value or significance of currently surviving archaeological deposits which will be impacted by the proposed development: 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 rather than regional or national 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	No	Chapter 8 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1) has been informed by a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA Cotswold Archaeology 2022), a Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022) and a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). The reports on these form Appendix 8.4, Appendix 8.5 and Appendix 8.6 of the ES, respectively [EN01017/APP/6.2]. Table 03 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology of the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.6] also includes measures to avoid potential impacts to archaeological deposits and confirms that a Written Scheme of Investigation will be secured by the

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	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).		DCO to inform the Construction phase of the Proposed Development and will be agreed in advance with the Host Authorities.
Lincolnshire County Council	Regarding section 8.3.1 which discusses the 'cultural heritage assessment': the ten page Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Assessment Methodology (Appendix 8.2) is based solely on the guidance in Conservation Principles a guidance document produced by English Heritage in 2008. No further information, proposed approach or assessment methodology is included. We would expect full details of methodology and approach for the desk-based assessment and evaluation fieldwork phases along with the full suite of potential mitigation options.	No	<p>Appendix 8.1 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2] sets out the Legislation and Planning Policy Relevant to Cultural Heritage which have informed Chapter 8 of the ES.</p> <p>The assessment method for the assessment of cultural heritage interests is set out in Appendix 8.2 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2].</p> <p>The sources of information, including relevant historic records, used to inform the heritage assessment are set out in appendix 8.4 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2].</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	Regarding the cultural heritage sections of the PEIR there is only reference to assessment and potential impact 'within the Solar PV Site' there is	No	Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices) describes and

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	no mention of the cable routes and any proposed infrastructure outside of the redline boundary. As stated in the Lincolnshire County Council scoping opinion response of the 2nd of March 2022 the full potential impact zone will need to undertake sufficient evaluation to allow for a programme of suitable mitigation.		assesses all anticipated affects.[EN010127/APP/6.1]
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 8.3.2 makes again reference to an ‘on-going desk-based assessment’, we have not seen or been contacted to discuss the requirements and parameters, we refer you to the requirements for desk-based sources listed in our scoping response of 2nd of March 2022: - Full LiDAR coverage and assessment; full aerial photo coverage and assessment; archaeological reports; relevant documents from the Record Office covering each site; and the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) data must also be consulted. - Map regression should include all available maps to provide a reasonable understanding of the development and time depth of the sites. - The HER search should be for at least 5km for visual impact on designated assets and a minimum 1km search beyond the extent of the full impact zone for non-designated assets.	No	Chapter 8 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1) has been informed by a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA Cotswold Archaeology 2022), a Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022) and a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). The reports on these form Appendix 8.4, Appendix 8.5 and Appendix 8.6 of the ES, respectively [EN01017/APP/6.2). The sources of information, including relevant historic records, used to inform the heritage assessment are set out in appendix 8.4 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2].
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 8.3.5 lists the key guidance documents they have referenced, the Lincolnshire	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	Archaeology Handbook is also required to inform good practice and methodology approaches for archaeological work undertaken in this county.		
Lincolnshire County Council	Regarding Section 8.3.6, several of the websites listed prohibit the reproduction of maps without specific license, evidence of copyright permission will need to be provided. The proposed list is far too brief and does not include a number of sources we specifically stated were required in our scoping response in March. We expect a full competent complete desk-based assessment including LiDAR data, Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) data, local sources, record office, the NMR, our own air photos and full map regression. We would also like to note that we are extremely disappointed that the desk-based assessment has not been produced in a timely fashion.	No	Chapter 8 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] has been informed by a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA Cotswold Archaeology 2022), a Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022) and a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). The reports on these form Appendix 8.4, Appendix 8.5 and Appendix 8.6 of the ES, respectively [EN01017/APP/6.2] . The sources of information, including relevant historic records, used to inform the heritage assessment are set out in appendix 8.4 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2] .
Lincolnshire County Council	We are pleased to see in Section 8.3.7 that there will be trial trenching, please be advised this will need to include not only trenching across known or suspected archaeology to determine their presence or absence, depth, extent and significance but also across the 'blank' areas to	No	A desk-based assessment and Geophysical survey have been undertaken to understand cultural heritage assets within the locality. Trial trenching has also been undertaken across the Site. The results of the work

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	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.		have been reported on in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices).
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 8.3.8 lays out their assessment of effects. If this is with reference to below-ground archaeology this will need to be informed by the full trenching results. With reference to NPPF commonly understood terms such as 'less than substantial harm' we would add 'any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part)'.		The trial trenching work is being undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology, a professional and industry accredited company with over 30 years of experience in the field. They were responsible for the site work and all of the archival work that will accompany it.
Lincolnshire County Council	Sections 8.3.11 and 8.3.12 acknowledge the limitations and bias of the information presented here and depicted on Figure 8.4. We concur with this statement and stress again the necessity for the completion of a full competent desk-based assessment and programme of evaluation trenching across the full impact zone. Statement here for usefulness of trenching for types of archaeology not found in geophysical survey and cropmarks and for maximizing the eval results and usefulness to inform the mitigation phase for dealing with archaeology which would otherwise remain unknown and would be damaged or destroyed by	No	A desk-based assessment and Geophysical survey have been undertaken to understand cultural heritage assets within the locality. Trial trenching has also been undertaken across the Site. The results of the work have been reported on in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices).

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	the type of groundworks particularly used for solar panels.		
Lincolnshire County Council	We do not agree with section 8.4.2 that there would be 'very minor below-ground disturbance'. As PINS commented in the Scoping Report 'the PV panel frames will be pile driven into the ground and grid connection cables will involve underground cabling' to a depth of 1.3m 'as well as digging involved in installation of the perimeter fencing and security measures' (3.10.1) As we stated in our scoping opinion response: 'On the contrary, 900ha of solar panel frames 'will be pile driven or screw mounted into the ground to a typical depth of approximately 1.5m' (section 3.1.12) with onsite cabling trenches to a depth of 1.3m (section 3.1.3) as well as the same depth for the connecting cable to the National Grid (section 3.1.27). This is below the depth of archaeological levels.'	No	The Applicant makes a notes this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	We agree with section 8.4.4 that low voltage distribution trenches, grid connection cables, access tracks, temporary compounds and the foundations for the Solar Stations 'have the potential to result in the damage to or loss of buried archaeological remains which may be present.' Please clarify what Solar Stations are and their method of construction.	No	Where important archaeological remains are anticipated, they will be excluded from areas of development or specific measures will be put in place to minimise ground disturbance. In some cases, archaeological excavations will take place in advance of construction to ensure those remains that aren't

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
Lincolnshire County Council	We do not agree with section 8.4.5 that the installation of solar panel mounting structures would have an insignificant impact. On the contrary, such a non-mitigatable unmonitorable ground impact can have significant direct and indirect impacts and there are a broad range of archaeological features and sites which we would object to being damaged or destroyed without preservation by record or preservation in situ, for example on burials and structured deposition in ditches and discrete features.		important enough to warrant preservation in situ are recorded to an appropriate professional standard. For more information, please see Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices).
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 8.4.6 says hammering spikes in will protect the archaeology by saving it from the effects of modern ploughing, much of the proposed development impacts will be to 1.3 or 1.5m, far deeper than a plough. The potential impact of decommissioning and removal of the spikes have not been in this document and must be considered.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Physical impacts resulting from construction would not be reversed during decommissioning. However, no additional disturbance to the ground than already assessed for construction is anticipated during decommissioning. As such, further impacts to buried archaeological remains at decommissioning are not anticipated. The DEMP will ensure that any specific areas set aside to protect buried archaeological remains during construction and operation will also be safeguarded during decommissioning. There would be temporary change to the setting of designated heritage

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
			assets during decommissioning, resulting from the use of machinery and traffic movements to disassemble the components of the Proposed Development. The impacts and effects will be the same at those reporting for the construction of the Proposed Development.
Lincolnshire County Council	We do not agree on the conclusion of 8.4.7 that 'it is therefore considered at this stage that the impact on buried archaeological remains as a result of the proposed development would not be significant.' As we have stated throughout there will be ground impacts well below archaeological depths across the PV Site and the cable route. Given they have yet to produce a competent desk-based assessment of the redline boundary and there has been no mention of a desk-based assessment, or geophysical survey of the cable route and no trial trenching whatsoever has been undertaken, there is no basis whatsoever for such a statement.	No	Chapter 8 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] has been informed by a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA Cotswold Archaeology 2022), a Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022) and a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). The reports on these form Appendix 8.4, Appendix 8.5 and Appendix 8.6 of the ES, respectively [EN01017/APP/6.2] . Table 03 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology of the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010127/APP/7.6] also includes measures to avoid potential impacts to archaeological deposits and confirms that a Written Scheme of Investigation will be secured by the

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
			<p>DCO to inform the Construction phase of the Proposed Development and will be agreed in advance with the Host Authorities.</p> <p>Where important archaeological remains are anticipated, they will be excluded from areas of development or specific measures will be put in place to minimise ground disturbance. In some cases, archaeological excavations will take place in advance of construction to ensure those remains that aren't important enough to warrant preservation in situ are recorded to an appropriate professional standard.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Regarding sections 8.4.8 to 8.4.12 which state there are little to no impacts affecting most of the settings of heritage assets or the historic landscape, again there is no evidence base for this. As stated in our scoping opinion response '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.'</p> <p>Assessments of significance should be undertaken</p>	No	<p>This matter is assessed in the Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] (and associated appendices), all work follows industry standard guidance and practices.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	<p>for all designated assets to ensure any assets subject to proposed descoping has an evidence base demonstrating the lack of direct or indirect impact upon the designated asset and its significance before it can be descoped.</p>		
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Section 8.5.1 says that ‘mitigation through design’ can allow important archaeological remains to be safeguarded completely ‘ie by leaving areas as open space or utilising non-ground disturbing construction techniques’ There are a number of issues with this: first, the important archaeological remains must be identified and their depth and extent determined; secondly ‘non-ground disturbing construction’ can also impact on archaeology, for example by compaction; and thirdly preservation in situ would not just involve ‘leaving areas as open space’.</p>	No	<p>Where important archaeological remains are anticipated, they will be excluded from areas of development or specific measures will be put in place to minimise ground disturbance. In some cases, archaeological excavations will take place in advance of construction to ensure those remains that aren’t important enough to warrant preservation in situ are recorded to an appropriate professional standard.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices) [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>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</p>	No	<p>The oCEMP details the proposed methods for protecting important buried archaeological remains. This will be developed during the detailed design.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	<p>whatsoever which may disturb or affect the archaeological remains, including plant movement or storage. The proposal for the 'non-ground disturbing construction' requires a full understanding of the depth, extent, importance and nature of the surviving archaeology across the site. 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.</p>		
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>A mitigation entirely "by design" may result in a significant number and amount of fenced off no-go areas within the redline boundary and cable routes. This would 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.</p>	No	<p>Where important archaeological remains are anticipated, they will be excluded from areas of development or specific measures will be put in place to minimise ground disturbance. In some cases, archaeological excavations will take place in advance of construction to ensure those remains that aren't important enough to warrant preservation in situ are recorded to an appropriate professional standard.</p>

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Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
			For more information, please see Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices).
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Again there are a number of issues with section 8.5.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Areas of greater archaeological potential have been identified and presented in Figure 8.4' As stated previously the evaluation so far undertaken is partial at best and so the conclusions drawn and applications of mitigation on a set of partial evidence would be erroneous, ill-informed and contrary to professional standards in archaeology. - 'Trenching at those of areas of great archaeological potential will allow for a robust statement to be made on the extent and importance of surviving remains' Again, how can areas of great archaeological potential be determined with a partial evidence base, no basis whatsoever for such a statement, let alone such an approach as the basis for producing a 'robust statement'. - 'this will allow the mitigation to be designed, and thus allow any residual effects to be reported' Again, partial evidence base will produce ineffective partial mitigation. Please clarify what is meant by 'thus allow any residual effects to be reported' and how that would be beneficial. 	No	<p>Chapter 8 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] has been informed by a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA Cotswold Archaeology 2022), a Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022) and a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). The reports on these form Appendix 8.4, Appendix 8.5 and Appendix 8.6 of the ES, respectively [EN01017/APP/6.2].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
Lincolnshire County Council	We do agree with the final point of 8.5.12 that 'Where physical impacts cannot be avoided it is likely that an industry standard programme of archaeological investigations (mitigation) in advance and during construction will be employed.' We are relieved to hear this as it is a perfectly reasonable approach, and again it will need to be informed by the full suite of desk-based assessment, the geophysical survey of the cable routes and the results of the full programme of trial trenching across the full impact zone.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	We do not agree with any part of Table 8.2 which states all impacts are none or negligible, most of which have no proposed mitigation.	No	The results of the trial trenching confirmed the presence of buried archaeological remains within the Order limits, and specifically within the Solar PV Site. As discussed with Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] (and its associated appendices), , the nature of the Proposed Development will result in minimal ground disturbance plus a suite of proposed mitigation measures available to be employed in the detailed design phase.
Lincolnshire County Council	The activity of 'Construction of mounting structures (spikes) and their removal during decommission' lists the range of potential impacts as None or negligible although no mitigation is proposed and 'Non-disturbing construction techniques' are identified as concrete shoes. As stated above there must be sufficient evaluation for a full understanding of the archaeology and its context or it cannot be proved that the impact is not harmful. No mention of specific methodology mitigation to ensure decommissioning is not destructive to the archaeology, indeed it states there will be no additional mitigation measures.		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
Lincolnshire County Council	For the activity of Construction of cable trenches etc and associated works, again all the possible changes and impacts are low. Again, there is no evidence base for any of this.	No	Trial trenching has been undertaken across the area of the Proposed Development.
Lincolnshire County Council	And again, for 'Changes to the setting of built heritage and historic landscape features' with a Nature of Effect which is 'Permanent (but reversible)', again the magnitude of change, significance of effect and residual effect significance are all listed as 'None or negligible' impacts, despite no proposed mitigation measures and no assessment yet being undertaken. As stated above any application of approach must be informed by a competent assessment of significance, and with the proposed lifespan of the development spanning 40 years and beyond, the potential visual, kinetic and experience impacts on each heritage receptor and its significance, on how they relate to each other and the landscape in which they sit must all be assessed and understood before such sweeping statements can be made.	No	The results of the trial trenching confirmed the presence of buried archaeological remains within the Order limits, and specifically within the Solar PV Site. As discussed with Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] (and its associated appendices), the nature of the Proposed Development will result in minimal ground disturbance plus a suite of proposed mitigation measures available to be employed in the detailed design phase
Lincolnshire County Council	Section 8.81 states that the geophysical survey results will be studied more closely along with more detailed desk-based assessment and this will be supported by 'targeted further field evaluation (trial trenching) to explore the extent and value (significance) of any surviving remains. These	No	Further consultations and meetings have taken place with LCC.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	works will be designed in consultation with the relevant heritage stakeholders.’ As relevant heritage stakeholders we point out that we have not been consulted since November 2021.		
Lincolnshire County Council	We are very pleased with the excellent geophysical survey report (Appendix 8.1) although we note t 21.9 hectares will require higher levels of future evaluation as there was unsuitable ground cover to allow for geophysical survey. We note through the data and in the conclusions of the geophysical survey that: ‘A series of rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures and partial enclosures, which are grouped into possible settlement areas, have been identified across the survey area. These areas comprise anomalies indicative of probable cut features, containing anthropogenically enhanced fill. The features include ditched enclosures, ring ditches, trackways, former field systems and discrete pits. These have been interpreted as a probable multiphase settlement activity, of potential Late Prehistoric to Romano-British date, with an associated agricultural hinterland extending across the survey area. Several pronounced annular anomalies might also suggest the presence largescale burial practices.’ (8.2)	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	The EIA will need to contain sufficient information on the archaeological potential and must include	No	Where important archaeological remains are anticipated, they will be

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	<p>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.</p>		<p>excluded from areas of development or specific measures will be put in place to minimise ground disturbance. In some cases, archaeological excavations will take place in advance of construction to ensure those remains that aren't important enough to warrant preservation in situ are recorded to an appropriate professional standard.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices).</p>
Historic England	<p>Solar schemes on this scale set out large public benefits in renewable power generation and proportionally extensive impacts upon historic landscape character both individually and cumulatively. Historic England has published general advice in respect of renewable energy https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/infrastructure/renewable-energy/. Landscape scale impacts deserve consideration alongside the public benefits of the schemes, however our advice here focuses upon the specific rather than general impacts of what is proposed. Such is the scale of this and similar schemes that there is considerable scope to avoid unsustainable impacts</p>	No	<p>This matter is assessed in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and associated appendices), all work follows industry standard guidance and practices [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	upon specific heritage assets of high importance through adaptation to design, extents and layout.		
Historic England	<p>We generally welcome that set-backs either in the scheme boundary or via green space (without panels or other intrusions) appear to be proposed in respect of designated assets including those highlighted at EIA scoping, scoping matters will need to be tested robustly in which context we refer you to our GPA 3</p> <p>https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/ .</p> <p>The consideration of kinetic views as one moves through the landscape between assets will be important alongside the consideration of fixed point views.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Historic England	<p>We note the necessity of geophysical survey and targeted trial trenching to inform a proportionate approach to the significance of below ground heritage assets and their individual sensitivity and importance. We refer you to the advice of Local Government archaeological advisors with regards to the methodologies for and assessment of trial trenching results (we are supporting out Local Government colleagues with the expertise of our Regional Science Advisor).</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
Historic England	<p>Panel arrays and associated structures, cable runs and substations have the potential for significant environmental effects through physical impacts upon buried remains. These impacts will vary depending upon the particular character and sensitivity of such remains (for instance field systems are generally less sensitive to localised intrusions than burial grounds or Roman villas). Appropriate consideration of impacts and proportionate design adaptation and mitigation is only possible where significance and importance are well understood prior to determination (up to and including public benefit balances in respect of harm to assets of demonstrable equivalent importance to scheduled monuments). In areas of former heath particular attention should be paid for the potential for ploughed-down funerary monuments, cemeteries and large-scale boundary features to lie beneath modern arable (as already born out in the initial results presented in PEIR).</p>	No	Trial trenching has been undertaken across the area of the Proposed Development.
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	<p>For context, I live and own land in Careby as have my parents and grandparents before me. We are the oldest family name in the village so I would argue have some knowledge of the area. We have been 'custodians' of land around Careby for over 100 years and understand well the 'rhythms' of the land and the natural world that relies on this land for its survival.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
Greatford Parish Council	<p>5. Archaeology.</p> <p>We are concerned that ground penetrating structures for the solar arrays and other equipment will disturb or destroy significant archaeology that may be present in the proposed site. Significant archaeology has been found throughout the local area (eg Roman Coffins, Roman Mosaic Floors etc...) and other developments such as the quarries are subject to strict conditions which prohibit ground works until the development area has been properly surveyed and trial trenches dug. We are very concerned that as yet undiscovered artefacts and structures will be destroyed by this development unless more detailed archaeology survey work is done prior to, and during the development. Local and national heritage should be properly preserved and protected as it is with other NSIP developments such as HS2.</p>	No	<p>Where important archaeological remains are anticipated, they will be excluded from areas of development or specific measures will be put in place to minimise ground disturbance. In some cases, archaeological excavations will take place in advance of construction to ensure those remains that aren't important enough to warrant preservation in situ are recorded to an appropriate professional standard.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices) [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	<p>This is an area of archaeological heritage and importance, going back to prehistoric times, with many remains within the Solar PV site and the surrounding area. It has not yet been decided if all areas within the site can be built on. This whole development fundamentally changes the character of the land.</p>		
Stamford Town Council	<p>Cultural Heritage and Archaeology</p> <p>There are several monuments and areas where significant archaeological finds have been</p>	No	<p>A desk-based assessment and Geophysical survey have been undertaken to understand cultural</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	unearthed over the years which need to be taken into consideration. This part of the PEIR is still very much under review and further geophysical surveys and trench trials are required, There is evidence of Bronze and Iron Age settlements, evidence of Roman occupation and heritage sites, such as Essendine Castle and Banthorpe Lodge, which may be affected by the PD. There are several questions which the Applicant neaps to answer including.		heritage assets within the locality. Trial trenching has also been undertaken across the Site. The results of the work have been reported on in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices) [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Stamford Town Council	At what stage in the planning application process did the developer seek advice from the archaeological advisor before consulting the planning archaeologist?	No	The Applicant has sought advice from specialist heritage consultants from the outset of the project development.
Stamford Town Council	Will the PD continue to use the same archaeological advisor throughout the PEIR?	No	The trial trenching work is being undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology, a professional and industry accredited company with over 30 years of experience in the field. They were responsible for the site work and all of the archival work that will accompany it.
Stamford Town Council	Was trial trenching undertaken at the preconsent stage as well as a desk bound assessment?	No	A desk-based assessment and Geophysical survey have been undertaken to understand cultural heritage assets within the locality. Trial trenching has also been undertaken across the Site. The results of the work

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
			have been reported on in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices) [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Stamford Town Council	Who is going to be responsible for the deposition and recording of the archaeological findings?	No	Cotswold Archaeology.
Stamford Town Council	Who are the heritage stakeholders?	No	Any interested party could be a 'heritage stakeholder'. Specialist advisors at the local district and county councils; and Historic England are often referred to as 'heritage stakeholders'.
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	There are several monuments and areas where significant archaeological finds have been unearthed over the years which need to be taken into consideration. This part of the PEIR is still very much under review and further geophysical surveys and trench trials are required. There is evidence of Bronze and Iron Age settlements, evidence of Roman occupation and heritage sites, such as Essendine Castle and Banthorpe Lodge, which may be affected by the PD.		A desk-based assessment and Geophysical survey have been undertaken to understand cultural heritage assets within the locality. Trial trenching has also been undertaken across the Site. The results of the work have been reported on in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices) [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	At what stage in the planning application process did the developer seek advice from the archaeological advisor before consulting the planning archaeologist?	No	The Applicant has sought advice from specialist heritage consultants from the outset of the project development. .

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage			
	Will the PD continue to use the same archaeological advisor throughout the PEIR?	No	The trial trenching work is being undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology, a professional and industry accredited company with over 30 years of experience in the field. They were responsible for the site work and all of the archival work that will accompany it.
	Was trial trenching undertaken at the preconsent stage as well as a desk bound assessment?	No	A desk-based assessment and Geophysical survey have been undertaken to understand cultural heritage assets within the locality. Trial trenching has also been undertaken across the Site. The results of the work have been reported on in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage of the ES (and its appendices). [EN010127/APP/6.1]
	Who is going to be responsible for the deposition and recording of the archaeological findings?	No	Cotswold Archaeology.
	Who are the heritage stakeholders?	No	Any interested party could be a 'heritage stakeholder'. Specialist advisors at the local district and county councils; and Historic England are often referred to as 'heritage stakeholders'.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Air Quality			
South Kesteven District Council	Air Quality • No comments – approach to assessment in accordance with best practice	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	2.1.4 Air quality impacts are minimal as the operation of the solar farm has no physical emissions. There will be minor emissions such as dust for the construction phase, but this is dependent upon weather conditions and vehicle movements over the existing agricultural land, which if all grassed should not cause issues of airborne dust.	Yes	Construction traffic flows, as reported in Appendix 9.4 of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.2] , are well below screening criteria for potential impact to air quality in Environmental Protection UK and Institute of Air Quality Management guidance. As such, impacts to air quality are expected to be insignificant. The oCEMP, [EN010127/APP/7.6] , sets out measures for the management of dust, secured by DCO Requirement.
Rutland County Council	Air Quality • No comments – approach to assessment in accordance with best practice	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 11: Air Quality LCC does not have an in-house specialist and so has no specific comments to offer at this stage. We therefore recommend and endorse any recommendations or comments made by South Kesteven District Council and Rutland County Council on this particular topic.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Stamford Town Council	Air Quality Vehicle emissions are expected for the anticipated 24 months of construction plus dust from machinery used in the construction stage.	Yes	Construction traffic flows, provided by the Transport Consultant for the scheme, are expected to be well below screening criteria for potential impact to air quality in Environmental Protection UK and

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Air Quality			
			Institute of Air Quality Management guidance. As such, impacts to air quality are expected to be insignificant.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Noise and Vibration			
South Kesteven District Council	Noise and Vibration • No comments – approach to assessment in accordance with best practice	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	2.1.2 The solar farm when operational does not really have any moving mechanical components so there is very little to no noise from the large areas of solar arrays. The ancillary inverter and transformer houses are located at such a distance that these would not be an issue to any sensitive receptors. These components are located inside a building with the building providing the mitigation for any noise. Again, transformer hum is not particularly noisy just tonal.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	2.1.3 There will obviously be more noise on the construction phase. The applicant has assessed this and has proposed mitigation measures to minimise noise and any impact from the construction phase. There will be vehicle movements, though these are not excessive in the overall scheme of things, as the construction is very simple solar panels and the work will be out in the middle of a field.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	2.1.5 The applicant has a construction management plan which addresses noise and dust and has procedures for dealing with any issues such these arise.	No	A detailed and robust noise assessment forms part of the ES (Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration [EN010127/APP/6.1]). This considers the nature of the noise sources associated with the Proposed Development, including construction and construction traffic, operational noise

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Noise and Vibration			
			<p>from electrical plant including that of the proposed substation, and decommissioning works.</p> <p>When considering the potential noise impacts of the Proposed Development as a result of construction related traffic passing to and from the Site, the relevant embedded mitigation measures described within Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] include the general construction working hours (07:00 to 19:00 – Monday to Saturday). This is also considered in the oCEMP [EN010127/APP/7.6], which outlines that these working hours would be further restricted to avoid some works on Saturday afternoons (13:00 to 19:00). This includes activities such as earthworks, trench construction and any piling, as well as HGV deliveries and movements would not be undertaken at these times.</p>
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	2.1.6 Overall Environmental Protection are satisfied with the assessments that have been completed for noise and air emissions and the proposed controls and mitigation measures that	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Noise and Vibration			
	the applicant is proposing. Environmental protection would still respond to any issues under nuisance should any noise or airborne issues arise from the proposed development.		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	• Noise and Vibration	Yes	The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3] , the Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties, this will include a 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties. For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Rutland County Council	Noise and Vibration • No comments – approach to assessment in accordance with best practice	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 10: Noise & Vibration LCC does not have an in-house noise specialist and so has no specific comments to offer at this stage. We therefore recommend and endorse any recommendations or comments made by South Kesteven District Council and Rutland County Council on this particular topic.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Carlby Parish Council	• NO DEMONSTRATION OF THE NIGHTTIME HUM THAT WILL OCCUR!	Yes	The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in the DAS, [EN010127/APP/7.3] , the Proposed

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Noise and Vibration			
			<p>Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties, this will include a 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Carlby Parish Council	Noise and Dust pollution	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. For information regarding Noise and Vibration, please see Chapter 10: Noise of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Stamford Town Council	<p>Noise and Vibrations</p> <p>There will be considerable noise and vibrations during the construction and possibly during the operational stages.</p>	Yes	<p>A detailed and robust noise assessment forms part of the ES (Chapter 10: Noise [EN010127/APP/6.1]). This considers the nature of the noise sources associated with the Proposed Development, including construction and construction traffic, operational noise from electrical plant including that of the proposed substation, and decommissioning works.</p> <p>When considering the potential noise impacts of the Proposed Development as a result of construction activities including related traffic passing to and</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Noise and Vibration			
			<p>from the Site, the relevant embedded mitigation measures are described within section 10.3 of Chapter 10 of the ES. These include the general construction working hours (07:00 to 19:00 – Monday to Saturday), with further restriction on some noise-generating activities and HGV movements on Saturday afternoons (13:00 to 19:00). These measures are set out in the oCEMP [EN010127/APP/7.6] and oDEMP [EN010127/APP/7.8].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
South Kesteven District Council	Access and Highways • No comments – approach to assessment in accordance with best practice	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Major Accidents and/or Disasters • No comments – chapter to be scoped out of ES as risks to be assessed within other topics of the ES.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	6.Adverse traffic impacts	No	<p>The traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and noise impacts from construction traffic are assessed in Chapter 10: Noise [EN010127/APP/6.1]</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the primary traffic impacts associated with the Proposed Development will be linked to the construction phase. The measures to mitigate the traffic impacts of construction are outlined within the supporting Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).</p> <p>In relation to traffic generation, the working hour for the Proposed Development will be in 12-hour shifts each day, with employees travelling to and from the Order limits an hour either side of these times (i.e., between 06:00 and 07:00, and 19:00 and 20:00). Where onsite works are to be conducted outside</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>the core working hours, they will comply with the restrictions pursuant to the consenting process.</p> <p>Therefore, it was agreed with Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council and National Highways that no localised capacity assessments needed to be undertaken, as the impact of the Proposed Development fell below the threshold of 30 two-way vehicle movements during the morning (08:00-09:00) and evening (17:00-18:00) peak hour – as there is to be no impact during the identified peak hours</p> <p>Whilst the uplift in daily traffic flows may result in more delay than at present, it is not considered that this will be significant due to the restrictions in the timings for construction vehicles and the arrangements for staff who will arrive and depart outside of the peak hours set out in the oCTMP.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that there will be no traffic impact on the morning and evening peak hours when the local road network is generally the most congested. The traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and noise</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			impacts from construction traffic are assessed in Chapter 10: Noise [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Rutland County Council	Access and Highways • No comments – approach to assessment in accordance with best practice	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Major Accidents and/or Disasters • No comments – chapter to be scoped out of ES as risks to be assessed within other topics of the ES.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	• Any vegetation loss to facilitate any potential wider highways works for construction access is not identified. Paragraph 5.14.5 identifies potential need for road widening following initial swept path analysis, and due to the narrowness of the surrounding roads and junctions, this may result in vegetation removal, opening up views and removing valuable elements of the local landscape.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Areas of Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI have been removed from the Order limits in order to avoid direct impacts as cabling routing or site access works are no longer being considered in this location. Areas of the SSSI that remain within the Order limits are for vegetation management only.
Lincolnshire County Council	11. Figure 9.1 Construction Access Routes and Vehicular Restrictions: While we have no comments in relation to Figure 9.1, we do request that extent of vegetation loss for highways works and access is clearly stated in the ES and that the LVIA includes this assessment.		In addition, sections of the A6121 and Ryhall Road have been removed from the Order Limits, avoiding direct impacts on the Tolethorpe Verges SSSI as it has been agreed with the Local Highway Authority that localised road improvements are not required to facilitate the movement of construction vehicles, with the exception of the

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			A6121/B1176 and the Ryhall Road/Old Great North Road Junction. The assessment of the vegetation loss is included within Section 6.4 of Chapter 6 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 9: Access and Highways LCC, as the Highway & Lead Local Flood Authority, has offered the following comments at this stage: Appendix 9.2: Access and Highways Assessment Methodology – the scope set out in this Chapter is for Environmental Impact of traffic and lists IEMA criteria. There is no assessment methodology presented here, this would appear to be in Section 9.4.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	Appendix 9.4: Construction Traffic Impact Assessment Management Plan – the assessment is acceptable and is based on reasonable assumptions of trip rates, construction duration and route assignment. The results show that the predicted construction traffic would not cause capacity problems on the local highway network and details include access arrangements, swept paths and plant areas.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	This preliminary assessment will need to be confirmed once the Construction Methodology and timetable are finalised and an updated Construction Management Traffic Plan (CTMP) will need to include final details of access	No	Information on the access arrangements, delivery timings and routing controls are included within Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] . Further details are also incorporated

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	arrangements, delivery timings and routing controls, parking, storage and plant areas and a Travel Plan for construction staff.		within the standalone CTMP [EN010127/APP/7.11], which details the measures relevant to construction.
Lincolnshire County Council	In addition to the above comments from the Highways Team, as stated previously in the response under 'Ecology and Biodiversity', full details of any proposed highway improvement work (temporary or permanent) need to be provided within the ES. Any works and associated mitigation measures identified will need to be clearly described and assessed so extent of any impacts associated with such works are understood. Paragraph 7.5.2 confirms that the proposed highway works may affect the LWS and SSSI and therefore all areas identified as necessary and which would be affected by any such works must be fully surveyed and assessed in order to understand the impact such works could have in terms of loss of habitat, roadside verge, hedgerows, etc.	No	Details of the highway works are provided within Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES. The Applicant makes note of this comment. Areas of Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI have been removed from the Order limits in order to avoid direct impacts as cabling routing or site access works are no longer being considered in this location. Areas of the SSSI that remain within the Order limits are for vegetation management only. In addition, sections of the A6121 and Ryhall Road have been removed from the Order Limits, avoiding direct impacts on the Tolethorpe Verges SSSI as it has been agreed with the Local Highway Authority that localised road improvements are not required to facilitate the movement of construction vehicles, with the exception of the A6121/B1176 and the Ryhall Road/Old Great North Road Junction. The assessment of the vegetation loss is included within Section 6.4 of the LVIA.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 19: Risks for Major Accidents or Disasters LCC has no specific comments to offer at this stage.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Natural England	This has concluded that the measures implemented via the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan and oCEMP are considered sufficient to minimise impacts to air quality from emissions associated with construction traffic and non road mobile machinery. Therefore, it is not anticipated that that there will be any significant residual effects with regard to air quality (Ref: 11.6.1)	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Essendine Parish Council	5. Construction Chaos	No	The traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and noise impacts from construction traffic are assessed in Chapter 10: Noise [EN010127/APP/6.1] The Applicant notes that the primary traffic impacts associated with the Proposed Development will be linked to the construction phase. The measures to mitigate the traffic impacts of construction are outlined within the supporting Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP). In relation to traffic generation, the working hour for the Proposed Development will be in 12-hour shifts
Essendine Parish Council	6. Traffic Chaos		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>each day, with employees travelling to and from the Order limits an hour either side of these times (i.e., between 06:00 and 07:00, and 19:00 and 20:00). Where onsite works are to be conducted outside the core working hours, they will comply with the restrictions pursuant to the consenting process.</p> <p>Therefore, it was agreed with Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council and National Highways that no localised capacity assessments needed to be undertaken, as the impact of the Proposed Development fell below the threshold of 30 two-way vehicle movements during the morning (08:00-09:00) and evening (17:00-18:00) peak hour – as there is to be no impact during the identified peak hours</p> <p>Whilst the uplift in daily traffic flows may result in more delay than at present, it is not considered that this will be significant due to the restrictions in the timings for construction vehicles and the arrangements for staff who will arrive and depart outside of the peak hours set out in the oCTMP.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that there will be no traffic impact on the morning and</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>evening peak hours when the local road network is generally the most congested. Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur. There will be restrictions placed on the delivery windows for HGVs, with no deliveries allowed to take place during School start and pick times. The restrictions on HGVs delivery hours will be secured by way of Requirement on the DCO application, through the CTMP. With respect to the impact on the Strategic Road Network, it has been agreed with National Highways that the impact of the Proposed Development falls below the threshold for assessment to be required, which is identified as 30 two-way vehicle trips during the AM or PM peak hour. As there will be no impact on the peak hours, it has been agreed</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			with National Highways that no assessment of the Strategic Road Network is required.
Essendine Parish Council	Damage to residents' leisure time will be considerable during the construction period. The proposal calls for construction from 07.00hrs to 19.00hrs, the construction will include heavy pile driving, and land being prepared to accept concrete as well as the use of heavy construction equipment, generators and industrial lighting.	No	When considering the potential noise impacts of the Proposed Development (please see Chapter 10: Noise of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] for more information) as a result of construction related traffic passing to and from the site, the relevant embedded mitigation measures described within Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] include the general construction working hours (07:00 to 19:00 – Monday to Saturday). This is also considered in the oCEMP, which outlines that these working hours would be further restricted to avoid some works on Saturday afternoons (13:00 to 19:00). This includes activities such as earthworks, trench construction and any piling, as well as HGV deliveries and movements would not be undertaken at these times.
Essendine Parish Council	Solar to an Essendine resident on 30 June 2022 she states: "Projects of this nature typically require contractor staff to arrive at the site before 07.00 AM and leave after 19.00 PM,..." Potentially hundreds		The traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and noise impacts from construction traffic are

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	<p>of vehicles arriving before 07.00hrs and leaving after 19.00hrs daily will greatly intrude on the leisure time and general wellbeing of the residents.</p>		<p>assessed in Chapter 10: Noise [EN010127/APP/6.1]</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the primary traffic impacts associated with the Proposed Development will be linked to the construction phase. The measures to mitigate the traffic impacts of construction are outlined within the supporting Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).</p> <p>In relation to traffic generation, the working hour for the Proposed Development will be in 12-hour shifts each day, with employees travelling to and from the Order limits an hour either side of these times (i.e., between 06:00 and 07:00, and 19:00 and 20:00). Where onsite works are to be conducted outside the core working hours, they will comply with the restrictions pursuant to the consenting process.</p> <p>Therefore, it was agreed with Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council and National Highways that no localised capacity assessments needed to be undertaken, as the impact of the Proposed Development fell below the threshold of 30 two-way vehicle movements during the morning (08:00-</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>09:00) and evening (17:00-18:00) peak hour – as there is to be no impact during the identified peak hours</p> <p>Whilst the uplift in daily traffic flows may result in more delay than at present, it is not considered that this will be significant due to the restrictions in the timings for construction vehicles and the arrangements for staff who will arrive and depart outside of the peak hours set out in the oCTMP.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that there will be no traffic impact on the morning and evening peak hours when the local road network is generally the most congested.</p>
Essendine Parish Council	<p>6. Traffic chaos</p> <p>The roads around our parish and the surrounding parishes and the proposed construction site are very narrow and some roads are only one vehicle wide and some with weight restrictions.</p>	No	<p>Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur.</p>
Essendine Parish Council	Fencing off 2000 plus acres of land from the existent resident wildlife (especially the local	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	wild herds of deer) will potentially drive the wildlife onto the roads, which will in turn create potential road collisions involving vehicles and wildlife, therefore endangering human life and wildlife.		Chapter 7 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] assesses the biodiversity and nature conservation impacts of the Proposed Development. The fencing strategy for the Proposed Development has been designed to maintain and enhance connectivity between existing habitats both within and beyond the Order limits, as indicated on the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the oLEMP
Essendine Parish Council	When 44 tonne articulated vehicles and 32 tonne eight wheel tipper trucks along with hundreds of 3.5 tonne, transit type, vans are using these roads on a daily basis due to the construction and maintenance of the solar farm, the incidence of traffic chaos and an increase in road collisions is highly probable.		[EN010127/APP/7.9]. The oLEMP identifies how the fencing will be designed to allow smaller mammals to access to the Solar PV Site for foraging purposes. Larger mammals such as deer will not be able to access the Solar PV Site, but connections to existing and enhanced habitats within the Order limits will provide suitable foraging and hiding resources, and allow access to wider habitat resource beyond the Order limits. The following offsets have been included as part of the Proposed Development: • Offsets of at least 15m from the Proposed Development to existing woodlands will be provided.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offsets of at least 15m to statutorily and locally designated wildlife sites. • Offsets of at least 30m from main badger setts. <p>The traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and noise impacts from construction traffic are assessed in Chapter 10: Noise [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the primary traffic impacts associated with the Proposed Development will be linked to the construction phase. The measures to mitigate the traffic impacts of construction are outlined within the supporting Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).</p> <p>A review of the accidents occurring over the most recent three-year period has been undertaken to identify existing accident clusters across the construction routes to the Order limits. A cluster is considered to be identified where more than five accidents have occurred over a three-year period within close proximity of the Order limits.</p> <p>The review highlights that none of the junctions or links located along the local</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>road network within proximity of the Proposed Development had more than five accidents within the three-year period.</p> <p>Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur. On that basis, and using professional judgement, it is considered that the construction phase of the Proposed Development would have a non-significant effect on Accidents and Safety.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 9: Access and Highways of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Great Casterton Parish Council	<p>Village Traffic.</p> <p>Great Casterton is situated far enough away from the solar farm to not be affected by its day to day operations. However the B1081, Old Great North Road through the village passes through a</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>Sections of the A6121 and Ryhall Road have been removed from the Order Limits, avoiding direct impacts on the</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	<p>Conservation Area which is narrow in places and is lined with older houses, some of them listed. The village is also close to key entries and exits from the A1 trunk road and would be affected by any work force commuter traffic and, during the construction phase, by heavy trucks en route to the site and back. These trucks would have to turn right onto the Ryhall Road at the already very congested crossroads. All this will create added noise, pollution, and damage as well as extra risk for residents, pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders. No amount of Developers Construction Traffic Management Plans will alleviate this.</p>		<p>Tolethorpe Verges SSSI as it has been agreed with the Local Highway Authority that localised road improvements are not required to facilitate the movement of construction vehicles, with the exception of the A6121/B1176 and the Ryhall Road/Old Great North Road Junction. The Applicant notes that the construction phase of the Proposed Development is likely to have adverse, local, temporary, and medium-term impacts on Accidents and Safety. A review of the accidents occurring over the most recent three-year period has been undertaken to identify existing accident clusters across the construction routes to the Order limits. The review highlights that none of the junctions or links located along the local road network within proximity of the Proposed Development had more than five accidents within the three-year period. A detailed and robust noise assessment forms and ES (Chapter 10: Noise of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1]). This considers the nature of the noise sources associated with the Proposed Development, including construction,</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			operational noise from electrical plant including that of construction traffic. When considering the potential noise impacts of the Proposed Development as a result of construction related traffic passing to and from the site, the relevant embedded mitigation measures described within Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, include the general construction working hours (07:00 to 19:00 – Monday to Saturday). This is also considered in the oCEMP.
Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council	Proposed access to this area for the size of this construction will bring its own negativity. There are no easy and suitable entry points. The proposed enhancement of the A1 junction at Great Casterton would force heavy construction traffic into a small village and attempting to enter a junction with residential properties on one side and an infant/junior school on the other. With a Casterton college a mere 200 metres further up the road. Because of the locations of the schools a significant number of vehicles will be parked along this stretch of road at critical times of the day. Providing a significant risk to life and property. Beyond this point the road narrows and is undulating tight turns with well cared for hedgerows of special scientific interest (SSSI) on both sides. Between Ryhall and Essendine villages would be	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Areas of Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI have been removed from the Order limits in order to avoid direct impacts as cabling routing or site access works are no longer being considered in this location. Areas of the SSSI that remain within the Order limits are for vegetation management only. In addition, sections of the A6121 and Ryhall Road have been removed from the Order Limits, avoiding direct impacts on the Tolethorpe Verges SSSI as it has been agreed with the Local Highway Authority that localised road improvements are not required to facilitate the movement of construction

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	<p>another significant access point and again an area with a single car width road and well maintained hedgerows. With construction predicted to run for at least two years, damage to the access route alone will be significant and to the environment catastrophic. All other routes from all other directions have similar problems (it is a rural area) and that is the reason for its beauty and its' sought after location!</p>		<p>vehicles, with the exception of the A6121/B1176 and the Ryhall Road/Old Great North Road Junction. Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur. There will be restrictions placed on the delivery windows for HGVs, with no deliveries allowed to take place during School start and pick times. The restrictions on HGVs delivery hours will be secured by way of Requirement on the DCO application, through the CTMP. For more information, please see Chapter 9: Access and Highways of the ES.</p>
Uffington Parish Council	<p>Twenty two (63%) of respondents were worried about the obstruction of country lanes, pollution and risk of accidents to car drivers, horse-riders and pedestrians that would be caused by site traffic during the construction phase.</p>	No	<p>The traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and noise impacts from construction traffic are</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>assessed in Chapter 10: Noise [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the primary traffic impacts associated with the Proposed Development will be linked to the construction phase. The measures to mitigate the traffic impacts of construction are outlined within the supporting Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).</p> <p>In relation to traffic generation, the working hour for the Proposed Development will be in 12-hour shifts each day, with employees travelling to and from the Order limits an hour either side of these times (i.e., between 06:00 and 07:00, and 19:00 and 20:00). Where onsite works are to be conducted outside the core working hours, they will comply with the restrictions pursuant to the consenting process.</p> <p>Therefore, it was agreed with Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council and National Highways that no localised capacity assessments needed to be undertaken, as the impact of the Proposed Development fell below the threshold of 30 two-way vehicle movements during the morning (08:00-</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>09:00) and evening (17:00-18:00) peak hour – as there is to be no impact during the identified peak hours</p> <p>Whilst the uplift in daily traffic flows may result in more delay than at present, it is not considered that this will be significant due to the restrictions in the timings for construction vehicles and the arrangements for staff who will arrive and depart outside of the peak hours set out in the oCTMP.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that there will be no traffic impact on the morning and evening peak hours when the local road network is generally the most congested.</p>
Carlby Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO CLEAR AND CONCISE INDICATION OF HGV CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC ALONG OUR VERY NARROW COUNTRY LANES FOR A PRRIOD OF 2yrs +! 	No	Details on the access routes that will be used during construction are summarised within Chapter 9: Access and Highways of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Carlby Parish Council	I moved to the countryside here in Carlby just over 2 years ago from a busy, urban area to get away from noise and excess traffic. After asking at the consultation event about planned 'in' and 'out' routes for the construction traffic the person I was shown 3 different route plans. Only when I queried it further I was advised that actually one of the routes via Stamford was probably being dropped so it would mean only one 'in route' and one 'out route' Taking on board this new information I	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	realised it would mean muddy large HGV and LGV construction site traffic several hours a day for most of the week on the 'out route' from the site for 2 yrs + and this was just the beginning!		For more information, please see Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Carlby Parish Council	On the last Webinar I raised the question of the routes being adhered to and the reply was that this would be the responsibility of the local council and we as residents could and would be expected to report drivers not adhering to the route. Asking again on the webinar how would we identify the vehicles to report them.... Gary Toomey said "You can't as they won't have Mallard Pass or Canadian Solar on them"	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. The vehicles will be fitted with tracking technology to monitor adherence to the routes. Where routes are not followed, appropriate action will be taken by the Applicant/contractor.
Carlby Parish Council	Other vehicles used by contractors working for a company such as BT Open Reach display for example 'MJ Quinn working on behalf of Open Reach' therefore being identifiable and accountable..... So Why is Canadian Solar/ Windel/ Mallard Pass not prepared to do the same?	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Carlby Parish Council	Traffic issues in narrow country lanes Road safety concerns - accidents and maybe deaths	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Areas of Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI have been removed from the Order limits in order to avoid direct impacts as cabling routing or

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>site access works are no longer being considered in this location. Areas of the SSSI that remain within the Order limits are for vegetation management only. In addition, sections of the A6121 and Ryhall Road have been removed from the Order Limits, avoiding direct impacts on the Tolethorpe Verges SSSI as it has been agreed with the Local Highway Authority that localised road improvements are not required to facilitate the movement of construction vehicles, with the exception of the A6121/B1176 and the Ryhall Road/Old Great North Road Junction. Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur. There will be restrictions placed on the delivery windows for HGVs, with no deliveries allowed to take place during</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			School start and pick times. The restrictions on HGVs delivery hours will be secured by way of Requirement on the DCO application, through the CTMP. For more information, please see Chapter 9: Access and Highways of the ES.
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	4. Over 2 years for the construction of this development will produce intolerable conditions for all local residents. The proposed access routes proposed by the developers are totally unrealistic. The roads are totally inadequate to support the numerous heavy goods vehicles going daily to and from the fields where panels will be fixed. There will be mud everywhere in winter and dust in the summer months.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see Chapter 10: Noise of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] , Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] , Chapter 9: Highways and Access [EN010127/APP/6.1] , the oCEMP for more information regarding construction and decommissioning, and the oCTMP for more details on the Applicant's traffic and transport management plans. Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur. There will be restrictions placed on the delivery windows for HGVs, with no deliveries allowed to take place during School start and pick times. The restrictions on HGVs delivery hours will be secured by way of Requirement on the DCO application, through the CTMP. With respect to the impact on the Strategic Road Network, it has been agreed with National Highways that the impact of the Proposed Development falls below the threshold for assessment to be required, which is identified as 30 two-way vehicle trips during the AM or PM peak hour. As there will be no impact on the peak hours, it has been agreed with National Highways that no assessment of the Strategic Road Network is required.</p>
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	significant impact to the area during construction on roads that are not, and should not, be able to take such volume and scale of traffic required to build such an infrastructure project,	No	<p>The traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and noise impacts from construction traffic are assessed in Chapter 10: Noise [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the primary traffic impacts associated with the</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>Proposed Development will be linked to the construction phase. The measures to mitigate the traffic impacts of construction are outlined within the supporting Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).</p> <p>In relation to traffic generation, the working hour for the Proposed Development will be in 12-hour shifts each day, with employees travelling to and from the Order limits an hour either side of these times (i.e., between 06:00 and 07:00, and 19:00 and 20:00). Where onsite works are to be conducted outside the core working hours, they will comply with the restrictions pursuant to the consenting process.</p> <p>Therefore, it was agreed with Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council and National Highways that no localised capacity assessments needed to be undertaken, as the impact of the Proposed Development fell below the threshold of 30 two-way vehicle movements during the morning (08:00-09:00) and evening (17:00-18:00) peak hour – as there is to be no impact during the identified peak hours</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>Whilst the uplift in daily traffic flows may result in more delay than at present, it is not considered that this will be significant due to the restrictions in the timings for construction vehicles and the arrangements for staff who will arrive and depart outside of the peak hours set out in the oCTMP.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that there will be no traffic impact on the morning and evening peak hours when the local road network is generally the most congested.</p>
Greatford Parish Council	<p>3. Traffic. The proposed site for the solar farm is in a rural landscape and as such is served by rural roads. Each of the proposed access routes to the proposed development is inadequate for the HGV traffic required to build, service and dismantle the proposed development.</p>	No	<p>Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur.</p>
Greatford Parish Council	<p>The significant increase in HGV traffic will cause danger and disruption to residents and road users in the surrounding area and this has not been given accurate or adequate consideration within PEIR. For example when reviewing the proposed routes using publicly available data on the Crashmap</p>	No	<p>Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	<p>website the village of Essendine has had 1 fatal accident, 3 serious accidents and 1 minor accident since 2017. This small snap shot of the available data was not made available in the PEIR.</p>		<p>that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur. There will be restrictions placed on the delivery windows for HGVs, with no deliveries allowed to take place during School start and pick times. The restrictions on HGVs delivery hours will be secured by way of Requirement on the DCO application, through the CTMP. With respect to the impact on the Strategic Road Network, it has been agreed with National Highways that the impact of the Proposed Development falls below the threshold for assessment to be required, which is identified as 30 two-way vehicle trips during the AM or PM peak hour. As there will be no impact on the peak hours, it has been agreed with National Highways that no assessment of the Strategic Road Network is required.</p>
Greatford Parish Council	<p>HGV traffic, specifically tipper trucks servicing local quarries, are an on-going problem for the residents of Greatford. Most of the local quarries have section 106 routing agreements that should prevent quarry traffic from using short cuts through</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The vehicles will be fitted with tracking technology to monitor adherence to the routes. Where routes are not followed,</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	Greatford and other local villages, however these simply do not work as drivers follow their satellite navigation devices despite the routing agreements. Often drivers are not aware of routing agreements and the policing of the agreements is the responsibility of the County Council Planning department, however they rely upon local residents to supply details of the traffic (registration plates, time seen etc...), the result is nothing is done and the problem continues.		appropriate action will be taken by the Applicant/contractor. All drivers and contractors will be made aware of the routing restrictions, which will be legally enforceable by way of Requirement on the DCO.
Greatford Parish Council	Greatford has several gravel quarries within its environs and the Parish Council is concerned that this proposal, together with other large local developments such as a new quarry, a water pipeline, and a large housing development in Stamford will see a huge increase in demand for local quarry products and a corresponding rise in the HGV traffic required to deliver them.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. This has been outlined in Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Summary of Cumulative Effects of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Greatford Parish Council	The cumulative effects of the already agreed developments, and yet further proposed development in the form of Mallard Pass Solar Farm are additional burdens to our already narrow and poorly maintained roads, and the villages these roads they serve.		
Greatford Parish Council	The roads around Greatford will not cope with further HGV traffic and we believe that a condition of the DCO should be that a 7.5t weight limit is put in place in Greatford (and other affected villages) to provide a legally enforceable means of preventing	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	<p>HGVs using the village a shortcut to accessing the various construction and maintenance compounds proposed by the developer of Mallard Pass Solar Farm.</p>		<p>points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible.</p> <p>All drivers would be advised to only use the agreed routes, meaning there is no need to implement this weight restriction,. Vehicle tracking and identification will be used, with monitoring information that can be shared to the Local Highway Authorities to identify when the routes are not being adhered to. Appropriate action can then be undertaken to ensure this does not take place.</p>
<p>Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council</p>	<p>HGVs going to and fro 6 days a week 7am – 7pm and heavy piling equipment putting in 2.5m deep panel mounting structures will be noisy and very dusty during construction. All these vehicles will compact the earth to create an almost concrete-like surface, and water run-off from the panels will exacerbate the existing problem of flooding in many parts of the surrounding villages that suffer at the moment, even with porous ground to help rainwater drain away. 400 workers on a daily basis coming to the site will bring even more traffic and pollution as well as the distinct probability of more accidents and deaths on our country roads because of it.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>A detailed and robust noise assessment forms part of the PEIR (Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration) and ES (Chapter X). This considers the nature of the noise sources associated with the Proposed Development, including construction, operational noise from electrical plant including that of the proposed substation, and the construction traffic. When considering the potential noise impacts of the Proposed Development as a result of construction related traffic passing to and</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>from the site, the relevant embedded mitigation measures described within Chapter 5: Project Description, of the ES, include the general construction working hours (07:00 to 19:00 – Monday to Saturday). This is also considered in the oCEMP, which outlines that these working hours would be further restricted to avoid some works on Saturday afternoons (13:00 to 19:00). This includes activities such as earthworks, trench construction and any piling, as well as HGV deliveries and movements would not be undertaken at these times. For more information, please see the oCTMP, Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, the Outline Surface Water Management Strategy, and Chapter 12: Land Use and Soils. [EN010127/APP/6.1]</p>
National Highways	Our responses to sustainable development consultations are informed by 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	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other relevant policies.		
National Highways	In relation to the Stage One consultation, National Highways reviewed 'Technical Note: Survey Specification', 'Community Consultation Leaflet' and 'Welcome to our consultation event' leaflet which were provided in support of the proposal. Based on our review we recommended that, due to the size of the development, the applicant would be required to submit a Transport Assessment (TA) and a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to understand the likely impacts of the development on the SRN during the construction and operational stages. These comments are contained in an email submitted to Velocity Transport, the applicant's transport consultants, on 26 October 2021 and to the applicant on 22 November 2021. It is noted that our comments from these emails have not yet been fulfilled.	No	For more information, please see the ES, Appendix 9.4 Transport Assessment [EN010127/APP/6.2] and Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] for more information on this topic. To view the CTMP, please refer to the ES [EN010127/APP/7.11]. A Transport Assessment has also been produced at Appendix 9.4 of Chapter 9. Prior to submission of the application, it was agreed with National Highways that the impact of the Proposed Development did not require assessment on the National Highways Network (SRN) as the impact fell below the impact threshold of 30 two-way vehicle trips during the AM and PM peak hour.
National Highways	For this latest consultation, National Highways has reviewed the newly submitted Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (dated May 2022), the Stage Two Main Consultation Document (dated May 2022) and additional documentation. Upon our review, we can provide the following comments:	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
National Highways	National Highways' Considerations – Site Access It is understood that the site will be accessed	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	directly from the local road network. As such, we have no specific comments to make on site access.		
National Highways	<p>Operation – Traffic Impacts</p> <p>It is understood the impacts of the proposed development during the operation phase are unlikely to have a material impact on the SRN. 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 Assessment (see below).</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. For more information, please see the ES, Appendix 9.4 Transport Assessment [EN010127/APP/6.2] and Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] for more information on this topic.
National Highways	<p>Construction Traffic Impacts</p> <p>At present, the submitted information suggests that as a worst-case scenario, the construction phase will generate 105 two-way daily LGV trips and 54 two-way daily HGV trips. We understand this has been agreed with key stakeholders, although we have not been consulted on this methodology. The Transport Assessment should therefore clearly set out how the trip generation for both the operational and construction phases have been calculated for National Highways to agree these numbers.</p>		
National Highways	In terms of trip distribution, it is noted that the applicant has identified three main routes to manage access of construction traffic to the site and minimise impacts on the SRN.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
National Highways	We understand that a preference for the routing of construction traffic is to access the site via the A1 onto the B1081 Old Great North Road (Route 1), and to exit the site via the A6121 to the west onto the A15 and subsequently joining the SRN on the A47 near Peterborough (Route 3). Route 2 is not being evaluated.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. This is set out in Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
National Highways	Whilst the above information is welcomed, National Highways would wish to have a clearer understanding of the numbers of vehicles expected to use these routes during the construction period (for both construction workers and deliveries) and the wider routing strategy to understand the likely impacts on the SRN, namely the A1 and A47. The hours of the above-mentioned vehicle movements will be particularly important for understanding the potential impacts on the SRN junctions. As such, information relating to trip generation and distribution should be presented in daily and hourly figures with the numbers during the network peak periods (8am-9am, and 5-6pm) clearly indicated.	No	<p>The traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and noise impacts from construction traffic are assessed in Chapter 10: Noise [EN010127/APP/6.1]</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the primary traffic impacts associated with the Proposed Development will be linked to the construction phase. The measures to mitigate the traffic impacts of construction are outlined within the supporting Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).</p> <p>In relation to traffic generation, the working hour for the Proposed Development will be in 12-hour shifts each day, with employees travelling to and from the Order limits an hour either side of these times (i.e., between 06:00 and 07:00, and 19:00 and 20:00). Where onsite works are to be conducted outside</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>the core working hours, they will comply with the restrictions pursuant to the consenting process.</p> <p>Therefore, it was agreed with Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council and National Highways that no localised capacity assessments needed to be undertaken, as the impact of the Proposed Development fell below the threshold of 30 two-way vehicle movements during the morning (08:00-09:00) and evening (17:00-18:00) peak hour – as there is to be no impact during the identified peak hours</p> <p>Whilst the uplift in daily traffic flows may result in more delay than at present, it is not considered that this will be significant due to the restrictions in the timings for construction vehicles and the arrangements for staff who will arrive and depart outside of the peak hours set out in the oCTMP.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that there will be no traffic impact on the morning and evening peak hours when the local road network is generally the most congested.</p>
National Highways	We recommend that the applicant provide the above-mentioned information for National Highways agreement, prior to undertaking any	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	further data collection or assessment work. Based on this information we will have a better understanding of the likely impacts of construction traffic on the SRN and whether further assessments (including a cumulative impact assessment to include other sites) will be required.		For more information, please see Chapter 9: Access and Highways of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] and Chapter 16: Interaction of Effects and Summary of Cumulative Effects of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] . The scope of the assessments within Chapter 9 have been submitted to and agreed with National Highways prior to the submission of the DCO, with it being agreed that no assessment of the SRN is required due to the Proposed Development not meeting the impact thresholds of 30 two-way vehicle trips during a peak hour.
National Highways	Construction Traffic Management Plan The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan has been reviewed. We will likely have further comments on future iterations of this document once the trip generation and trip distribution associated with construction traffic has been clearly set out in the Transport Assessment. As mentioned above, the assessment of construction traffic should identify the time period(s) during which construction activities will take place, the numbers of trips likely to be generated on SRN junctions in the AM and PM peaks in particular, the vehicle type and, for heavy construction traffic, an appropriate	No	The traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and noise impacts from construction traffic are assessed in Chapter 10: Noise [EN010127/APP/6.1] The Applicant notes that the primary traffic impacts associated with the Proposed Development will be linked to the construction phase. The measures to mitigate the traffic impacts of construction are outlined within the supporting Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	diversion route or a traffic management plan to minimise local impacts.		<p>In relation to traffic generation, the working hour for the Proposed Development will be in 12-hour shifts each day, with employees travelling to and from the Order limits an hour either side of these times (i.e., between 06:00 and 07:00, and 19:00 and 20:00). Where onsite works are to be conducted outside the core working hours, they will comply with the restrictions pursuant to the consenting process.</p> <p>Therefore, it was agreed with Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council and National Highways that no localised capacity assessments needed to be undertaken, as the impact of the Proposed Development fell below the threshold of 30 two-way vehicle movements during the morning (08:00-09:00) and evening (17:00-18:00) peak hour – as there is to be no impact during the identified peak hours</p> <p>Whilst the uplift in daily traffic flows may result in more delay than at present, it is not considered that this will be significant due to the restrictions in the timings for construction vehicles and the arrangements for staff who will arrive and</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>depart outside of the peak hours set out in the oCTMP.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that there will be no traffic impact on the morning and evening peak hours when the local road network is generally the most congested.</p>
National Highways	<p>Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL)</p> <p>We note that the preferred entry and exit route for Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) is likely to be Route 1. The PEIR report indicates that further analysis to determine its suitability, and any potential temporary measures and mitigations will require further assessment, engagement and agreement with National Highways. We welcome this approach and look forward to receiving more information.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. This is set out in Chapter 9: Access and Highways of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
National Highways	<p>Physical Changes to the SRN</p> <p>We understand that the applicant is exploring whether, within the adopted highway boundary, minor highway improvement works will be required in a limited number of areas to allow large vehicles access to the site during construction. We note that this includes a small area on the A1 at the junction with Grantham Lane (demonstrated in Figure 1.1 Site Boundary in the PEIR).</p> <p>If the applicant decides to proceed with the above-mentioned highway improvement works, it is fundamental that National Highways are further consulted on this matter.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>Sections of the A6121 and Ryhall Road have been removed from the Order Limits, avoiding direct impacts on the Tolethorpe Verges SSSI as it has been agreed with the Local Highway Authority that localised road improvements are not required to facilitate the movement of construction vehicles, with the exception of the A6121/B1176 and the Ryhall Road/Old Great North Road Junction.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			National Highways are to be consulted further on the highway improvement works. Please see Appendix 9.3 Consultation of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2] for further details. For more information on this topic, please see [EN010127/APP/6.2].
National Highways	Any mitigation to the SRN as a result of the proposals must be identified and designed in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB). Prior to any planning approval, alterations to the SRN must be designed to a preliminary design standard and checked by National Highways. Following this design check, they will need to undergo a Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with GG104, a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit (RSA) in accordance with GG119 and a Walking Cycling Horse-Riding Assessment and Review (WCHAR) in accordance with GG142. We can provide further advice on the above as and when required.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Network Rail	Network Rail is a statutory undertaker responsible for maintaining and operating the railway infrastructure and associated estate. It owns, operates, maintains and develops the main rail network. Network Rail aims to protect and enhance the railway infrastructure therefore any proposed development which is in close proximity to the railway line or could potentially affect Network	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	Rail's specific land interests, will need to be carefully considered.		
Network Rail	Impact on Network Rail Infrastructure		
Network Rail	Network Rail has been reviewing the information provided and note that proposals include the development of a solar farm adjacent to the railway infrastructure comprising the East Coast Main Line with connections through railway property. The scheme will run for significant distances along both sides of the East Coast Main Line (ECM1 at 87miles 100yds to 89miles 1100yds approx.) and includes connections through railway land to link the development.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Network Rail	In addition, the routing of construction traffic (including HGVs/abnormal loads) and subsequent operational site traffic will require further consideration and discussion with Network Rail if such routes take in railway assets such as bridges (with low clearance/weight restrictions) and railway level crossings. It is noted that the development site area includes land in proximity to Greatford Level Crossing (ECM1 @ 87m 170yds) and it is imperative that traffic associated with construction activity at the site does not adversely impact operational safety at this crossing. Moving northwards from this point there are also several railway bridges which will require consideration.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur. For more information, please see Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1].

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			Through the proposed routing strategy, HGVs and abnormal loads will avoid any impacts to railway assets, such as bridges or level crossings (namely the Greatford Level Crossing), meaning there will be no impacts to Network Rail assets. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Network Rail	With these points in mind, at this stage the information supplied is not sufficiently detailed to fully assess potential impacts of the scheme on the railway and further information will be required to properly respond on the likely impacts of the proposed scheme.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Network Rail	Please note that if the intention is to install cabling/equipment in support of the project through railway land, the developer will need an easement from Network Rail and we would recommend that they engage with us early in the planning of their scheme in order to discuss and agree this element of the proposals. Our Easements and Wayleaves Team can be contacted at easements&wayleaves@networkrail.co.uk .	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Network Rail	Network Rail will be seeking protection from the exercise of compulsory purchase powers over operational land either for permanent or temporary purposes. In addition, Network Rail will wish to agree protection for the railway during the course	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	<p>of the construction works and otherwise to protect our undertaking and land interests. Network Rail reserves the right to produce additional and further grounds of concern when further details of the application and its effect on Network Rail's land are available. In addition, any rights for power or other lines under, over or alongside the railway line will require appropriate asset protection measures deemed necessary by Network Rail to protect the operational railway and stations. We have standard protective provisions which will need to be included in the DCO as a minimum therefore contact should be made to Emily Christelow, email: Emily.Christelow@networkrail.co.uk to obtain a copy of the relevant wording In addition a number of legal and commercial agreements will need to be entered into, for example, asset protection agreements, method statements, connection agreements, property agreements and all other relevant legal and commercial agreements. This list is not exhaustive and will need to be reviewed once more details of the scheme are discussed between the parties.</p>		
Network Rail	<p>Consideration should be given to ensure that the construction and subsequent maintenance can be carried out without adversely affecting the safety of, or encroaching upon Network Rail's adjacent land. In addition, security of the railway boundary will require to be maintained at all times. In any event</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
	you must contact Network Rail's Asset Protection Engineers as soon as possible in relation to this scheme on the following e-mail address AssetProtectionEastern@networkrail.co.uk.		
Network Rail	Network Rail is prepared to discuss the inclusion of Network Rail land or rights over land subject to there being no impact on the operational railway, all regulatory and other required consents being in place and appropriate commercial and other terms having been agreed between the parties and approved by Network Rail's board.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Network Rail	Network Rail also reserves the right to make additional comments once we have evaluated the proposals in more detail.		
Network Rail	Network Rail would be grateful if the comments and points detailed within this consultation response are considered by Mallard Pass Solar Farm.	No	As shown in this Appendix 5 and further detailed in Chapter 12 of this Consultation Report, the Applicant considered all consultation responses received to the Stage Two Statutory Consultation. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Network Rail	Network Rail would welcome further discussion and negotiation with Mallard Pass Solar Farm in relation to the proposed development as required going forward. If you have any questions or require more information in relation to the above please let me know.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	<p>Traffic The area in which Mallard Pass would be constructed is served by a rural road network, unsuited to supporting the type and scale of vehicles necessary for a project of this scale. There would be up to 60 lorries driving in and out of the site each day. The route they would take passes three schools catering to over one thousand pupils, and there must be a full safety and risk assessment taken. The safety of our children can never be compromised.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant notes that the construction phase of the Proposed Development is likely to have adverse, local, temporary, and medium-term impacts on Accidents and Safety.</p> <p>A review of the accidents occurring over the most recent three-year period has been undertaken to identify existing accident clusters across the construction routes to the Order limits. A cluster is considered to be identified where more than five accidents have occurred over a three-year period within close proximity of the Order limits.</p> <p>The review highlights that none of the junctions or links located along the local road network within proximity of the Proposed Development had more than five accidents within the three-year period.</p> <p>Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			<p>also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur. Delivery times for HGVs would also be restricted to avoid the School drop off and pick up hours.</p> <p>On that basis, and using professional judgement, it is considered that the construction phase of the Proposed Development would have a non-significant effect on Accidents and Safety.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			Consultation Report and other application documents.
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	Also danger from flooding, fire, COMAH site at Heys Group Stamford Storage facility situated in Field 27, and Electro Magnetic Fields.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. It is considered that the construction phase of the Proposed Development would have a non-significant effect on Accidents and Safety. For more information, please see the oCTMP and Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>Further, as reported in Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions, [EN010127/APP/6.1], of the ES, modelling of various flooding scenarios has been carried out, in consultation with the Environmental Agency, considering increases in rainfall intensities associated with climate change. In light of this, the Proposed Development infrastructure has been located out-with areas identified to be at risk of flooding during a 1 in 100-year rainfall event, accounting for the increases in rainfall associated with climate change.</p> <p>This sequential design methodology ensures that the Proposed Development is not vulnerable to increases in rainfall</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Highways and Access			
			intensities leading to extreme flood events.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
South Kesteven District Council	Landscape and Visual • Separate review issued to RCC	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	1.0 INTRODUCTION - Scope 1.1 Barton Willmore, now Stantec was requested by Rutland County Council to undertake a Peer Review of the Landscape and Visual section of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) prepared by LDA Design in relation to the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm (the 'Proposed Development') near Essendine.	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	2.3 The identified reference sources in the PEIR chapter are considered relevant and up-to-date and these constitute appropriate good practice guidance for the LVIA. However, we recommend that the 'Landscape Institute TGN 02/21' is included as a reference document within the approach to the LVIA of the forthcoming ES chapter rather than buried within the methodology.	No	The Applicant considers TGN 02/21 <i>Assessing landscape value outside national designations</i> within Section 6.3.71 to 6.3.74 of the LVIA within Chapter 6 [EN010127/APP/6.2] . TGN 02/21 is indicative guidance and not absolute criteria.
South Kesteven District Council	2.7 Value is described on a four-point-scale (National/International-Local/District-Community-Limited). Table 2 applies to landscape receptors. A similar table is not provided for visual receptors.	No	The value of visual receptors is set out on a four points scale (National / International; Local / District; Community; and Limited within Appendix 6.2 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2]
South Kesteven District Council	2.8 Based on Table 3 (for landscape receptor sensitivity) and Table 4 (for visual receptor sensitivity) it reads that there is a four-point scale for landscape sensitivity (High-Medium-Low-Negligible) and a three-point scale for visual sensitivity (High-Medium-Low), with intermediate	No	The Applicant notes this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	levels for each. Prescriptive examples for denoting visual receptor sensitivity are provided within Table 8, much later in the methodology.		
South Kesteven District Council	2.10 We recommend that less generic criteria is set out for both landscape and visual susceptibility, in addition to providing criteria for understanding the value attributed to views.	No	The LVIA methodology submitted for the Stage 2 PEIR has been considered appropriate for other DCO / NSIP applications and has been tested and considered acceptable at numerous other examinations and planning appeals. The significance ratings within the LVIA methodology indicates a 'sliding scale' of the relative importance of effects with Major being the most important and Minimal being the least important. Effects that are judged to be 'Major' or 'Major-Moderate' are deemed to be significant. Effects which are of 'Moderate' significance or less are judged to be not significant. For more information, please see Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1]
South Kesteven District Council	2.15 We recommended that a definition is provided for each significance rating to assist the decision-maker and members of the public in understanding the LVIA findings.		
South Kesteven District Council	Cumulative assessment 2.17 The approach to cumulative assessment appears reasonable. We note that currently no schemes have been identified that have the potential for significant cumulative landscape and visual effects. We recommend that a finalised/ frozen list of candidate cumulative schemes is	No	The scope of the cumulative assessment is therefore focussed on those key issues which are likely to have a bearing on the decision-making process. A long list of other developments or cumulative schemes was prepared by the applicant as part of the Stage 1 and 2 statutory

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	agreed upon at an appropriate milestone in the project, such that a robust assessment can still be carried out and, where appropriate, amendments to the scheme can be incorporated to minimise the potential for adverse cumulative landscape and visual effects to arise.		consultations with PINS, LCC, RCC and SKDC. The long list of cumulative schemes (set out at Appendix 2.4) was refined following consultations with the local planning authorities in September 2022. The LVIA has further assessed the cumulative effects arising from the Proposed Development within Sections 6.5.103 - 6.5.109 of Chapter 6 of the ES. [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
South Kesteven District Council	3.0 REVIEW OF BASELINE ANALYSIS 3.1 The baseline analysis is generally comprehensive and proportionate to the type of development proposed, with the scope of the assessment suitably tailored to the likely landscape and visual effects that may arise.	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	3.2 The baseline narrative is clear, considered and concise.	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	3.3 However, whilst reference is made to 'Landscape Institute TGN 02/21' in the methodology, it is unclear how this is translated in the baseline analysis. We recommend that a valued landscape (as per the meaning in the NPPF) test is undertaken and incorporated within the forthcoming ES chapter.	No	The Applicant addresses TGN 02/21 <i>Assessing landscape value outside national designations</i> within Section 6.3.71 to 6.3.74 of the LVIA within Chapter 6 of the ES. TGN 02/21 is indicative guidance and not absolute criteria. References to valued landscape and para 174(a) of the NPPF are provided within Section 6.3.71 of the LVIA within Chapter 6 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1]

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
South Kesteven District Council	3.4 Fourteen [14] representative views are provided within the PEIR and give a good indication of the likely visual effect of the Proposed Development. We recommend that direct consultation is undertaken with the Applicant to ensure that all necessary sensitive viewpoints within the study area are accounted for in the assessment.	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	3.5 The visual receptors considered in the PEIR are split into thirteen [13] distinct receptor groups. For the purposes of the PEIR this is considered appropriate, however, for the ES chapter we consider that a finer grain of assessment is required for the assessment of visual effects.	No	The Applicant notes this comment. The LVIA not restricted the assessment of the Visual Receptor Groups. A total of 28 no. representative and illustrative viewpoints have been included within the LVIA to consider a finer grain of detail including a variety of different receptor groups at different distances and directions from the Order limits. It should be noted that the assessments within the LVIA are not limited to these viewpoint locations.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	2. Detrimental landscape and visual impact	No	The landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development have been assessed in accordance with best practice within Chapter 6 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] . The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has informed the site layout and design of the Proposed Development and has advised upon specific landscape and visual mitigation

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
			<p>measures and enhancement measures to reduce the overall effects.</p> <p>The design evolution, iterations, and changes to the site layout in response to consultee comments has been set out within the Design and Access Statement (DAS). Specific landscape and visual mitigation and enhancement identified within the LVIA are further illustrated on the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would result in a number of landscape and visual effects although these would be managed to reduce the degree and significance of effects in the long term. Whilst this solar farm is of a large utility scale, the overall scale of the development would appear subdivided and compartmentalised by the landform, woodland and hedgerows such that it would not be entirely visible from any given location.</p>
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.7 Visual Impact on the Landscape 5.7.1 Local Plan Policy EN1 (Landscape Character) seeks to ensure that development is appropriate to the character and significant natural, historic, and cultural attributes of the features of the	No	The landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development have been assessed in accordance with best practice within Chapter 6 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] .

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	<p>landscape within which it is situated, and contribute to its conservation, enhancement, or restoration.</p> <p>5.7.2 Criterion 1 of the Renewable Energy Appendix identifies that a Landscape and Visual Impact should consider the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the site be readily seen in views from heritage assets such as listed buildings and conservation areas? • Can the site be readily seen in views from housing areas? • Can the site be readily seen in long distance views in the landscape especially if the intervening landscape is of special significance? 		<p>The planning policies relevant to landscape are further considered within Appendix 6.1 of the ES including responses to these policy objectives. Policy compliance is further considered within the Planning Statement [EN01027/APP/7.2].</p>
<p>South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee</p>	<p>5.8 Visual Impact on Dwellings or Communities</p> <p>5.8.1 Local Plan Policy DE1 (Promoting Good Quality Design) states (amongst other criteria) that to ensure high quality design is achieved throughout the District, all development proposals will be expected to make a positive contribution to local distinctiveness, vernacular, and character of the area. Proposals should reinforce local identity and not have an adverse impact on the street scene, settlement pattern or landscape / townscape character of the surrounding area. Proposals should be of an appropriate scale, density, massing, height, and material.</p> <p>5.8.2 In addition, the Rutland and South Kesteven Design Guidelines SPD (Adopted November 2021)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The planning policies relevant to landscape are further considered within Appendix 6.1 of the ES [EN01027/APP/6.2] including responses to these policy objectives. Policy compliance is further considered within the Planning Statement [EN01027/APP/7.2]</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	identifies that the detailed design of a proposal should be influenced by its context and should consider the relationship between the site and other buildings, routes and spaces, views and vistas, facilities, architectural details, and the landscape. The appearance and architectural landscape of surrounding buildings should be drawn upon and influence the detailed design.		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.8.3 Furthermore, Criterion 2 of the Renewable Energy Appendix requires a residential visual amenity assessment, covering an area of at least 2km from any proposed solar farm to be undertaken as part of any LVIA that accompanies a formal planning application.	No	The study area of 100m from the Solar PV Site is considered to be appropriate for the RVAA. The RVAA submitted in the Stage 2 PEIR did not identify any overbearing effects on the residential properties located within 100m of the Solar PV Site and Onsite Substation and this is also the case at submission. As such, it is not considered necessary to extend the study area beyond 100m as no overbearing effects were identified within this study area. The RVAA is contained within Appendix 6.4 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2] .
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	• Landscape and Visual	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	6.5 After mitigation, the only topics that are predicted to have any residual significant effects are Landscape and Visual and Climate Change (the impacts of climate change being positive).	No	The Applicant notes this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>6.8.1 The review makes the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the 'Landscape Institute TGN 02/21' is included as a reference document within the approach to the LVIA of the forthcoming ES chapter; • adopting a more commonly held cautionary threshold for what constitutes a 'significant effect' of Moderate significance and above; • provide an equivalent table to table 2 for visual receptors; • that less generic criteria is set out for both landscape and visual susceptibility, in addition to providing criteria for understanding the value attributed to view; • that a definition is provided for each significance rating to assist the decision-maker and members of the public in understanding the LVIA findings; • that a valued landscape (as per the meaning in the NPPF) test is undertaken and incorporated within the forthcoming ES chapter; • that direct consultation is undertaken with the Applicant to ensure that all necessary sensitive viewpoints within the study area are accounted for in the assessment; • that a finer grain of assessment is required for the assessment of visual effects for the ES chapter in relation to visual receptors; 	No	<p>The LVIA in the ES has considered the guidance within TGN 02/21 when assessing the landscape value of the Order limits which is located outside of a statutory and non-statutory landscape designations.</p> <p>Typical examples of visual receptor susceptibility, value and overall sensitivity have been provided in the Table 8 of the LVIA methodology (Appendix 6.2).</p> <p>The significance of effects are judgements based upon the sensitivity of the particular landscape and visual receptor and the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development. The significance of effect is the combination of this criteria which is set out and defined within the LVIA methodology.</p> <p>Within the EIA Regs, judgements regarding the likelihood of significant or not significant effects must be clearly set out by a suitably qualified consultant. However, no particular threshold is given for the determination of significant or not significant effects, and it is for the assessor to determine this threshold. The significance ratings within the LVIA methodology indicates a 'sliding scale' of</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to provide an additional 'complete panorama' for each viewpoint for reference purposes; • Further clarification on value and susceptibility judgements leading to conclusions on sensitivity is necessary for the ES chapter; 		<p>the relative importance of effects with Major being the most important and Minimal being the least important. Effects that are judged to be 'Major' or 'Major-Moderate' are deemed to be significant. Effects which are of 'Moderate' significance or less are judged to be not significant. Further justification or explanation for the significance of effects is provided within the LVIA in accordance with the methodology in Appendix 6.2. The LVIA methodology submitted for the Stage 2 PEIR has been considered appropriate for other DCO / NSIP applications and has been tested and considered acceptable at numerous other examinations and planning appeals.</p>
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no night-time photography is provided at this stage and will need to be incorporated within the ES chapter 	No	<p>The Proposed Development would generally remain unlit with the exception of manually operated and motion-detection lighting utilised for operational and security purposes at the Onsite Substation. No areas of the Solar PV Site would be continuously lit. The lighting of the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements. The Order limits are generally located within relatively low ambient lighting</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
			levels. However, existing light sources are associated with street lighting within Carlby and Essendine including the industrial buildings to the south of Essendine as well as from moving trains along the East Coast Mainline Railway. These will locally increase the ambient light levels in the surroundings of the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings. In this context, the Applicant considers that the provision of night-time photography would not be necessary to inform the decision-making process.
Rutland County Council	<p>LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT</p> <p>The Council has appointed Stantec to undertake a review of the Landscape and Visual sections of the PEIR. The key points from their review are set out below and will need to be addressed as part of any formal submission. The Council considers this additional information is critical to the assessment of any formal submission.</p>	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
Rutland County Council	<p>Methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Landscape Institute TGN 02/21' should be included as a reference document within the approach to the LVIA of the forthcoming ES chapter. • The LVIA methodology is provided within 	No	The LVIA within Chapter 6 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] has considered the guidance within TGN 02/21 when assessing the landscape value of the Order limits which is outside of a statutory and non-statutory landscape

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	<p>Appendix 6.1 of the PEIR. The PEIR sets out that the threshold for 'significant' landscape and visual effects is Major-Moderate significance and above. A more commonly held cautionary threshold for what constitutes a 'significant effect' is Moderate significance and above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value is described on a four-point-scale (National/International-Local/District-Community-Limited). Table 2 applies to landscape receptors. A similar table is not provided for visual receptors. This should be provided as part of any formal submission. • It is recommended that fewer generic criteria are set out for both landscape and visual susceptibility, in addition to providing criteria for understanding the value attributed to views. • A definition should be provided for each significance rating to assist the decision-maker and members of the public in understanding the LVIA findings. 		<p>designations, as outlined within Section 6.3.71 – 6.3.74 of the LVIA. Effects that are judged to be 'Major' or 'Major-Moderate' are deemed to be significant. Effects which are of 'Moderate' significance or less are judged to be not significant.</p> <p>The value of visual receptors are also set out on a four points scale (National / International; Local / District; Community; and Limited within Appendix 6.2 of the ES.</p> <p>Further justification or explanation for the significance of effects is provided within the LVIA in accordance with the methodology in Appendix 6.2. [EN010127/APP/6.2].</p>
Rutland County Council	Landscape and Visual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate review issued to RCC 	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
Rutland County Council	1.0 INTRODUCTION - Scope 1.1 Barton Willmore, now Stantec was requested by Rutland County Council to undertake a Peer Review of the Landscape and Visual section of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) prepared by LDA Design in relation to the	No	The Applicant notes this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm (the 'Proposed Development') near Essendine.		
Rutland County Council	2.2 The chapter describes that potential effects on landscape character and visual amenity will be explored during construction, operation and decommissioning phases, drawing from the guidance set out in 'The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition', 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' and 'The Landscape Institute TGN 06/19'. Further guidance is also noted as being derived from 'Space for Wildlife, Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan' and the 'Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan'.	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
Rutland County Council	2.3 The identified reference sources in the PEIR chapter are considered relevant and up-to-date and these constitute appropriate good practice guidance for the LVIA. However, we recommend that the 'Landscape Institute TGN 02/21' is included as a reference document within the approach to the LVIA of the forthcoming ES chapter rather than buried within the methodology.	No	The LVIA within Chapter 6 of the ES has considered the guidance within TGN 02/21 when assessing the landscape value of the Order limits which is located outside of a statutory and non-statutory landscape designations, as outlined within Section 6.3.71 – 6.3.74 of the chapter.
Rutland County Council	2.7 Value is described on a four-point-scale (National/International-Local/District-Community-Limited). Table 2 applies to landscape receptors. A similar table is not provided for visual receptors.	No	The value of visual receptors is set out on a four points scale (National / International; Local / District; Community; and Limited within Appendix 6.2 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2] .
Rutland County Council	2.8 Based on Table 3 (for landscape receptor sensitivity) and Table 4 (for visual receptor	No	The Applicant notes this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	sensitivity) it reads that there is a four-point scale for landscape sensitivity (High-Medium-Low-Negligible) and a three-point scale for visual sensitivity (High-Medium-Low), with intermediate levels for each. Prescriptive examples for denoting visual receptor sensitivity are provided within Table 8, much later in the methodology.		
Rutland County Council	2.10 We recommend that less generic criteria is set out for both landscape and visual susceptibility, in addition to providing criteria for understanding the value attributed to views.	No	The significance of effects is determined by the combination of separate criteria for the sensitivity (value and susceptibility) of the landscape and visual receptor and the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development. The significance ratings within the LVIA methodology indicates a 'sliding scale' of the relative importance of effects with Major being the most important and Minimal being the least important. Effects that are judged to be 'Major' or 'Major-Moderate' are deemed to be significant. Effects which are of 'Moderate' significance or less are judged to be not significant. The LVIA methodology has been considered appropriate for other DCO / NSIP applications and has been tested and considered acceptable at numerous other examinations and planning appeals. For more information, please
Rutland County Council	2.15 We recommended that a definition is provided for each significance rating to assist the decision-maker and members of the public in understanding the LVIA findings.		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
			see Appendix 6.2 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1].
Rutland County Council	Cumulative assessment 2.17 The approach to cumulative assessment appears reasonable. We note that currently no schemes have been identified that have the potential for significant cumulative landscape and visual effects. We recommend that a finalised/frozen list of candidate cumulative schemes is agreed upon at an appropriate milestone in the project, such that a robust assessment can still be carried out and, where appropriate, amendments to the scheme can be incorporated to minimise the potential for adverse cumulative landscape and visual effects to arise.	No	The candidate cumulative schemes to be assessed within the LVIA were previously submitted within Chapter 19 and Appendix 19.1 of the Stage 2 PEIR. The cumulative schemes as agreed with RCC have been further assessed within Section 6.5 of the LVIA.
Rutland County Council	3.0 REVIEW OF BASELINE ANALYSIS 3.1 The baseline analysis is generally comprehensive and proportionate to the type of development proposed, with the scope of the assessment suitably tailored to the likely landscape and visual effects that may arise.	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
Rutland County Council	3.2 The baseline narrative is clear, considered and concise.	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
Rutland County Council	3.3 However, whilst reference is made to 'Landscape Institute TGN 02/21' in the methodology, it is unclear how this is translated in the baseline analysis. We recommend that a valued landscape (as per the meaning in the	No	The LVIA within Chapter 6 of the ES has considered the guidance within TGN 02/21 when assessing the landscape value of the Order limits which is located outside of a statutory and non-statutory landscape designations, as outlined

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	NPPF) test is undertaken and incorporated within the forthcoming ES chapter.		within Section 6.3.71 – 6.3.74 of the chapter. This section of the LVIA also assesses the value of the local landscape with reference to paragraph 174(a) of the NPPF.
Rutland County Council	3.4 Fourteen [14] representative views are provided within the PEIR and give a good indication of the likely visual effect of the Proposed Development. We recommend that direct consultation is undertaken with the Applicant to ensure that all necessary sensitive viewpoints within the study area are accounted for in the assessment.	No	The locations of the representative and illustrative viewpoints were the subject of consultation via letter with LCC on 10th January 2022, RCC on 7th January 2022 and SKDC on 7th January 2022. Copies of these letters and correspondence to the relevant planning and landscape officers are contained within Appendix 6.6 of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.2]. A consultation response was received from AAH consultants on behalf of LCC on 5th May 2022 (TMO1) requesting the inclusion of a number of additional viewpoints. These viewpoints were subsequently included in this chapter as representative or illustrative viewpoints. The submission LVIA therefore includes 28 no. representative and illustrative viewpoints following consultation. These representatives and illustrative viewpoints are considered to provide a proportionate selection of views at different distances and directions from the Order limits. It should be remembered that the

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
			assessments within this LVIA are not limited to these viewpoint locations.
Rutland County Council	3.5 The visual receptors considered in the PEIR are split into thirteen [13] distinct receptor groups. For the purposes of the PEIR this is considered appropriate, however, for the ES chapter we consider that a finer grain of assessment is required for the assessment of visual effects.	No	Twenty representative viewpoints (Figure 6.8.1 – 6.8.20 of the ES) have been selected to inform the assessment of visual effects within the LVIA. In addition, eight illustrative viewpoints were identified to demonstrate a particular visual effect. The assessments are not restricted or limited to these representative or illustrative viewpoints.
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impacts The following comments are provided by the landscape consultant appointed by LCC (AAH Consultants). AAH Consultants has reviewed the PEIR which takes into account previous comments provided to the project team (refer to Mallard Pass AAH TM01 sent 5 May 2022) as well as meetings held with LDA and any subsequent meeting minutes. The comments provided are intended to assist in guiding the next (final) stage of the process development, refinement of the content of the LVIA chapter and the overall development proposals. It is not a review of any of the preliminary findings or initial assessments.	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	A Summary of main overarching comments on the PEIR Stage 1. Overall, the scope of the LVIA is generally aligned with the scoping report and	No	The Applicant notes this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	scoping opinion, as well as other AAH comments (AAH TM01) and meetings held with LDA.		
Lincolnshire County Council	However, notably paragraph 6.3.21 and the LVIA methodology still indicate that effects of Major-Moderate and above would be considered Significant, which is higher than typically acceptable, as we would expect that Moderate effects may also be deemed to be Significant. Further comments are provided below.	No	Within the EIA Regs, judgements regarding the likelihood of significant or not significant effects must be clearly set out by a suitably qualified consultant. However, no particular threshold is given for the determination of significant or not significant effects, and it is for the assessor to determine this threshold. The significance ratings within the LVIA methodology indicates a 'sliding scale' of the relative importance of effects with Major being the most important and Minimal being the least important. Effects that are judged to be 'Major' or 'Major-Moderate' are deemed to be significant. Effects which are of 'Moderate' significance or less are judged to be not significant as set within the LVIA methodology in Appendix 6.2. The LVIA methodology submitted for the Stage 2 PEIR has been considered appropriate for other DCO / NSIP applications and has been tested and considered acceptable at numerous other examinations and planning appeals.
Lincolnshire County Council	2. A Technical Memo containing detailed comments on Viewpoints and pertinent issues was	No	The locations of the representative and illustrative viewpoints were the subject of

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	issued to LDA by AAH/LCC on 5 May 2022 (refer to AAH TM01). These have not been acknowledged or incorporated into the PEIR and so we request that this information is discussed further with the development team as it is key to agree these, as far as is possible based upon layouts, prior to the LVIA and ES submission. AAH TM01 identifies several additional viewpoints to be considered that have not been captured within the PEIR and this therefore requires attention.		consultation with AHH consultants working on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council between 5th April and 5th May 2022. A number of additional viewpoints were requested by AHH consultants within Landscape Technical Memo 1 on 5th May 2022 and these have since been included within the LVIA within illustrative viewpoints (Figure 6.9.A – 6.9.H) as requested.
Lincolnshire County Council	4. It is requested that further landscape and visual consultation is carried out between AAH, the other Host Authority landscape specialists and the developer team (LDA) following the conclusion of this second formal consultation phase. This would likely cover the PEIR comments and AAH TM01 as well as development proposals and mitigation scheme, and location of any larger structures or buildings such as the substations, extent of vegetation loss for highways works, and also subsequent knock-on effects such as any requirement for additional viewpoints or AVRs.	No	A further site visit was undertaken with LCC, RCC and SKDC and their representatives on 5 th October 2022 to discuss the LVIA, representative viewpoints and photomontages.
Lincolnshire County Council	• Whilst this will likely be a reasonable approach for the solar arrays, we have concerns in regard to the larger and taller elements, such as the Substation and Control Building Parameters as outlined in Table 5.7 (up to 12.5m in height) and	No	The Onsite Substation has been located near to the existing Ryhall substation within close proximity of the existing industrial buildings to the south of Essendine and the East Coast Mainline

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	more conspicuous elements such as energy storage, lightning protection masts (up to 6m in height), and conversion units/inverters. The final location and layout of these elements will have likely greater visual effects in this flat/gently rolling, rural landscape than PV panels.		Railway. The development parameters for the Onsite Substation have been reviewed through the consultation process to reduce the heights of the key components as far as possible. Planting including hedgerow reinforcements has been proposed to the north of the Onsite Substation to provide partial visual screening from Essendine to the north. This forms part of the embedded mitigation outlined within Section 6.4.1 – 6.4.9 of the LVIA.
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We would expect the approximate location and “worst case” extent (footprint) of these elements to be identified for the LVIA to allow for a better understanding of the potential landscape and visual effects, an updated ZTV based upon these parameters and an understanding of the likely requirement for additional viewpoint photographs to capture views of the taller/larger elements which will be much more visible and conspicuous. 	No	The LVIA and Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping is based upon the development parameters and design guidelines within ES Chapter 5, Project Description which assumes the “worst case” scenario including 3.3m agl for the PV arrays and 13m agl for the lightening surge masts at the Onsite Substation. The locations of the representative viewpoints (Figures 6.8.1 – 6.8.20) and illustrative viewpoints (Figures 6.9.A – 6.9. E) within the ES are based upon the updated ZTV mapping (Figure 6.6) of the ES.
Lincolnshire County Council	2. Paragraph 5.1.3. references the illustrative layouts Figure 5.1(a) and (b). If indicative, the LVIA needs to clearly state what layout (assumed “worst	No	The LVIA and Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping is based upon the development parameters and design

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	case” parameters) and mitigation the assessment has been based upon, as different mitigation strategies will likely alter potential effects, and also a strategy to secure the proposed mitigation/offsets should be provided.		guidelines within ES Chapter 5, Project Description which assumes the “worst case” scenario.
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We would therefore expect vegetation works or loss to be clearly illustrated and included within any assessment as this has the potential to remove existing valuable features (that make up the character area) and open up views into or across the site or the wider area. We would expect any proposed vegetation removal to be surveyed to BS:5837 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction to Construction so it is clear what the arboricultural value is (to aid assessment) and subsequently is appropriately mitigated as part of the proposals. 	No	The limited removal of existing vegetation is further identified within the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) within Chapter 15 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] . Tree protection and the mitigation of vegetation loss is also described within the oLEMP.
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>C. Detailed comments on Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impacts</p> <p>1. As stated previously, no reference is made to previous consultation. The visual receptors and viewpoints previously discussed with AAH, and our initial comments on receptors and viewpoints and recommended additional viewpoints or amendments have not been included. It is therefore requested that further landscape and visual consultation is carried out between AAH, other Host Authority landscape specialists and the</p>	No	The locations of the representative and illustrative viewpoints were the subject of consultation via letter with LCC on 10th January 2022, RCC on 7th January 2022 and SKDC on 7th January 2022. Copies of these letters and correspondence to the relevant planning and landscape officers are contained within Appendix 6.6 of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.2] . A consultation response was received from AAH consultants on behalf of LCC on 5th May 2022 (TMO1) requesting the

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	<p>developer team (LDA) following the conclusion of this second formal consultation phase.</p>		<p>inclusion of a number of additional viewpoints. These viewpoints were subsequently included in this chapter as representative or illustrative viewpoints. The submission LVIA therefore includes 28 no. representative and illustrative viewpoints following consultation. These representatives and illustrative viewpoints are considered to provide a proportionate selection of views at different distances and directions from the Order limits. It should be remembered that the assessments within this LVIA are not limited to these viewpoint locations.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>2. Identification of receptors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PEIR identifies a range of landscape and visual receptors within the Study Area. 	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven potential landscape receptors at varying scales are identified for consideration in the LVIA within paragraphs 6.4.3. We would also expect a finer grained site-level (and immediate context) character assessment and identification of individual elements or features of the site and landscape/landscape character areas to form the baseline of the LVIA. 	No	<p>The assessment of landscape effects considers both the effects on the finer grained landscape features and characteristics within the Order limits and the published Landscape Character Areas (LCA's) within the ZVI as further described within Section 6.5.11 to 6.5.37 of the LVIA.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourteen viewpoints have been identified (paragraphs 6.3.12, 6.4.10 and Table 6.1) within the PEIR, which are located on Figure 6.6. The visual receptors and viewpoints were previously 	No	<p>The Applicant notes this comment. Twenty representative viewpoints (Figure 6.8.1 – 6.8.20 of the ES) have been selected to inform the assessment of</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	<p>discussed with AAH, and subsequently AAH issued AAH TM01 via email with initial comments on receptors and viewpoints, recommending additional viewpoints or amendments to those proposed. At this stage, this consultation or AAH TM01 has not been acknowledged within the PEIR, and we would request further discussions and meetings are held between AAH and other stakeholders with LDA. It is also unclear as to whether detailed comments on viewpoints from the Mallard Pass Action Group, which was included within the scoping opinion appendices has been considered and incorporated. This should be clearly stated within the LVIA.</p>		<p>visual effects. These are outlined in Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual, under the Visual Receptors section. In addition, eight illustrative viewpoints were identified to demonstrate a particular effect or specific issues, which might, for example, be the restricted visibility at certain locations.</p> <p>The locations of the representative and illustrative viewpoints were the subject of consultation via letter with LCC on 10th January 2022, RCC on 7th January 2022 and SKDC on 7th January 2022. Copies of these letters and correspondence to the relevant planning and landscape officers are contained within Appendix 6.6 of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.2]. A consultation response was received from AAH consultants on behalf of LCC on 5th May 2022 (TMO1) requesting the inclusion of a number of additional viewpoints that were submitted by the Mallard Pass Action Group to the Council. These viewpoints were subsequently included in this chapter as representative or illustrative viewpoints. The submission LVIA therefore includes 28 no. representative and illustrative viewpoints following consultation. These</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
			representatives and illustrative viewpoints are considered to provide a proportionate selection of views at different distances and directions from the Order limits. It should be remembered that the assessments within this LVIA are not limited to these viewpoint locations.
Lincolnshire County Council	Also, as stated and noted in previous correspondence, at this stage, as we do not have details on the location and appearance/extent of taller/larger elements that form part of the development, which would likely have visual impacts that may require additional viewpoints beyond those initially identified. Viewpoints of access points identified in section 5.11 (vegetation loss) may also be required once final locations have been selected.	No	The Applicant notes this comment. The Onsite Substation has been located near to the existing Ryhall substation within close proximity of the existing industrial buildings to the south of Essendine and the East Coast Mainline Railway. The development parameters for the Onsite Substation have been reviewed through consultation process to reduce the heights of the key components as far as possible. Planting including hedgerow reinforcements has been proposed to the north of the Onsite Substation to provide partial visual screening from Essendine to the north. For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] . The rendered visualisation at representative viewpoint 11 has been updated to provide further details of the Onsite Substation within Figure 6.10E.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 6.4.11 states that five of the fourteen viewpoints will be developed as photomontages (viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 8, and 11). These have not been discussed or agreed with AAH/LCC, or as we understand any other stakeholders or appropriate consultee, at this stage, and the reason for selection of these views is not provided – this should be included within the LVIA. We request consultation is held with AAH/LCC and other stakeholders in regards to agreeing the views taken forward as photomontages, the AVR Level that would be most appropriate to illustrate the proposals, which we would assume would be Level 2 or Level 3, however photo wire (Level 0 or Level 1) may be more appropriate in some long distance or fully screened views and what Type (would likely be Type 3 or 4), to Landscape Institute TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals. 	No	<p>The photomontages undertaken for Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 8 and 11 are considered to illustrate the key landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The photomontages are provided as visual aids although their inclusion or absence does not affect the overall findings of the LVIA. Consultation was undertaken regarding the selection of the representative viewpoints which is a requirement of GLVIA3. Following the site meeting on 5th October it was agreed that no further photomontages would be required although Viewpoint 11 showing the Onsite Substation would need to be updated.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 6.4.4 identifies groups of visual receptors. In regards to the groups: Users of Local Roads: while many of the surrounding lanes and tracks within the study area are rural and remote in character and primarily used for motor vehicles and farm access, they are also well used by dog walkers, horse riders and leisure cyclists, and subsequently the assessment should consider this within the baseline and methodology. The local value of these networks should be considered 	No	<p>The value of all the visual receptors is further considered within Section 6.5 of the LVIA and Table 6.4 of the chapter.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	beyond being simply vehicle “road networks”, they also provide suitable connections for walkers improving the connectivity of the wider recreational footpath/ PROW network.		
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>3. Study Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PEIR identifies the extent of the Study Area of the development of 2km at paragraph 6.3.16, which defines the spatial scope of the area to be addressed. The ZTV does illustrate potential visibility beyond 2km, and from AAH site visits potential visibility of the site and development were identified beyond 2km, particularly to the north and west where the land rises. The LVIA Chapter should therefore include a clear statement on the justification for the extent of the Study Area. 	No	<p>The ZTV mapping indicates areas of potential visibility based upon digital ground model and topographic data. The ZTV combined with fieldwork has shown that the likely significant visual effects would be contained within a 2km study area.</p> <p>The visual effects beyond 2km distance from the Solar PV Site and Onsite Substation are likely to result in a Negligible magnitude of change at most. The 2km study area is therefore considered to be appropriate for the LVIA.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>D. Detailed Comments on Preliminary Environment Information Report Volume 2: Figures:</p> <p>1. Generally: Figures are well presented and read well. However, LVIA figures (Figures 6.1 to 6.10) appear to be a lower resolution than other figures, making them pixelated and reducing clarity. We would expect full/high resolution figures for the LVIA.</p>	No	High resolution figures from the LVIA will be submitted and will be available on request.
Lincolnshire County Council	2. Figure 3.1 Extents of the Site, Solar PV Site, Mitigation and Enhancement Areas and	No	Figure 3.1 would not be issued as a parameter plan. The spatial limits and

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	<p>Potential Highway Works: Could it be clarified if this plan is intended to ultimately be developed to be issued as a parameter plan indicating areas of development and areas of mitigation and enhancement? This would make understanding the LVIA easier as it would be clear where and how areas would be changed from the baseline, or clearly describe/illustrate mitigation used – this would be pertinent where the avoidance of a likely significant effect is reliant upon illustrated mitigation measures. If not, this could be misleading as development could theoretically be anywhere on site, based on a worst case approach, therefore if plans are indicative, they should be very clearly labelled so.</p>		<p>development parameters with deviations will be described within ES Chapter 5, Project Description, Appendix 5.1 and the Works Plans.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>3. Figure 5.1(a) FSF Illustrative Development Layout and Figure 5.1(b) SAT Illustrative Development Layout: These plans illustrate the site proposals and mitigation areas in the context of existing infrastructure and features. The final submission should clearly state if the final Layout plans and mitigation identified are indicative to allow for flexibility, or if fixed. If indicative, the LVIA needs to clearly state what layout and mitigation it has been based upon, and also a strategy to secure the mitigation should be provided. Due to the evolving nature of the layouts, there are currently no Landscape and Visual Comments on the layout itself. However, it is</p>	No	<p>Figure 5.1(a) and 5.1(b) would not be issued as a parameter plan. The spatial limits and development parameters with deviations will be described within ES Chapter 5, Project Description, Appendix 5.1 and the Works Plans.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	requested that additional meetings and workshops be held with AAH/LCC to discuss these landscape and visual comments prior to the final ES and scheme submission, and also that a continued dialogue is maintained in regards to the development proposals, including the location of any larger structures or buildings such as the substation.		
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>5. Figure 6.6 ZTV and Viewpoint Locations: This is a useful figure and presents a lot of pertinent information. While the slightly pixelated nature of the plan makes the information difficult to understand in detail, it would aid understanding of the visual elements of the development if this plan was supplemented with additional plans showing a breakdown of the information to make everything clearer, we would suggest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figure 6.6 with all information as shown in higher resolution, however could PROW be made clearer as currently difficult to see; • ZTV of PV Modules with PROW and Viewpoints overlaid; • ZTV of Substation with PROW and Viewpoints overlaid; and • Viewpoints on larger scale map (perhaps 20k scale) to aid understanding of where photographs have been taken from as at 1:40000 is difficult to pinpoint accurately. 	No	Figure 6.6, the Figure 6.6, Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), Representative Viewpoints and Illustrative Viewpoints will be issued at a higher resolution and at A1 scale to improve legibility.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
Lincolnshire County Council	6. Figure 6.7 Zone of Visual Influence and Visual Receptor Groups: The Zone of visual Influence appears to be tighter (smaller) than we would expect. Please could this be reviewed again on site, and could it be clarified if this relates to the redline, entire development or just PV Modules (not substation or taller elements), and if on the layout, is this indicative?	No	The Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) within Figure 6.7 reflects the development parameters within the LVIA.
Lincolnshire County Council	7. Figure 6.8.1 – 6.8.14 Baseline Photopanel and Representative Viewpoints: We have assumed these are interim, lower resolution images for the PEIR and would expect full resolution images for the final LVIA. Also, the paper/page size appears to be closer to A2 not A1 – please clarify and ensure images for LVIA are at an appropriate resolution and size to align with the Landscape Institute TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of development proposals. As stated previously, the consultation comments issued to LDA by AAH in AAH TM01 have not been captured in the PEIR. It is also unclear as to whether the Mallard Pass Solar Action Group viewpoint comments included within the scoping opinion have been considered and incorporated where applicable.	No	Figures 6.8.1 – 6.8.20, Photopanel are provided for the representative viewpoints in accordance with the Type 1 (context) standards. Best practice guidance within the Landscape Institute’s TGN 06/19 Visual representation of development proposals allows for some flexibility in terms of frame and image sizes as these are not photomontages of the Proposed Development and are included to show the viewing context only. In accordance with TGN 06/19, single frames can also be provided on an A3 sheet, although these were not considered appropriate in this case as they would only show limited proportion of the Solar PV Site and its viewing context.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
Lincolnshire County Council	8. Comments on specific viewpoints as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VP03: Viewpoint missing from PEIR. • VP06: Viewpoint missing from PEIR. • VP07A: Viewpoint missing from PEIR. 	Yes	Viewpoints 3, 6 and 7A will be include within the submission version of the LVIA.
Lincolnshire County Council	9. Figure 6.9.1 – 6.9.5 Photomontages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 6.4.11 states that five of the fourteen viewpoints have developed as photomontages, which are included as these Figures: viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 8, and 11. These have not been discussed or agreed with AAH/LCC, and it is unclear if any consultees have agreed these, at this stage, and the reason for selection of these views is not provided – this should be included within the LVIA. We request consultation is held with AAH/LCC and other stakeholders in regards to agreeing the views taken forward as photomontages, the AVR Level that would be most appropriate to illustrate the proposals, which we would assume would be Level 2 or Level 3, however photo wire (Level 0 or Level 1) may be more appropriate in some long distance or fully screened views, and what Type (would likely be Type 3 or 4), to Landscape Institute TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o We have assumed these are interim lower resolution images for the PEIR as the existing view is pixelated and the proposals are difficult to distinguish with some of the images being dark. We 	No	The photomontages undertaken for Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 8 and 11 are considered to illustrate the key landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development. The photomontages are provided as visual aids although their inclusion or absence does not affect the overall findings of the LVIA. Consultation was undertaken regarding the selection of the representative viewpoints which is a requirement of GLVIA3. Following the site meeting on 5 th October it was agreed that no further photomontages would be required although Viewpoint 11 would be updated.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	would expect full resolution images for the final LVIA.		
Lincolnshire County Council	10. Figure 6.10 Stage 2 Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan: could it be clarified if this is indicative or in detail? If indicative, could it be clearly stated how the mitigation will be secured and also assessed as part of the LVIA – would this plan be developed so as to be a landscape/mitigation parameters plan?	No	The proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan is included in the oLEMP. The parameters for built development, as compared to green infrastructure, are shown on the Works Plans..
Lincolnshire County Council	12. Indicative Sections (3no. sheets): The indicative sections provided are a useful illustration of typical treatments and offsets along Byways, the McMillan way and BOAT, and also demonstrating offsets and boundary treatments from specific receptors. Additional typical and long sections would be useful demonstrating treatments and offsets from other PROW, ecological features, or other boundaries. However, the LVIA should clearly state as to whether these are indicative, and if so it should be clearly stated how the mitigation will be secured and also assessed as part of the LVIA.		
Lincolnshire County Council	2. Review of Appendix 6.1 LVIA Methodology • The methodology notes in paragraph 1.1.3 that the LVIA will be undertaken in accordance with recognised best practice documents and guidance, including GLVIA3, and paragraph 1.1.5 provides an overview of the key stages of the methodology.	No	The Applicant notes this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 1.1.17 mentions visual receptors, however examples of the different levels of definition/criteria of these receptors may aid understanding of the judgements made and assessment process. 	No	Typical examples of visual receptor susceptibility, value and overall sensitivity is provided in the Table 6.2.8 of the LVIA methodology (Appendix 6.2).
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 1.1.18 and assessment of landscape value should reference guidance provided within: TGN 02/21 Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations, Landscape Institute 2021. 	No	The LVIA within Chapter 6 of the ES has considered the guidance within TGN 02/21 when assessing the landscape value of the Order limits which is located outside of a statutory and non-statutory landscape designations, as outlined within Section 6.3.71 – 6.3.74 of the chapter.
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table 2 potentially implies that only designated landscapes may have medium or higher levels of value (or simply classed as having “value”). This is not the case, and GLVIA paragraph 5.19 states that “value can apply to areas of landscape as a whole, or to the individual elements, features and aesthetic or perceptual dimensions which contribute to the character of the landscape” and that “the value attached to undesignated landscapes also needs to be carefully considered and individual elements of the landscape – such as trees, buildings or hedgerows – may also have value.” 	No	The landscape value of the Order limits has been further assessed within Sections 6.3.71 to 6.3.76 of the LVIA. Designation is one aspect of landscape value although other criteria have also been assessed in accordance with TGN02/21.
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important that the elements that make up the landscape of the study area or the site, are 	No	The Applicant notes this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	understood and assessed also, not just published landscape character areas.		
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No description or criteria to judge the value of views is provided. This would aid understanding of the process and add transparency. 	No	Typical examples of visual receptor susceptibility, value and overall sensitivity is provided in the Table 6.2.8 of the LVIA methodology (ES Appendix 6.2).
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The process described within paragraph 1.1.26 gives a good, clear transparent judgement process on the magnitude of change, however we would urge caution in regard landscape character areas, which often are assessed as having limited magnitudes of change as the change would be small scale and/or extent (development site) would only affect a small percentage of the overall, much larger, character area. Using this approach, any development in a large character area will always be deemed relatively “small”. We would encourage the LVIA assess what the change would be in that part of the character area and what identified key elements identified within the character areas are impacted, and how development change would affect those. 	No	The Applicant notes this comment..
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 1.1.29 states: “Effects that are Major-Moderate or Major are considered to be significant. Effects of Moderate significance or less are “of lesser concern” (GLVIA3, paragraph 3.35) and not significant”. Therefore the methodology is stating that moderate landscape and visual effects would not be considered significant. We disagree with 	No	Within the EIA Regs, judgements regarding the likelihood of significant or not significant effects must be clearly set out by a suitably qualified consultant. However, no particular threshold is given for the determination of significant or not

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	<p>this, which is a variation from typical assessments that may class effects moderate (and above) as significant: no justification in the methodology is provided for this and could lead the assessment as being deemed as underplaying the identification of significant effects. The GLVIA3 reference to paragraph 3.35 is also somewhat misleading in this respect, as GLVIA3 does not specify that moderate effects are of a lesser concern, however GLVIA3 does advocate the process of professional opinion and judgement to draw out the key issues for the general public and decision makers. While there are no hard and fast rules about what makes a significant effect, and a standard approach for LVIA isn't appropriate with circumstances varying with the location, context and type of development, the assessment of significance should be one of professional judgement. Therefore, the judgement of significance needs to be transparent and it is typically accepted that effects towards the moderate to major range are deemed significant, which may (but not necessarily always) include moderate effects.</p>		<p>significant effects, and it is for the assessor to determine this threshold. The significance ratings within the LVIA methodology indicates a 'sliding scale' of the relative importance of effects with Major being the most important and Minimal being the least important. Effects that are judged to be 'Major' or 'Major-Moderate' are deemed to be significant. Effects which are of 'Moderate' significance or less are judged to be not significant. The LVIA methodology submitted for the Stage 2 PEIR has been considered appropriate for other DCO / NSIP applications and has been tested and considered acceptable at numerous other examinations and planning appeals. For more information, please see Appendix 6.2 of the LVIA.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 1.5.50 identifies potential visual receptor groups for each level of sensitivity. Having visited the site over the period of several days, as well as carrying out fieldwork in the local area for other projects, we have observed that while many 	No	The value of all the visual receptors is further considered within Section 6.5 of the LVIA and Table 6.4 of the chapter.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	of the surrounding lanes and tracks within the study area are rural and remote in character, and primarily used for motor vehicles and farm access, they are also well used by dog walkers, horse riders and leisure cyclists, and subsequently the assessment should consider this within the methodology. The local value of these networks beyond being road networks, which also provide suitable connections for walkers improving the connectivity of the wider recreational and PROW footpath network.		
Lincolnshire County Council	Rail passengers should also be included as visual receptors, particularly with the railway line passing through the centre of the site.	No	The effects on railway passengers on the East Coast Mainline has been further considered within Section 6.5.90 of the LVIA.
Lincolnshire County Council	3. Review of Appendix 6.2 Visualisations and ZTV: • Visualisations are proposed as Type 3 photomontages, as referenced in paragraph 1.3.2. We recommend this is subject to further consultation to agree the Type (essentially to agree to scope out Type 4) and agree the AVR Level that would be most appropriate to illustrate the proposals, which we would assume would be Level 2 or Level 3, however photowire (Level 0 or Level 1) may be more appropriate in some long distance or fully screened views.	No	The photomontages have been produced in accordance with best practice within the Landscape Institute's TGN 06/19 <i>Visual representation of development proposals to Type 3 standards</i> . The photomontages are shown on Figure 6.10.A – E of the ES.
Lincolnshire County Council	4. Review of Appendix 6.4 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment • Paragraph 1.3.6 identifies that a 100m study area	No	The study area of 100m from the Solar PV Site is considered to be appropriate for the RVAA. The RVAA submitted in the

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	has been selected for the RVAA. We would suggest any properties (if there are any identified) that have close, clear/open views to the Substation and associated buildings should also be considered at a reasonable distance beyond 100m as these are potentially large proposed elements that may be conspicuous in the landscape.		Stage 2 PEIR did not identify any overbearing effects on the residential properties located within 100m of the Solar PV Site and Onsite Substation and this is also the case at submission. As such, it is not considered necessary to extend the study area beyond 100m as no overbearing effects were identified within this study area.
Natural England	Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Amenity The proposal is not located within or in the distinctive setting of any nationally designated landscape. We welcome the reference made to Natural England's National Character Areas, and advise that the development should complement and where possible enhance local distinctiveness. We are satisfied that best practice guidance has been followed in the approach to landscape and visual assessment. Please note that Natural England cannot provide bespoke comments on non-designated landscapes.	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
Natural England	The assessment concluded that there are no cumulative schemes that have the potential to interact cumulatively with the effects of the proposed development and that 'Other cumulative schemes are not likely to contribute to the effects on ecological receptors identified in Chapter 7 and therefore the no additional significant cumulative effects are envisaged at this stage' Natural	No	The LVIA includes a cumulative assessment within Sections 6.5.103 to 6.5.111 of the chapter..

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	England recommends that landscape and visual impact could be a potential cumulative effect from all current solar farm proposals.		
Essendine Parish Council	3. Damage to the landscape and existing underlying soil structure. The installation of hundreds of thousands of solar panels 3.3 metres high mounted on piles and or on concrete will damage what is a green and fertile food-producing land and the landscape will be visually scarred for forty plus years.	No	The pilings for the solar arrays would be rammed into the ground and do not comprise concrete foundations. There will inevitably be a degree of compaction but the overall soil structure will remain intact and generally free from ploughing within the Solar PV Site area for the operational stage of the development.
Essendine Parish Council	Visual amenity will be destroyed, the installation of solar panels that are 3.3 metres high and surround them with security fences and grown hedges to hide the solar panels will obliterate the existing rolling views across the countryside that are available to everyone.	No	There will inevitably be a visual effect associated with the delivery of the solar farm. An extensive range of landscape mitigation and enhancement measures proposed to reduce the effects in the long term. These are identified within the LVIA, the DAS and are further illustrated on the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan.
Carlby Parish Council	Your screening won't be effective for many years to come (if ever) and we will have to live with seeing tall panels, security fences, ugly large containers and security lights as we move about the area on our day to day business. The green and pleasant walkways across fields we cherish in this area as many of us own dogs and horses will be unusable safely during the construction period, even the narrow roads will be dirty with mud and stones off	No	There will inevitably be a visual effect associated with the delivery of the solar farm. The Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan has sought to mitigate the visual effects including from the PRow passing through the Order limits. The proposed hedgerows would likely screen views of the solar arrays within 7 years of establishment. The safety of the PRow

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	the site and unsafe for us to walk with excess unidentifiable construction traffic cutting through the villages..... and this is just the beginning!		during the construction phase would be managed through the oCEMP and oLEMP.
Carlby Parish Council	Changes to the natural landscape	No	<p>The proposed solar farm would inevitably change the perceived primary land use from arable farmland to a solar PV development with landscape mitigation and enhancement measures. It is a farmed and intensively managed landscape as opposed to being a natural landscape.</p> <p>The LVIA has informed the site layout and design of the Proposed Development and has advised upon specific landscape and visual mitigation and enhancement measures to reduce the overall effects.</p>
Carlby Parish Council	the 25 miles of security fencing and lighting on the site with the disruption and pollution that will accompany them.	No	<p>The Proposed Development would generally remain unlit with the exception of manually operated and motion-detection lighting utilised for operational and security purposes at the Onsite Substation. No areas of the Solar PV Site would be continuously lit. The lighting of the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements.</p> <p>The Order limits are generally located within relatively low ambient lighting</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
			<p>levels. However, existing light sources are associated with street lighting within Carlby and Essendine including the industrial buildings to the south of Essendine as well as from moving trains along the East Coast Mainline Railway. These will locally increase the ambient light levels in the surroundings of the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings.</p> <p>In this context, the Applicant considers that the provision of night-time photography would not be necessary to inform the decision-making process.</p>
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	visual impact on the area ... 3.3m high panels will negatively transform the area from a rural landscape to semi industrial.	No	<p>The proposed solar farm would inevitably result in landscape and visual effects. There is often a disparity of opinion and public attitudes towards renewable energy development from adverse to positive. Third party representations often refer to 'the industrial character of a solar farm'. Whilst some might view a solar farm in this way, equally, other people would simply view solar farms as essential infrastructure that should be delivered as a matter of urgency to tackle climate change.</p> <p>In light of this, a precautionary approach is applied to the LVIA which assumes</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
			that all the effects are considered to be 'adverse' unless otherwise stated. Notwithstanding this precautionary approach there are many positive effects that would arise through the proposed landscape mitigation and enhancement measures which have been taken into account within the LVIA.
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	significant and long lasting environmental damage during construction, the life of the site, and its eventual decommissioning	No	The environmental effects during the construction and decommissioning phases would be managed through the oCEMP and oDEMP.
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	The visual impact of this development will blight the area as you pass field upon field of 3.3m high solar panel arrays, 2m high security fencing, 1320 security cameras at 3.5m height plus security lighting and 84 containers housing inverters and transformers. The whole countryside will be transformed into an industrial park.	No	The proposed solar farm would inevitably result in landscape and visual effects. There is often a disparity of opinion and public attitudes towards renewable energy development from adverse to positive. Third party representations often refer to 'the industrial character of a solar farm'. Whilst some might view a solar farm in this way, equally, other people would simply view solar farms as essential infrastructure that should be delivered as a matter of urgency to tackle climate change.
Stamford Town Council	Landscape and Visual A desktop assessment of potential landscape and visual receptors was carried out with site visits in October 2021 and February 2022. Why were there	No	Site visits were undertaken by a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI) between February and October 2022. The fieldwork and

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
	no site visits in the Spring and Summer months when the vistas are different to those in Autumn and Winter?		representative viewpoint photography has been undertaken when vegetation was out-of-leaf in February 2022 to represent the worst case scenario i.e. when visibility is likely to be greatest. A number of illustrative viewpoints were also assessed in June 2022 when the vegetation was in full leaf, which represents a scenario where the screening effects of vegetation are likely to be experienced.
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	1. Careby with Aunby and Holywell lies to the north of this proposed development. At the village boundary heading south on the B1176 towards Stamford the solar panels start on both sides of the road. This road is used by most residents as Stamford is the nearest town. The visual impact of panels up to 3.3 metres high for 1.5 miles will be awful. Further away to the west will be many more panels, on a site over 4 miles long. We believe that the developer's proposals to mitigate the visual impact will have little effect. What was gently rolling mainly arable farmland will become an industrial wasteland.	No	Chapter 6 of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] includes a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The LVIA assesses the landscape character and visual amenity of the Order limits and its surrounding context, its sensitivity to change, and the likely significance of effects arising from the Proposed Development. It considers cumulative effects, visual and light pollution effects and effects on nature conservation. It includes reference to landscape character assessments relevant to the Proposed Development and takes account of development local development plan policies.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
			<p>Representative viewpoints to inform the assessment are included in figures 6.8.1 – 6.8.20 of the ES includes viewpoints along the route of the B1176. The Proposed Development will be visible at varying degrees along the route of the B1176. However, section 6.5 of Chapter 6 of the ES concludes the Solar PV Site would generally be screened by the intervening roadside hedgerows when travelling in the northbound and southbound directions and the majority of the B1176 highway would remain unaffected.</p> <p>The traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and noise impacts from construction traffic are assessed in Chapter 10: Noise [EN010127/APP/6.1]</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the primary traffic impacts associated with the Proposed Development will be linked to the construction phase. The measures to mitigate the traffic impacts of construction are outlined within the supporting Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
			<p>In relation to traffic generation, the working hour for the Proposed Development will be in 12-hour shifts each day, with employees travelling to and from the Order limits an hour either side of these times (i.e., between 06:00 and 07:00, and 19:00 and 20:00). Where onsite works are to be conducted outside the core working hours, they will comply with the restrictions pursuant to the consenting process.</p> <p>Therefore, it was agreed with Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council and National Highways that no localised capacity assessments needed to be undertaken, as the impact of the Proposed Development fell below the threshold of 30 two-way vehicle movements during the morning (08:00-09:00) and evening (17:00-18:00) peak hour – as there is to be no impact during the identified peak hours</p> <p>Whilst the uplift in daily traffic flows may result in more delay than at present, it is not considered that this will be significant due to the restrictions in the timings for construction vehicles and the arrangements for staff who will arrive and</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Landscape and Visual Impact			
			<p>depart outside of the peak hours set out in the oCTMP.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that there will be no traffic impact on the morning and evening peak hours when the local road network is generally the most congested.</p>
Gareth Davies MP for Grantham and Stamford	Proximity to residential properties - you have stated that arrays will be set back from the site's boundary and trees will be planted to block the visual pollution, but the site could still have a significant impact upon those that live in the villages of Essendine, Carlby and Braceborough in my constituency.	Yes	The effects on residential visual amenity are further considered within Appendix 6.4 of the LVIA. The findings of this assessment have informed the site layout and landscape mitigation measures.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Socio-Economics and Tourism			
South Kesteven District Council	Socio-economics • More recent population updates available? • Plate 16.4 not legible • Chapter clear and covers main likely significant effects	No	As outlined in Chapter 14: Socio-economics, of the ES, [EN01027/APP/6.1] , in 2020 there were an estimated 183,701 residents in Rutland (40,476) and South Kesteven (143,225) (Office for National Statistics (ONS, 2020ca)). The total population of the study area increased by 7.5% between 2010 and 2020, slightly more than the England average of 7.4%.
South Kesteven District Council	The agricultural business criteria include a category for non-agricultural land which is not a relevant receptor, and otherwise appear a little simplistic in dividing all farm businesses between full-time (medium sensitivity) and part-time (low sensitivity) holdings, with no businesses being high or very high sensitivity. Clarity is required as to whether the assessment of “the productivity and economic implications” in paragraph 13.3.13 will include an assessment of the effect on food supplies from removing approximately 900ha of land from agricultural production for the duration of the project.	No	Kernon Countryside Consultants conducted interviews with the four farm businesses operating land within the Order limits. For all of the farm businesses, the land within the Order limits represents only a proportion of their wider holdings. No key infrastructure, such as main agricultural buildings, would be affected by the Proposed Development. The farm businesses all stated that, although agricultural practices within the Order limits will change, continued arable use is considered very unlikely to change across their wider land areas outside the Order limits. Within the Order limits a proportion of the mitigation and

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Socio-Economics and Tourism			
			<p>enhancement areas will continue to be farmed, whilst land management, which could include sheep grazing, will take place within the Order limits.</p> <p>Once the Proposed Development is operational, the owners of the four farm operations within the Order limits predict that the 13 FTEs currently directly supported will remain the same and that the diversification of operations will help to sustain their commercial viability.</p> <p>The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.</p>
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	13.Detrimental impacts on tourism	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. In Chapter 14: Socio-Economics of the ES, , Section 14.3 outlines the potential effects of the construction, operational and decommissioning phases on employment, GVA and tourism in the study area.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Socio-Economics and Tourism			
			<p>Three visitor behaviour / tourism receptors were assessed within a 2km radius of the Proposed Development, these include:</p> <p>Amenity and Recreation Assessment (Appendix 6.5 of the ES)</p> <p>Landscape and Visual impact (Chapter 6 of the ES)</p> <p>Noise (Chapter 10 of the ES)</p> <p>Taking these receptors into account, it is considered that, on balance, the construction phase will have a negligible to minor adverse effect on the local tourism economy which is not significant.</p> <p>For more information on the operational and decommissioning phases, see Chapter 14: Socio-Economics, [EN010127/APP/6.1]</p>
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>5.3.6Development proposals shall consider how they can proactively enhance the District's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Character •Natural environment; and •Services and infrastructure, as needed to support development and growth proposals”: 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The provision of additional local services and improvements to local infrastructure has been considered as part of assessing the socio-economic effects of the Proposed Development, in

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Socio-Economics and Tourism			
			Chapter 14, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Rutland County Council	Socio-economics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More recent population updates available? • Plate 16.4 not legible • Chapter clear and covers main likely significant effects 	No	As outlined in Chapter 14: Socio-economics, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] , in 2020 there were an estimated 183,701 residents in Rutland (40,476) and South Kesteven (143,225) (Office for National Statistics (ONS, 2020ca)). The total population of the study area increased by 7.5% between 2010 and 2020, slightly more than the England average of 7.4%.
Rutland County Council	The agricultural business criteria include a category for non-agricultural land which is not a relevant receptor, and otherwise appear a little simplistic in dividing all farm businesses between full-time (medium sensitivity) and part-time (low sensitivity) holdings, with no businesses being high or very high sensitivity. Clarity is required as to whether the assessment of “the productivity and economic implications” in paragraph 13.3.13 will include an assessment of the effect on food supplies from removing approximately 900ha of land from agricultural production for the duration of the project.	No	Kernon Countryside Consultants conducted interviews with the four farm businesses operating land within the Order limits. For all of the farm businesses, the land within the Order limits represents only a proportion of their wider holdings. No key infrastructure, such as main agricultural buildings, would be affected by the Proposed Development. The farm businesses all stated that, although agricultural practices within the Order limits will change, continued arable use is considered very unlikely to change across their wider land areas outside the Order limits. Within the Order

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Socio-Economics and Tourism			
			<p>limits a proportion of the mitigation and enhancement areas will continue to be farmed, whilst land management, which could include sheep grazing, will take place within the Order limits.</p> <p>Once the Proposed Development is operational, the owners of the four farm operations within the Order limits predict that the 13 FTEs currently directly supported will remain the same and that the diversification of operations will help to sustain their commercial viability.</p> <p>The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	Chapter 16: Socio-economics There are local impacts felt by communities hosting nationally significant infrastructure projects and so consideration needs to be given to the provision of community benefits and legacy opportunities other than just improved access to the public rights of way network (see comments below). The proposed submission of an Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan as part of the DCO is therefore welcomed and more detail	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant has produced an Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan, [EN010127/APP/7.10], whereby the Applicant wishes to make provision for the Proposed Development to:</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Socio-Economics and Tourism			
	<p>should be provided on what actions would be taken to upskill local residents so that they are ready to access the job opportunities created by the development and to enable local suppliers to access contract</p> <p>No other comments to offer at this stage.</p>		<p>Create opportunities for the improvement and employment of local skills; and</p> <p>Engage in the ethical procurement of the supply chain.</p> <p>The Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan [EN010127/APP/7.10] proposes how the Applicant will work with local stakeholders to achieve this. This includes focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opportunities for the involvement of local companies in the construction and operation supply chain; The ability of local residents to access employment opportunities associated with the construction and operation of the Development; and The ability of research organisations to use the site to enable research and innovation in the renewable energy sector. <p>Please see Table 1.1 in the Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan for more details on how the Applicant propose to work with the</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Socio-Economics and Tourism			
			organisations set out in Table 1.1 to achieve these objectives.
Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council	Residential properties – while a development of this kind will bring income for the developer and the landowners it will force a significant reduction in the local economy (both for the household and the individuals). Besides the feeling of being surrounded by industrial wasteland, property prices will drop, tourism will reduce significantly and the health and wellbeing of all individuals will take a turn for the worse. What at present is a pleasant area to live and work will be erased. This country has struggled with not just feeding itself but in maintaining our health both physical and mental. Many have turned to these countryside areas for reflection, discovery and well-being.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in Chapter 14: Socio-Economics of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], this assessment concluded that there will be no potential significant adverse socio-economic effects during the construction, operation, or decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Therefore, no additional mitigation measures over and above those stated in other technical chapters of the ES are required to avoid or minimise the socio-economic effects identified in Chapter 14.</p> <p>Some examples of mitigation measures include:</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties</p> <p>250m offset of solar stations from residential properties</p> <p>The removal of the Solar PV Site from north of the Drift providing a suitable</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Socio-Economics and Tourism			
			offset of residential dwellings in the interests of visual amenity.
Carlby Parish Council	Mallard Pass will turn a local, gently undulating arable countryside into a mass industrial landscape. This proposal will harm our local wildlife habitat, our footpaths and our well-loved and well used bridle ways that are part of our way of life. It is highly also likely to increase the risk of flooding in the immediate areas where our residents and families go about their business and recreation.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in Chapter 14: Socio-Economics of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], this assessment concluded that there will be no potential significant adverse socio-economic effects during the construction, operation, or decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Therefore, no additional mitigation measures over and above those stated in other technical chapters of the ES are required to avoid or minimise the socio-economic effects identified in Chapter 14.</p> <p>Some examples of mitigation measures include:</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties</p> <p>250m offset of solar stations from residential properties</p> <p>The removal of the Solar PV Site from north of the Drift providing a suitable</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Socio-Economics and Tourism			
			offset of residential dwellings in the interests of visual amenity.
Carlby Parish Council	If approved the site has the potential to continue to expand, mitigation ignored and restoration never taking place due to the financial collapse of the industry, causing clean up compensation paid for from the public purse.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant makes note of this comment. The farm businesses all stated that, although agricultural practices within the Order limits will change, continued arable use is considered very unlikely to change across their wider land areas outside the Order limits. Within the Order limits a proportion of the mitigation and enhancement areas will continue to be farmed, whilst land management, which could include sheep grazing, will take place within the Order limits.</p> <p>Once the Proposed Development is operational, the owners of the four farm operations within the Order limits predict that the 13 FTEs currently directly supported will remain the same and that the diversification of operations will help to sustain their commercial viability.</p> <p>For more information about the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development and the restoration of agricultural land, please see the Outline Decommissioning Environmental</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Socio-Economics and Tourism			
			Management Plan oDEMP, [EN010127/APP/7.8]
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	There are absolutely no benefits whatsoever to local residents and we are the people who will have our lives turned upside down if this development goes ahead!	Yes	The embedded mitigation measures include the implementation of an Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan [EN010127/APP/7.10] which will be agreed with local stakeholders prior to the commencement of construction. This will set out measures the Applicant will implement in order to promote and enable access to the employment and supply chain opportunities associated with the construction phase locally in order to help capture as many of the benefits for study area residents as possible.
Stamford Town Council	All to be combined with the recognition of Lost Opportunity Costs / Displacement Costs / Externalities / Traded Options for the Community: i.e. Lost Food Production, Net Employment Impact (Agri-Food Supply Chain), Biodiversity Loss and Human Welfare, Opportunity to Enhance Biodiversity, Tree Planting, Energy security of Supply, Risks and Mitigations etc.	No	Kernon Countryside Consultants conducted interviews with the four farm businesses operating land within the Order limits. For all of the farm businesses, the land within the Order limits represents only a proportion of their wider holdings. No key infrastructure, such as main agricultural buildings, would be affected by the Proposed Development. The farm businesses all stated that, although agricultural practices within the

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Socio-Economics and Tourism			
			<p>Order limits will change, continued arable use is considered very unlikely to change across their wider land areas outside the Order limits. Within the Order limits a proportion of the mitigation and enhancement areas will continue to be farmed, whilst land management, which could include sheep grazing, will take place within the Order limits.</p> <p>Once the Proposed Development is operational, the owners of the four farm operations within the Order limits predict that the 13 FTEs currently directly supported will remain the same and that the diversification of operations will help to sustain their commercial viability.</p> <p>The impact of food importations in the scheme of the agricultural land scale in the UK will not be significant and need not be incorporated into the climate change assessment methodology which is based off industry standards.</p>
Stamford Town Council	<p>Socio-economics The PEIR states that there should be an increase in employment in the proposed area but this will only be temporary during the construction process, plus there will be little effect on tourism. However there would be a negative effect on the</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant has produced an Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan, [EN010127/APP/7.10], whereby the</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Socio-Economics and Tourism			
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	<p>housing market in the area and there would be a loss of temporary contracts for arable farming.</p> <p>The PEIR states that there should be an increase in employment in the proposed area but this will only be temporary during the construction process, plus there will be little effect on tourism. However there would be a negative effect on the housing market in the area and there would be a loss of temporary contracts for arable farming.</p>		<p>Applicant wishes to make provision for the Proposed Development to:</p> <p>Create opportunities for the improvement and employment of local skills; and</p> <p>Engage in the ethical procurement of the supply chain.</p> <p>The Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan proposes how the Applicant will work with local stakeholders to achieve this. This includes focusing on:</p> <p>The opportunities for the involvement of local companies in the construction and operation supply chain;</p> <p>The ability of local residents to access employment opportunities associated with the construction and operation of the Development; and</p> <p>The ability of research organisations to use the site to enable research and innovation in the renewable energy sector.</p> <p>Please see Table 1.1 in the Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan for more details on how the Applicant propose to work with the</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Socio-Economics and Tourism			
			<p>organisations set out in Table 1.1 to achieve these objectives.</p> <p>In Chapter 14: Socio-Economics of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], Section 14.3 outlines the potential effects of the construction, operational and decommissioning phases on employment, GVA and tourism in the study area.</p> <p>Three visitor behaviour / tourism receptors were assessed within a 2km radius of the Proposed Development, these include:</p> <p>Amenity and Recreation Assessment (Appendix 6.5 of the ES)</p> <p>Landscape and Visual impact (Chapter 6 of the ES)</p> <p>Noise (Chapter 10 of the ES)</p> <p>Taking these receptors into account, it is considered that, on balance, the construction phase will have a negligible to minor adverse effect on the local tourism economy which is not significant.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Socio-Economics and Tourism			
			<p>For more information on the operational and decommissioning phases, see Chapter 14: Socio-Economics, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p> <p>Finally, once the Proposed Development is operational, the owners of the four farm operations within the Order limits predict that the 13 FTEs currently directly supported will remain the same and that the diversification of operations will help to sustain their commercial viability.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	12.Safety concerns of battery storage	No	Not applicable, there are no batteries being proposed as part of the Proposed Development.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	17.Detrimental impacts on mental health	Yes	<p>The Applicant has sought opportunities to improve the quality of life for people who live and work nearby and taken steps to mitigate negative impacts.</p> <p>The Applicant has also sought the views of local communities throughout the Proposed Development to ensure the design complements the local character, culture, and provide meaningful benefits to local communities. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties. • 50m offset of solar stations from PRowS • 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties <p>For more information, please see Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Health and Safety Executive	HSE's land use planning advice Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?	No	Yes, the Applicant is in consultation with the appropriate Statuary Undertaken to

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			<p>ensure Health and Safety standards are upheld.</p> <p>Section 15.5 of ES Chapter 15 Covers Major Accidents and/or Disasters [EN010127/APP/6.1]. This section summarises a description of the expected likely effects of the Proposed Development on the environment, deriving from the risks of major accidents and / or disasters which are relevant to the project.</p>
Health and Safety Executive	It has been reviewed to see what is the major hazards site shown and it seems that the 3Z map relates to Hey Group T/A Stamford Storage (H1909) which give the following:	No	Chapter 15: Other Environmental Matters, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1], includes a section on Major Accidents and Disasters, with reference to the COMAH Sites. An Emergency Response Plan prepared as part of the CEMP (secured by the oCEMP) will set out the emergency response measures that will be in place in the event of an accident at these sites.
Health and Safety Executive	However from a review of planning applications on the Rutland County Council Website, it now seems that there are a number of different operators on the site, and therefore not clear if the HSC is being utilised.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Please refer to comment above.
Health and Safety Executive	However it is noted that the south eastern part of the site does have a major hazards pipeline	No	These pipelines have been accounted for in the design of the Proposed

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
	running through the site. Therefore any location of people within the area will need to be considered also any construction work in the vicinity of the pipeline will need notification to the relevant operator and permission sought before work proceeds.		Development and measures to ensure their protection are set out in the oCEMP.
Health and Safety Executive	Explosives sites HSE's Explosives Inspectorate has no comment to make in regards to the proposed development.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Health and Safety Executive	Electrical Safety No comment from a planning perspective. During this time, please send any further communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated email account for NSIP applications at nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk . We are currently unable to accept hard copies, as our offices have limited access.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Essendine Parish Council	4. Loss of Recreational Amenity and Wellbeing A lot is spoken about wellbeing being important to the human person in the twenty first century in the UK. The construction of the proposed solar farm will not add value or wellbeing to the residents of Essendine or the surrounding parishes. It will take away the recreational amenity that contributes greatly to the wellbeing of the local community.	Yes	The Applicant has sought opportunities to improve the quality of life for people who live and work nearby and taken steps to mitigate negative impacts. The Applicant has also sought the views of local communities throughout the Proposed Development to ensure the design complements the local character, culture, and provide meaningful benefits to local communities. Some examples include:

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties. • 50m offset of solar stations from PRowS • 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties <p>For more information, please see Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Great Casterton Parish Council	<p>Schools. There are two schools in Great Casterton, both adjacent to the Ryhall Road with approximately 1000 children coming into the village in the morning and leaving in the afternoon. This generates a large amount of traffic as well as congested pavements occupied by those walking to school. Consequently some years ago the County Council installed a “Safe Route to School” through the village with traffic calming measures in the form of three chicanes, wider pavement and a zebra crossing. Any addition of heavy construction traffic to this would be most undesirable.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant notes that the construction phase of the Proposed Development is likely to have adverse, local, temporary, and medium-term impacts on Accidents and Safety.</p> <p>A review of the accidents occurring over the most recent three-year period has been undertaken to identify existing accident clusters across the construction routes to the Order limits. A cluster is considered to be identified where more than five accidents have occurred over a three-year period within close proximity of the Order limits.</p> <p>The review highlights that none of the junctions or links located along the local</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			<p>road network within proximity of the Proposed Development had more than five accidents within the three-year period.</p> <p>Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur.</p> <p>On that basis, and using professional judgement, it is considered that the construction phase of the Proposed Development would have a non-significant effect on Accidents and Safety.</p>
Great Casterton Parish Council	In conclusion Great Casterton Parish Council strongly opposes this huge development. It will cause untold damage to the rural roads, the villages and their resident's quality of life.	No	Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1], assesses traffic movements associated with construction, operation and maintenance, and

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			<p>decommissioning, of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>With the exception of Uffington Lane, the construction phase of the Proposed Development will result in an increase of up to 2% of the daily annual average daily traffic, and up to 11% increase in the total number of daily Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) along Ryhall Road.</p> <p>With the addition of all the traffic from Uffington Lane onto the A6121, there is an increase in 5% of the total vehicles and 9% on the total HGVs.</p> <p>This impact is considered as non-significant across all the effects.</p>
Uffington Parish Council	Ten expressed concerns about the reduction in the number of traditional footpaths and bridleways and four about the detrimental effect that a loss of green space and associated exercise opportunities would have on mental and physical health.	Yes	<p>The Applicant has sought opportunities to improve the quality of life for people who live and work nearby and taken steps to mitigate negative impacts.</p> <p>The Applicant has also sought the views of local communities throughout the Proposed Development to ensure the design complements the local character, culture, and provide meaningful benefits to local communities. Some examples include:</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties. • 50m offset of solar stations from PRowS • 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties <p>For more information, please see Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1], the Design and Access Statement, and the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9] (including the Green Infrastructure Plan).</p>
Uffington Parish Council	Concern was also expressed that, at the end of its operational life, the site might not be properly cleared and returned to farmland and open countryside, with safe and efficient recycling of the solar panels. There were questions raised regarding the safe storage of any Batteries on the site.	No	<p>There are no batteries being proposed as part of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Any solar equipment that requires to be replaced during the operational period will be disposed of following the waste hierarchy, with materials being reused or recycled wherever possible. Any electrical waste will be disposed in accordance with the Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations.</p> <p>All the solar infrastructure including PV modules, mounting structures, cabling,</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			inverters, transformers, switchgear, fencing and ancillary infrastructure, and the Onsite Substation, would be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice following the waste hierarchy, with materials being reused or recycled wherever possible. All waste will be disposed of in accordance with the legislation at the time of decommissioning, and as per the DEMP.
Uffington Parish Council	Concerns were expressed about the probable importing of panels from China and the resulting negative carbon footprint. On an ethical note, sixteen respondents expressed concerns about the possibility of human rights abuses and the use of forced labour during the manufacture of the solar panels.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As detailed in the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, [EN010127/APP/7.10], the Applicant wishes to ensure the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development is undertaken pursuant to an ethical procurement policy and that this is a legal obligation on anyone who has the powers under the DCO. That would be achieved by securing this Plan by a requirement of the DCO.</p> <p>The Applicant proposed the following ethical procurement policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any potential supplier must participate in a modern slavery supplier due
Carlby Parish Council	Human Rights issues		
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	6. There is growing concern on our reliance on Russia and China on many fronts. Canadian Solar, who are funding this development, have factories in Xinjiang province which is of concern to many.		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			<p>diligence exercise as part of the tender exercise;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any potential supplier, whether or not they meet the statutory thresholds under section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, must publish annually a modern slavery and human trafficking statement; • The modern slavery and human trafficking statement must be informed by a risk assessment; • Any potential supplier must have a modern slavery policy; • Any potential supplier must provide relevant employees with modern slavery training that has been produced by a certified provider of such training; • Any contract to be entered into with a potential supplier must include the following warranties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The supplier has not been and is not engaged in any form of slavery, forced labour, labour exploitation or human trafficking anywhere in the world; ○ The supplier pays and treats its workers in compliance with

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			<p>applicable employment laws and minimum wage requirements; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The supplier will take reasonable steps to prevent slavery and human trafficking in connection with its business anywhere in the world. <p>For more information, please see the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, [EN010127/APP/7.10].</p>
Carlby Parish Council	Mental Health concerns and No compensation for the local community !!	Yes	<p>The Applicant has sought opportunities to improve the quality of life for people who live and work nearby and taken steps to mitigate negative impacts.</p> <p>The Applicant has also sought the views of local communities throughout the Proposed Development to ensure the design complements the local character, culture, and provide meaningful benefits to local communities. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties. • 50m offset of solar stations from PRowS

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	The reason this is such a concern is the danger to life that that these lithium batteries present.	No	Not applicable, there are no batteries being proposed as part of the Proposed Development.
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	There have been many cases of the storage batteries catching fire and they cannot be put out by conventional means with a real risk of spreading across fields to villages and setting fire to homes and endangering life. You only have to look at what global warming has done with the temperatures we have experienced this July in the UK with wildfires engulfing homes and business premises.	No	Not applicable, there are no batteries being proposed as part of the Proposed Development.
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	Very importantly there is reported evidence of Uyghur forced labour being used in the supply chain of Canadian solar. This has been raised in the House of Commons and the primary developer Mallard Pass Solar Farm is currently under investigation by its own shareholders. Because of this alone the Solar Farm should be rejected by Government!	No	<p>As detailed in the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, [EN010127/APP/7.10] the Applicant wishes to ensure the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development is undertaken pursuant to an ethical procurement policy and that this is a legal obligation on anyone who has the powers under the DCO. That would be achieved by securing this Plan by a requirement of the DCO.</p> <p>For more information, please see the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, [EN010127/APP/7.10].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
Stamford Town Council	The Risk of Major Accidents and/or Disasters An increased risk of transport accidents during both the constructional and operational stages.	No	<p>The Applicant notes that the construction phase of the Proposed Development is likely to have adverse, local, temporary, and medium-term impacts on Accidents and Safety.</p> <p>A review of the accidents occurring over the most recent three-year period has been undertaken to identify existing accident clusters across the construction routes to the Order limits. A cluster is considered to be identified where more than five accidents have occurred over a three-year period within close proximity of the Order limits.</p> <p>The review highlights that none of the junctions or links located along the local road network within proximity of the Proposed Development had more than five accidents within the three-year period.</p> <p>Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			<p>that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur.</p> <p>On that basis, and using professional judgement, it is considered that the construction phase of the Proposed Development would have a non-significant effect on Accidents and Safety.</p>
NATS Safeguarding	The proposed development has been examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and does not conflict with our safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company ("NERL") has no safeguarding objection to the proposal.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
NATS Safeguarding	However, please be aware that this response applies specifically to the above consultation and only reflects the position of NATS (that is responsible for the management of en route air traffic) based on the information supplied at the time of this application. This letter does not provide any indication of the position of any other party, whether they be an airport, airspace user or otherwise. It remains your responsibility to ensure that all the appropriate consultees are properly consulted.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
NATS Safeguarding	If any changes are proposed to the information supplied to NATS in regard to this application which become the basis of a revised, amended or further application for approval, then as a statutory consultee NERL requires that it be further consulted on any such changes prior to any planning permission or any consent being granted.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
UK Health Security Agency	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.	No	Please see Chapter 17: Summary of Effects, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], for more information.
UK Health Security Agency	Environmental Public Health We have assessed the submitted documentation and wish to make the following comments: Section 18.1.2 of the report states that as there is no battery storage on site there is therefore no need to evaluate risks from accidents such as fires. We recommend that further reassurance is	No	Not applicable, there are no batteries being proposed as part of the Proposed Development.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
	provided to demonstrate that other site infrastructure does not pose a significant fire risk.		
UK Health Security Agency	<p>Human Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>This section of OHIDs response, identifies the wider determinants of health and wellbeing we expect the Environmental Statement (ES) to address, 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.</p> <p>The four themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access • Traffic and Transport • Socioeconomic • Land Use 	No	Please see Chapter 17: Summary of Effects, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], for more information.
UK Health Security Agency	<p>Population and Human health assessment</p> <p>It is noted that population and human health will be considered within existing chapters and not form a separate chapter within the ES. Given the current knowledge of the scheme and potential impacts this appears to be a proportionate approach. This should be kept under review as more information becomes available and a separate population and human health chapter may be justified as the assessments develop.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
UK Health Security Agency	<p>Public Rights of Way (PRoW)</p> <p>The PEIR identifies the intention to retain the existing PRoW across the site, as such they may require closure or diversion during construction. The PEIR provides no detail on the required closures / diversions required for each PRoW or assess the level of significance for these effects. The assessment of significance will require an understanding of the current level of use for the PRoW. The ES should include an assessment of use as part of reporting significance.</p>	Yes	<p>As detailed in the oCEMP [EN010127/APP/7.6], access to all existing PRoW will be retained during the construction phase, with no PRoW closures and a limited number of temporary PRoW diversions to allow the construction of access tracks where they cross PRoW. The PRoW will be managed throughout the construction phase to ensure that they can continue to be used safely.</p> <p>It is important that public safety is maintained when there are moving vehicles along the construction routes within the Order limits. The proposed construction routes through the Order limits will be physically separated from existing PRoW using the proposed Solar PV perimeter fencing in the first instance or mesh, heras, or other similar types of fencing for a temporary period during construction, to maximise the safety of users.</p> <p>The existing PRoW will be reinstated during the operational phase, albeit public access will be retained throughout as a result of the PRoW diversions. The</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			<p>minimum legal PRoW widths will be maintained for all PRoW throughout the construction phase.</p> <p>The proposed internal access tracks will cross the following PRoW within the Order Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bridleway E169/1 b. Footpath BrAW/1/1 <p>During construction of the internal access tracks these PRoW will be temporarily diverted. Each minor diversion will be clearly marked out, along with appropriate signage at either end of the diversion which will take the most direct route possible. The diversion routes will be agreed with the relevant local authority for each diversion prior to construction of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Once complete the proposed crossing points will be carefully managed to allow all users to safely pass through these areas as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Providing manned controls at each crossing point (such as marshals/ banksmen and gates as

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			<p>appropriate), with a default priority that construction traffic will give-way to other users;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Providing advanced signage to warn users of the potential presence of construction vehicles; and c) Maximising visibility between construction vehicles and other users at the crossing points (through vegetation pruning for example). <p>Further to the measures already identified above, proposed mitigation and management measures relating to PRow include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Maintaining access to/along PRow during the construction phase, including minimum legal widths for PRow users; b) Providing temporary PRow diversion routes where necessary to avoid any PRow closures (other than for a few hours when the secondary collector cables are installed). Each diversion will be clearly marked out, along with appropriate signage at either end

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			<p>of the diversion. The diversion routes will be agreed with the relevant local authority prior to construction;</p> <p>c) Providing sufficient protection/separation between existing PRow and the proposed construction route where necessary (a minimum of at least 15m either side of existing and proposed PRow is proposed);</p> <p>d) Managing areas where the internal construction route crosses any existing PRow by maximising visibility between construction vehicles and other users, implementing traffic management e.g. advanced signage to advise other users of the works, as well as manned controls at each crossing point (marshals/banksmen), with a default priority that construction traffic will give-way to other users; and</p> <p>e) Developing a communications strategy including regular meetings with contractors to review and address any issues</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			associated with walking or cycling to/from the construction of the Proposed Development, as well as to relay information including any restrictions and requirements which should be followed.
UK Health Security Agency	The PEIR indicates that the PRoW mitigation measures will be contained in the Construction and Environment Management Plan (CEMP), but the draft CEMP has very little detail at this time.	Yes	Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1], sets out the effects and likely significant effects on PROW and receptors.
UK Health Security Agency	We note the intention for enhancements, in particular for the provision of new permissive paths. The design of this new infrastructure should be in consultation and collaboration with the local community and the relevant local authority.		All existing PRoWs will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to wider network and creating joined up routes.
UK Health Security Agency	Recommendation The ES must report of the level of significance relating to the construction impacts on the PRoW. The CEMP or separate PRoW Management Plan (PRoWMP) should include sufficient detail regarding the proposed mitigation measures for each PRoW.		There will be a minimum 15m offset from PRoWs to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRoWs. For more information, please see the oCEMP submitted as part of this DCO application, [EN010127/APP/7.6].
UK Health Security Agency	Walking and cycling The PEIR identifies that the local road network has limited walking and cycling infrastructure. It also reports that whilst there may be some associated recreational use by pedestrians and cyclists, it is	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
	likely that this would be on an ad-hoc basis and outside of the typical proposed construction site working hours (PEIR Volume 1 Para 9.4.20 and 9.4.23). This assumption should be evidenced through local usage surveys and through consultation with the local community. Given the 12 hours shift, 6 days a week there will likely be overlapping usage times.		
UK Health Security Agency	<p>Recommendation Walkers, cyclist and horse rider usage of the local road network should be established through surveys and in consultation with the local community. The assessment on the impact for this vulnerable population should in part be based on this data.</p> <p>If you require any clarification on the above points or wish to discuss any particular issues please do not hesitate to contact us.</p>	No	<p>The Proposed Development will be sensitivity sited and offset from residential properties through 50 offsets for solar stations from PRowS and 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties</p> <p>All existing PRowS will be retained in their existing alignment and complemented by a total of 8.1km of new permissive paths that link to wider network and creating joined up routes. There will be a 15m offset from PRowS to the edge of the Solar PV Site with appropriate screening planting to manage the amenity of PRowS.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will create opportunities for people to engage with the natural world in the form of nature</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
			areas, viewing hides and interpretation boards.
Canal & River Trust	The Canal & River Trust are the charity who look after and bring to life 2000 miles of canals & rivers. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green-blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of our nation. The Trust is a statutory consultee in the Development Management process.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Cadent Gas	General Notes on Pipeline Safety: • You should be aware of the Health and Safety Executives guidance document HS(G) 47 "Avoiding Danger from Underground Services", and Cadent's specification for Safe Working in the Vicinity of Cadent High Pressure gas pipelines and associated installations - requirements for third parties GD/SP/SSW22. Digsafe leaflet Excavating Safely - Avoiding injury when working near gas pipes. There will be additional requirements dictated by Cadent's plant protection team.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. NGG's 'Guidance for developing solar farms near to gas distribution and transmission pipelines' will be followed and Protective Provisions for NGG's benefit are included within the DCO. The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.
Cadent Gas	Guidance To download a copy of the HSE Guidance	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
	<p>HS(G)47, please use the following link: http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg47.htm Dial Before You Dig Pipelines Guidance: https://documents.cadentgas.com/view/719428500/ Essential Guidance document: https://cadentgas.com/getattachment/digging-safely/Promo-work-safely-library/Essential_Guidance.pdf Excavating Safely in the vicinity of gas pipes guidance (Credit card): https://cadentgas.com/nggdwsdev/media/Downloads/Digging%20Safely/Excavating_Safely_Leaflet_Gas-1.pdf Copies of all the Guidance Documents can also be downloaded from the Cadent website: https://cadentgas.com/help-advice/digging-safely Specification for Safe Working in the Vicinity of Cadent Assets: https://cadentgas.com/nggdwsdev/media/Downloads/Digging%20Safely/CADSPSSW22-Specification-for-safeworking-in-the-vicinity-of-Cadent-assets-August-2021.pdf Tree Planting Guidance: https://cadentgas.com/nggdwsdev/media/Downloads/Digging%20Safely/Tree-planting-guidance-Cadent-forweb.pdf</p>		<p>The CEMP [EN010127/APP/7.6] will utilise the suggested guidance.</p> <p>The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.</p>
National Grid Gas	<p>Further Safety Guidance To download a copy of the HSE Guidance HS(G)47, please use the following link:</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
	<p>http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg47.htm SSW22</p> <p>https://www.nationalgrid.com/gas-transmission/document/82951/download Tree Planting Guidance</p> <p>https://www.nationalgrid.com/gas-transmission/document/82976/download Working Near NGG Assets</p> <p>www.nationalgrid.com/gas-transmission/land-and-assets/working-near-our-assets Excavating Safely</p> <p>https://www.nationalgrid.com/gas-transmission/document/82971/download Dial Before You Dig Guidance</p> <p>https://www.nationalgrid.com/gas-transmission/document/128751/download</p>		<p>NGG's 'Guidance for developing solar farms near to gas distribution and transmission pipelines' will be followed and Protective Provisions for NGG's benefit are included within the DCO.</p> <p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) 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. 	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>NGG's 'Guidance for developing solar farms near to gas distribution and transmission pipelines' will be followed and Protective Provisions for NGG's benefit are included within the DCO.</p> <p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	Concerns over Forced Labour in Canadian Solar's Supply Chains Canadian Solar is mentioned numerous times in the 2021 Sheffield Hallam Report In Broad Daylight: Uyghur Forced Labour and Global Solar Supply Chains. The report states that 'Canadian Solar's primary exposure to forced labour in the Uyghur Region is through supplier GCL-Poly'. 'Canadian Solar also has a joint venture with GCL-Poly on a solar cell production facility in Jiangsu, which may be affected if that facility is importing polysilicon from the GCL subsidiary in Xinjiang.'	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As detailed in the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, [EN010127/APP/7.10], the Applicant wishes to ensure the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development is undertaken pursuant to an ethical procurement policy and that this is a legal obligation on anyone who has the powers under the DCO. That would be achieved by securing this Plan by a requirement of the DCO.</p> <p>The Applicant proposed the following ethical procurement policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any potential supplier must participate in a modern slavery supplier due diligence exercise as part of the tender exercise; • Any potential supplier, whether or not they meet the statutory thresholds under section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, must publish annually a modern slavery and human trafficking statement;
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	On page 3 of the Mallard Pass website's frequently asked questions documents Canadian Solar is listed as operating a manufactory facility in Jiangsu. This is most probably the joint production facility with GCL-Poly identified in the Sheffield Hallam Report as an exposure to forced labour.		
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	GCL-Poly has been one of Canadian Solar's largest suppliers since 2008. In June 2021 a subsidiary of GCL-Poly, GCL-New Energy Material Technology Co. Ltd was sanctioned by the US Commerce Department for 'participating in the practice of, accepting, or utilizing forced labour in Xinjiang and contributing to human rights abuses against Uyghurs and other minority groups in Xinjiang.' It is likely that Canadian Solar's supply		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
	chains used materials sourced by GCL-New Energy in Xinjiang. (Sheffield Hallam Report, p.43.)		
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	Horizon Advisory, an organisation which has researched forced labour in solar supply chains, stated that the four largest companies producing polysilicon 'appear actively to participate in the resettlement of ethnic Uyghurs from poor areas of Xinjiang' and 'contribute to and implement re-education programmes that impose political and military training on resettled populations.' This includes Canadian Solar's supplier, GCL-Poly.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The modern slavery and human trafficking statement must be informed by a risk assessment; • Any potential supplier must have a modern slavery policy; • Any potential supplier must provide relevant employees with modern slavery training that has been produced by a certified provider of such training; • Any contract to be entered into with a potential supplier must include the following warranties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The supplier has not been and is not engaged in any form of slavery, forced labour, labour exploitation or human trafficking anywhere in the world; ○ The supplier pays and treats its workers in compliance with applicable employment laws and minimum wage requirements; and ○ The supplier will take reasonable steps to prevent slavery and human trafficking in connection
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	Canadian Solar also operates a solar power generation facility in the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) 3rd division city of Tumxuk, Xinjiang. (Sheffield Hallam Report, p.43.) The XPCC is the Chinese Communist Party's paramilitary organisation in Xinjiang and has been sanctioned since 2020 in the United States for contributing to the Uyghur genocide. According to the Sheffield Hallam Report, Canadian Solar 'likely benefits from that relationship with the XPCC.' (p.43)		
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	In June 2022 concerned shareholders of Canadian Solar worked with an ethical advocacy group (SHARE) to try to have several Canadian Solar board members deselected for their failure to address allegations of forced labour in the company's supply chains. This is the company's		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
	own shareholders acting out of concern for the use of forced labour.		with its business anywhere in the world.
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	One of these directors also chairs the audit committee for Daqo New Energy Corp, a Xinjiang based subsidiary of Daqo which was sanctioned by the US Commerce Department at the same time as GCL-Polys subsidiary, also on account of their role in human rights abuses against the Uyghur population.		For more information, please see the Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan, [EN010127/APP/7.10] .
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	This collection of evidence points to serious questions over Canadian Solar's supply chains and their potential exposure to forced labour in the Xinjiang region. A representative of Windel Energy agreed to meet me in Parliament with representatives from Canadian Solar to discuss my concerns, but they have subsequently failed to arrange the meeting despite numerous attempts by my office.		
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	Gary Toomey, the Managing Director of Windel Energy, and I discussed slave labour as a consultation event in Ryhall. He said he was not aware that shareholders of Canadian Solar had attempted to have board members deselected for their failure to address allegations of forced labour. This demonstrates a concerning lack of scrutiny and dialogue between partners on this organisation.		
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	Until a full and transparent audit demonstrates that Canadian Solar's supply chains are free from		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Health			
	<p>forced labour, they should not be given consent to build any Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. Based on the evidence available, I believe they should be sanctioned by the British Government.</p>		<p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
DCO Related Comments			
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Scoping Report Review Methodology</p> <p>1.3 This review of the Mallard Pass PEIR is based on the requirements of the Infrastructure EIA Regulations, as set out above. Barton Willmore, now Stantec, as IEMA Quality Mark practitioners, have extensive experience in the production PEIRs for DCO EIA developments.</p>	No	<p>LDA Design is an Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Registered Impact Assessor and holds the IEMA EIA Quality Mark as recognition of the quality in the way we coordinate EIAs and the quality of our ESs. Appendix 1.1 includes a Statement of Competence [EN010127/APP/6.2], outlining the relevant experience, expertise and/or qualifications of the experts who prepared the ES in accordance with Regulation 14(4) of the EIA Regulations.</p>
South Kesteven District Council	<p>5.2 The PEIR chapter also makes reference to the Green Infrastructure (GI) strategy, which is a crucial aspect of the Proposed Development and is noted as being considered in the assessment of effects. The GI strategy forms part of the draft oLEMP, which is to be secured through the DCO process.</p>	No	<p>The Green Infrastructure is embedded into the design of the Proposed Development, and the strategy is set out within the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p>
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>The applicant has a legal duty to have regard to each consultation response submitted during the statutory consultation period. Following the close of the consultation period, and any further studies and refinements they are intending to apply to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for a Development Consent Order (DCO). The DCO application will be</p>	No	<p>The Applicant has had due regard to consultation comments as set out within the Consultation Report, and within each technical chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
DCO Related Comments			
	subject to examination by an independent examining authority appointed by the Secretary of State and that examination will be administered by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).The decision whether to grant development consent will be taken by the Secretary of State for BEIS. The applicant has stated their intention is to submit the DCO application by the end of November 2022.		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	When determining the DCO, the Secretary of State must have regard to the local impact report and any matters which the Secretary of State thinks are both important and relevant to its decision. These include relevant National Policy Statements, as well as other local and national planning policy.	No	The Proposed Development's compliance with the National Policy Statements is set out in the Planning Statement [EN010127/APP/7.2] .
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	SKDC requests that the Environmental Statement submitted with any formal Development Consent Order (DCO) application for this proposal fully takes account of the concerns and recommendations raised in those reports.	Yes	The Applicant makes note of this comment. All feedback received has formed part of the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. In this DCO, the Applicant has produced this Consultation Report that details the feedback and consultation responses we have received, and provided responses to feedback, detailing how the Applicant has considered it and the way in which it has influenced the Proposed Development. It is guaranteed that all feedback received to our consultation is

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
DCO Related Comments			
			<p>recorded and responded to in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5.</p> <p>The Applicant has carefully considered and has had regard to all of the feedback received during the consultation periods. This includes any questions and comments submitted to us via feedback forms, emails, or letters.</p> <p>The design and evolution of the Proposed Development has taken account of comments received from stakeholders and the public. Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, sets out the stages involved and summarises the changes made to the design of the project in response to comments received. Further information is also provided in the Design and Access Statement [EN010127/APP/7.3]. Each topic of the ES also incorporates an appendix setting out how the ES has developed in light of comments on the PEIR.</p>
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.3Local Development Plans and the NPPF5.3.1Whilst not determinative under the Planning Act 2008, PINS as the Examining Authority can consider other important and relevant matters, including national and local planning	No	Noted. The Planning Statement [EN010127/APP/7.2] provides details of all planning policy, legislation, and guidance referred to within the production of the DCO submission.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
DCO Related Comments			
	policy. As such, the policies in the South Kesteven Local Plan (January 2020) and the National Planning Policy Framework (2021) are relevant to the determination of the application.		Each technical chapter of the ES provides a summary of Policy relevant to their topic as an appendix.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	6.Evaluation6.1The Planning Act 2008 requires applicants for DCOs to carry out formal (statutory) pre-application consultation on their proposals. There are several requirements as to how this consultation must be undertaken: •Section 42 requires the applicant to consult with 'prescribed persons', which includes certain statutory consultation bodies such as the Environment Agency and Natural England, relevant statutory undertakers, relevant local authorities, those with an interest in the land, as well as those who may be affected by the Proposed Development;•Section 47 requires the applicant to consult with the local community on the development. Prior to this, the applicant must agree a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) with the relevant local authorities. The SoCC must set out the proposed community consultation and, once agreed with the relevant local authorities, a SoCC Notice must be published in local newspapers circulating within the vicinity of the land in question. The consultation must then be carried out in accordance with the final SoCC;•Section 48 places a duty on the applicant to publicise the	No	Statutory Consultation was carried out by the Applicant, and changes made to the design of the proposed Development as a result of comments received.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
DCO Related Comments			
	proposed application in the 'prescribed manner' in a national newspaper; The London Gazette, local newspapers circulating within the vicinity of the land and, where relevant, certain marine publications; and •Section 49 places a duty on the applicant to take account of any relevant responses received to the consultation and publicity that is required by Sections 42, 47 and 48.		
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	7.6SKDC requests that the Environmental Statement submitting with any formal Development Consent Order (DCO) application for this proposal fully takes account of the concerns and recommendations raised in those reports.	No	The ES submitted with this DCO application takes full account of comments received. Responses are set out within each technical chapter, within Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development of the ES, and within the Consultation Report. Each topic of the ES also incorporates an appendix setting out how the ES has developed in light of comments on the PEIR.
Rutland County Council	The summary below identifies the key points of the responses, the detailed versions of each of the reports are attached at the end of this document for completeness and to allow for all of the issues identified to be addressed prior to the submission of the application for DCO.	No	Each topic of the ES also incorporates an appendix setting out how the ES has developed in light of comments on the PEIR.
Rutland County Council	All of these issues will need to be addressed and included as part of any formal submission in order to ensure that the Council has sufficient information to comment fully on the application and to ensure	No	Each topic of the ES also incorporates an appendix setting out how the ES has developed in light of comments on the PEIR.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
DCO Related Comments			
	<p>that the decision maker has all the relevant information necessary to determine the application.</p> <p>As noted above, the full text of the review documents is appended to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any of the matters identified within this response.</p>		
Rutland County Council	<p>Scoping Report Review Methodology 1.3 This review of the Mallard Pass PEIR is based on the requirements of the Infrastructure EIA Regulations, as set out above. Barton Willmore, now Stantec, as IEMA Quality Mark practitioners, have extensive experience in the production PEIRs for DCO EIA developments.</p>	No	<p>LDA Design is an Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Registered Impact Assessor and holds the IEMA EIA Quality Mark as recognition of the quality in the way we coordinate EIAs and the quality of our ESs. Appendix 1.1 includes a Statement of Competence [EN010127/APP/6.2], outlining the relevant experience, expertise and/or qualifications of the experts who prepared the ES in accordance with Regulation 14(4) of the EIA Regulations.</p>
Rutland County Council	<p>5.2 The PEIR chapter also makes reference to the Green Infrastructure (GI) strategy, which is a crucial aspect of the Proposed Development and is noted as being considered in the assessment of effects. The GI strategy forms part of the draft oLEMP, which is to be secured through the DCO process.</p>	No	<p>Green Infrastructure is embedded into the design of the Proposed Development, and the strategy is set out within the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>As anticipated at this stage of the project, further assessment work and information about the</p>	No	<p>The ES has been prepared by competent technical experts, as set out</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
DCO Related Comments			
	<p>development has yet to be presented and this will need to be completed and form part of the final Environmental Statement. LCC does not have in-house specialists or advisors for all topic areas covered by the PEIR however this representation does set out the comments/advice received from internal specialists/consultees and external consultants employed by the Council. General comments are also offered on the other topic areas where we feel this is necessary, however, were commend and endorse any comments made by South Kesteven District Council and Rutland County Council on topics/area that fall outside of our statutory remit or expertise at this stage. Further comments will however continue to be provided as the project continues and the Environmental Statement is completed.</p>		<p>within Appendix 1.1 Statement of Competence, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.2]</p>
Lincolnshire County Council	<p>At this stage therefore, it is recommended that the scheme layout be reviewed to take into account the existence of the current DMMOs so as to ensure these do not impact on the scheme as currently laid out. If these cannot be accommodated then alternative routes should be proposed to the current DMMO and the permissive route identified which, through the DCO process, could be adopted as formal, permanent routes (with commuted sums being provided to enable LCC to thereafter maintain as part of the wider network). If not then detailed information should be made available</p>	No	<p>Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual, of the ES, sets out how DMMO's are dealt with in the ES, but in summary two of the routes are within the route of existing Public Rights of Way and so users of those rights of way have been considered accordingly. The third is considered not to be a used route, and so has not been assessed within the ES. That third route is also dealt with procedurally through drafting in the DCO.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
DCO Related Comments			
	<p>and/or be presented as part of the ES to demonstrate that the permissive routes would be retained and made available for use for the duration/life of the development (e.g. written into the terms of the lease agreements or other such legal agreement, planning conditions, etc). This will ensure that the routes offered as part of this development are deliverable and secured for the longer term use and benefit of the local community.</p>		<p>Permissive Paths have been included within the design of the Proposed Development and are set out within Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual, of the ES, and also within the Design and Access Statement.</p>
Natural England	<p>The following management plans will be developed and prepared to be submitted to support the Development Control Order (DCO) application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) • outline Operational Environmental Management Plan including an outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) • outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) • outline Soils Management Plan to be incorporated into the oCEMP and oDEMP <p>These should undergo further review for the cable route and design of the project is finalised. Resulting agreed plans should be requirements of the DCO as part of any planning permission.</p>	No	<p>The following management plans have been prepared in support of the DCO Application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan, including outline Water Management Plan, and Public Rights of Way Management Plan - Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan - Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan - Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan - Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan - Construction Traffic Management Plan

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
DCO Related Comments			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outline Soil Management Plan, including Excavated Materials Management Plan - Water Management Plan - Outline Travel Plan
Natural England	<p>We note that proposed embedded mitigation and additional measures have been incorporated into the scheme design, with detailed proposals and locations to be submitted with the DCO application. We understand that these measures are provided given the baseline conditions known at the time of reporting. We recognise that further measures may be required as the baseline conditions are fully established and, if required, the scheme design will be further refined to embed mitigation. Which include retaining the existing landscape field structure, incorporating strong and appropriate landscape buffers, and further planting has been proposed as illustrated in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan. We are happy to comment on these final measures on receipt of the ES but are content with the approach taken to date covering all topics above. (Ref:6.5.2)</p>	No	<p>Green Infrastructure is embedded into the design of the Proposed Development, and the strategy is set out within the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9] with parameters for the physical development set by the Works Plans [EN010127/APP/2.2].</p>
National Highways	<p>We note that this consultation is the second 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)</p>	No	<p>Correct. As the Proposed Development would generate in excess of 50MW, the project is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
DCO Related Comments			
	given the site's energy output is expected to exceed 50 Megawatts.		
Anglian Water	I am working on behalf of Anglian Water in respect of a number of DCO submissions, including the Mallard Pass Solar Farm project. I would like to discuss the protective provisions for Anglian Water's assets within your draft DCO in advance of your DCO application being submitted. It would be useful to be able to agree these in advance of Examination where possible. Please can you forward this e-mail to the relevant person in your team who has responsibility for agreeing the wording of the draft DCO.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.</p>
Cadent Gas	Adequate land rights must be granted to Cadent (e.g. following the exercise of compulsory powers to acquire such rights included within the DCO) to enable works to proceed, to Cadent's satisfaction. Cadent's approval to the land rights powers included in the DCO prior to submission is strongly recommended to avoid later substantive objection to the DCO. Land rights will be required to be obtained prior to construction and commissioning of any diverted apparatus, in order to avoid any delays to the project's timescales. A diversion agreement may be required addressing responsibility for works, timescales, expenses and indemnity.	No	<p>The Applicant notes that operations within existing easement strips are not permitted without approval and Deed of Consent being put in place.</p> <p>The parties have been able to begin negotiations on Cadent's standard PPs.</p>
National Grid Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The below guidance is not exhaustive and all works in the vicinity of NGG's asset shall be 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
DCO Related Comments			
	subject to review and approval from NGG's plant protection team in advance of commencement of works on site.		The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
National Grid Gas	Where the promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of NGG apparatus, protective provisions will be required in a form acceptable to it to be included within the DCO. NGG 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.	No	<p>The Applicant notes that NGG require undeterred access.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that NGG has a Deed of Grant of Easement for each pipeline, which prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings, or structures, change to existing ground levels, and storage of materials for example.</p> <p>The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.</p>
Northern Powergrid (Northeast) Limited	We have received consultation for the DCO but do not believe that there is any Northern Powergrid land or assets within the DCO boundary, please can you confirm?	No	It is not considered that any Northern Powergrid apparatus is affected by the Proposed Development.
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	• Detailed Description of the Proposed Site Layout and Constructions Cable Network, Installation	No	The DCO Application sets out responses to these points within the ES, and also

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
DCO Related Comments			
	<p>level, Buried cables, Construction Earthworks / Road Crossings, Transformer Stations, Workshops etc. The construction access strategy is still being discussed with the relevant highway authorities. There could be 54 two-way HGV deliveries per day!! • Sustainability Assessment Studies (initial feasibility and signposting) of Technology and Location Options. Use of established methods to determine the optimum technology, location, scale and design: ili Carbon Footprint Life Cycle Model (cradle to grave/cradle to customer). Plan, Manufacture, Construct, Operate, Dismantle, Restore Site. Energy Return on Investment (EROI). Data on various technologies and configurations. Soil, water and materials impact. All to be combined with the recognition of Lost Opportunity Costs / Displacement Costs / Externalities / Traded Options for the Community: i.e. Lost Food Production, Net Employment Impact (Agri-Food Supply Chain), Biodiversity Loss and Human Welfare, Opportunity to Enhance Biodiversity, Tree Planting, Energy security of Supply, Risks and Mitigations etc. Conformity to Local Plan</p>		<p>the Planning Statement, and Statement of Need.</p>
<p>Stamford Town Council Planning Committee</p>	<p>The South Kesteven Local plan 2011-2036 in Appendix 3 (Reference Solar Energy Criterion 9), adopted by the Planning Inspectorate in 2020, clearly outlines the following: Must first carry out extensive research for derelict or brownfield sites - no evidence of that, yet sufficient suitable land has</p>		<p>The Statement of Need sets out the need for the Proposed Development, and Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement sets out the Site Selection process. The Planning Statement also specifically sets</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
DCO Related Comments			
	<p>been identified at local former RAF bases, the total area amounts to 724 hectares which is more than the 550 hectares needed for the solar panels. Must carry out a search for poorer agricultural sites grade 4 & 5 - no evidence of that. Required to prove whether the land is ALC grade 3a or 3b - no survey has been undertaken yet. Has to prove why a site has to be close to a particular grid line and that there is spare capacity in that grid - it would appear Mallard Pass are having to build that storage capacity as it does not currently exist.</p>		<p>out how the Proposed Development accords with Appendix 3.</p>
<p>Stamford Town Council Planning Committee</p>	<p>A desktop assessment of potential landscape and visual receptors was carried out with site visits in October 2021 and February 2022. Why were there no site visits in the Spring and Summer months when the vistas are different to those in Autumn and Winter?</p>		<p>Chapter 6: landscape and Visual of the ES sets out both summer and winter views of the Proposed Development, with visits being undertaken throughout the year between October 2021, and September 2022.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
South Kesteven District Council	Thank you for your letter dated 26 May 2022 inviting the Council's comments in respect of the above proposal.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) have reviewed the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and this response sets out our comments in response to the statutory consultation held between 26 May 2022 and 4 August pursuant to Section 42 (1) (b) of the 2008 Planning Act. This response was endorsed by the Council's Planning Committee on 11 August.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Before any conclusions can be drawn on the balance of benefits and adverse effects that would arise from the proposed development, it is imperative that the evidence and technical reviews that underpin the various topics in the environmental statement are sufficiently robust to enable an accurate assessment of the significance of such effects. To assist with reviewing the information and supporting evidence presented through this consultation exercise, SKDC and Rutland County Council (RCC) have jointly engaged the professional services of Stantec to provide independent, expert advice on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), including more detailed advice on the Landscape and Visual and Agricultural Land Use chapters.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	The following reviews are appended in full to this report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix A - Mallard Pass Solar Farm PEIR Review (July 2022) • Appendix B - Mallard Pass Solar Farm Peer Review of the Landscape and Visual PEIR 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	Chapter prepared by LDA Design (July 2022) • Appendix C - Peer Review of the Agricultural Land and Soils PEIR Chapter and Appendix prepared by LDA Design (July 2022)		
South Kesteven District Council	SKDC requests that the Environmental Statement submitting with any formal Development Consent Order (DCO) application for this proposal fully takes account of the concerns and recommendations raised in those reports.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Mallard Pass Solar Farm PEIR Review - Appendix A - prepared on behalf of Rutland County Council and South Kesteven District Council	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Structure of the Review Report 1.5 The structure of this review report is as follows: • Chapter 2 contains tables comprising the PEIR Review; and • Chapter 3 provides the conclusions.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Table 2.2: Advice Note 73 Compliance. • The Mallards Pass PEIR is not badged as a draft ES but has similar headings and a logical structure that aligns to an ES.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	• A PEIR has been provided.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Table 2.3: Technical Content of Topics within the PEIR	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Contents: • List of chapters included in the PEIR missing. Glossary / abbreviations / list of Figures and List of Appendices	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	<p>provided but chapter contents missing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A chapter list is provided in Chapter 1 		
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor comment but Proposed Development as a specific term is used from para 1.1.1 but not actually defined • Chapter clear and logical 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Mallard Pass Solar Farm Peer Review of the Landscape and Visual PEIR Chapter prepared by LDA Design - Prepared on behalf of Rutland County Council - Appendix B</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	<p>1.2 This Peer Review comprises a desktop review of the methodology, baseline analysis, illustrative material and visualisations, and judgements on the nature and significance of the potential effects that may arise as a result of the Proposed Development, alongside consideration of compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion. A field survey has not been conducted as part of this Peer Review.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Sensitivity 2.5 Sensitivity is described as a product of susceptibility and value. However, the manner in which this aspect is covered within Appendix 6.1 is slightly unclear.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	<p>2.6 Susceptibility is described on a three-point scale (High-Medium-Low) in Table 1 and applies to both landscape and visual receptors. The criteria within Table 1 is generic, albeit there is some brief explanation within the proceeding paragraphs.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
South Kesteven District Council	2.14 Significance is rated to a 'sliding scale', with intermediate ratings allowed. However, the methodology fails to provide criteria or a description/definition for each significance ranking. Based on Plate 2 it reads that there is a four-point scale of significance (Major-Moderate-Slight-Minimal).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Peer Review of the Agricultural Land and Soils PEIR Chapter and Appendix prepared by LDA Design - Appendix C	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Table 1: Technical Review of ALC Survey Report	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Mostly – all but six profiles. In the absence of further explanation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile 92 should be WC II not WC III; • Profile 131 should be WC I not WC II; • Profile 137 is not strictly gleyed until 65cm depth – WC could be II; • Profile 124 should be WC I not WC II; • Profile 135 should be WC I not WC II; • Profile 162 should be WC II not WC III (the SPL is <15cm thick) 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	4.2 The review in Table 2 follows the structure of Chapter 13 for ease of cross-referencing, with the main section headings shown in bold.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Table 2: Review of Chapter 13 Agricultural Land and Soils	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	No comments.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
South Kesteven District Council	Study area: No comments	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	Assumptions and Limitations: No comments	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	No substantive text on which to comment.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	As part of this Stage Two consultation, SKDC and Rutland County Council (RCC) have jointly engaged the professional services of Stantec to provide independent, expert advice on the PEIR, including more detailed advice on the Landscape and Visual and Agricultural Land Use chapters.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	The following reviews are appended in full to this report: Appendix A -Mallard Pass Solar Farm PEIR Review (July 2022); Appendix B -Mallard Pass Solar Farm Peer Review of the Landscape and Visual PEIR Chapter prepared by LDA Design (July2022); Appendix C -Peer Review of the Agricultural Land and Soils PEIR Chapter and Appendix prepared by LDA Design (July 2022).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	6.6The full reports are appended to this report and include: •Appendix A -Mallard Pass Solar Farm PEIR Review (July 2022) •Appendix B -Mallard Pass Solar Farm Peer Review of the Landscape and Visual PEIR Chapter prepared by LDA Design(July 2022) •Appendix C -Peer Review of the Agricultural Land and Soils PEIR Chapter and Appendix prepared by LDA Design(July 2022)	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	7.Recommendation 7.1That the Committee endorse the following draft response to Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd and delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to issue the final response.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	7.4Before any conclusions can be drawn on the balance of benefits and adverse effects that would arise from the proposed development, it is imperative that the evidence and technical reviews that underpin the various topics in the environmental statement are sufficiently robust to enable an accurate assessment of the significance of such effects. To assist with reviewing the information and supporting evidence presented through this consultation exercise, SKDC and Rutland County Council (RCC) have jointly engaged the professional services of Stantec to provide independent, expert advice on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), including more detailed advice on the Landscape and Visual and Agricultural Land Use chapters.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	7.5The following reviews are appended in full to this report: •Appendix A -Mallard Pass Solar Farm PEIR Review (July 2022) •Appendix B -Mallard Pass Solar Farm Peer Review of the Landscape and Visual PEIR Chapter prepared by LDA Design (July 2022)	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	•Appendix C -Peer Review of the Agricultural Land and Soils PEIR Chapter and Appendix prepared by LDA Design(July 2022)		
Rutland County Council	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) in relation to the proposed development at the above site.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	The review work undertaken is split into three different parts, the first part relates to the landscape and visual impact assessment, the second part is the agricultural land classification, and the third part is the remainder of the PEIR.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Mallard Pass Solar Farm PEIR Review - Appendix A - Prepared on behalf of Rutland County Council	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Structure of the Review Report 1.5 The structure of this review report is as follows: • Chapter 2 contains tables comprising the PEIR Review; and • Chapter 3 provides the conclusions.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Table 2.2: Advice Note 73 Compliance. • The Mallards Pass PEIR is not badged as a draft ES but has similar headings and a logical structure that aligns to an ES.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	• A PEIR has been provided.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Table 2.3: Technical Content of Topics within the PEIR	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Contents: • List of chapters included in the PEIR missing. Glossary / abbreviations / list of Figures and List of Appendices provided but chapter contents	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	missing. • A chapter list is provided in Chapter 1		
Rutland County Council	Introduction: • Minor comment but Proposed Development as a specific term is used from para 1.1.1 but not actually defined • Chapter clear and logical	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Mallard Pass Solar Farm Peer Review of the Landscape and Visual PEIR Chapter prepared by LDA Design - Prepared on behalf of Rutland County Council - Appendix B	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	1.2 This Peer Review comprises a desktop review of the methodology, baseline analysis, illustrative material and visualisations, and judgements on the nature and significance of the potential effects that may arise as a result of the Proposed Development, alongside consideration of compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion. A field survey has not been conducted as part of this Peer Review.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Sensitivity 2.5 Sensitivity is described as a product of susceptibility and value. However, the manner in which this aspect is covered within Appendix 6.1 is slightly unclear.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	2.6 Susceptibility is described on a three-point scale (High-Medium-Low) in Table 1 and applies to both landscape and visual receptors. The criteria within Table 1 is generic, albeit there is some brief explanation within the proceeding paragraphs.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
Rutland County Council	2.14 Significance is rated to a 'sliding scale', with intermediate ratings allowed. However, the methodology fails to provide criteria or a description/definition for each significance ranking. Based on Plate 2 it reads that there is a four-point scale of significance (Major-Moderate-Slight-Minimal).	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Peer Review of the Agricultural Land and Soils PEIR Chapter and Appendix prepared by LDA Design - Appendix C	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Table 1: Technical Review of ALC Survey Report	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Mostly – all but six profiles. In the absence of further explanation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile 92 should be WC II not WC III; • Profile 131 should be WC I not WC II; • Profile 137 is not strictly gleyed until 65cm depth – WC could be II; • Profile 124 should be WC I not WC II; • Profile 135 should be WC I not WC II; • Profile 162 should be WC II not WC III (the SPL is <15cm thick) 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	4.2 The review in Table 2 follows the structure of Chapter 13 for ease of cross-referencing, with the main section headings shown in bold.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Table 2: Review of Chapter 13 Agricultural Land and Soils	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	No comments.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
Rutland County Council	Study area: No comments	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	Assumptions and Limitations: No comments	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	No substantive text on which to comment.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	Thank you for your letter dated 23rdMay 2022 inviting the Council's comments in respect of the above proposal. Lincolnshire County Council(LCC)have reviewed the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)and this response sets out our comments in response to the statutory consultation held between 26 May 2022and 4thAugust pursuant to Section 42 (1) (b) of the 2008 Planning Act.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	At this stage the following comments are offered in connection with the topics/chapters identified within the PEIR.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Lincolnshire County Council	Further comments will be provided as the project continues and the Environmental Statement is completed.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Health and Safety Executive	Given that there is relatively little change and the document reviewed does not give any further detail the previous advise remains valid but the above issues have been highlighted for your information.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Natural England	We have reviewed the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and supporting documents, and have provided comments on the areas relevant to our remit based on this information. We have reviewed only those chapters that we consider to be most relevant to our statutory purpose. Therefore, our response is based on	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	<p>the following chapters of the PEIR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5: Project Description • Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual • Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity • Chapter 11: Air Quality • Chapter 13: Agricultural Land Use • Chapter 19: Cumulative Effects 		
Essendine Parish Council	Dear Sirs, please find below my opposition feedback on your proposal to construct a 2000 plus acre industrial solar farm on agricultural land surrounding the village of Essendine and villages local to Essendine in Rutland.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Essendine Parish Council	I oppose the installation of a Solar Farm on agricultural land in the Parish of Essendine and surrounding Parishes on the following grounds.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Great Casterton Parish Council	These proposals have been reviewed by Great Casterton Parish Council; their conclusions are below.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Carlby Parish Council	I went along to the Mallard Pass Solar farm FIRST public consultation event at Essendine.....I left feeling sad and angry !	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Carlby Parish Council	I do not want this overly large Solar Plant on our doorstep causing...	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	We write on behalf of the majority of residents living in this Parish who accept the need for alternatives to fossil fuels but object to this proposal, as it is such a huge development covering over 2000 acres, for the following reasons.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	I have no doubt you will have received many thousands of letters objecting to the proposed Mallard Pass Solar farm.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	I hope you read them all, including this one, to get clear understanding of the situation.		
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	... all makes this scheme completely unacceptable and unjustifiable.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Careby with Aunby and Holywell	There is one prime beneficiary in this. Corporate profit. That is not sufficient to justify the impact this scheme will have. We should be better than this given our increasing understanding of nature, its importance to our lives, and our continued negative impacts on it.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Greatford Parish Council	Greatford Parish Council strongly objects to the Proposed Development of Mallard Pass Solar Farm for the following reasons which directly affect our Parish and its residents.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	To be clear, Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Parish Council on behalf of the Parishioners strongly oppose the construction of Mallard Pass Solar Farm for the following reasons;	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Parish Council	In conclusion, the above are the concerns of the Parishioners of Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Parish and the Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Parish Council. This Parish is totally opposed to the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Development.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Stamford Town Council	Re. Proposal by Canadian Solar and Windel Energy for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, Stage 2 response (in red) Following an initial series of webinars and public presentations given by agents for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm proposal, Stamford Town Council (with particular assistance from Climate Change consultant Mr Simon Battey) would like to respond with the following observations and recommendations:	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
Stamford Town Council	To summarise, the Mallard Pass proposal:	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Environment Agency	With reference to your letter dated 18 May 2022 which I have attached above for ease of reference, together with plans to confirm the areas of land that are registered to the EA at the locations in question.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	As you will see the triangular shaped area of land South of Essendine, corresponds with the area shaded pink on the plan attached to your letter.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	Should you need any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency regarding the above project. We have reviewed the Main Consultation Document and Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), both dated May 2022, in relation to topics within our remit. We have the following comments.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Environment Agency	Further advice from the Environment Agency If you wish to obtain further, detailed, advice regarding issues that fall within our remit, we will be able to provide this under our discretionary planning advice service. Further details on this service are available on our website, together with the terms and conditions of the service. Under this service our costs have to be recovered and we currently charge £100 per hour, per officer, plus VAT.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
Environment Agency	Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
National Highways	Thank you for providing National Highways with the opportunity to comment on the pre-application consultation for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
UK Health Security Agency	Thank you for your consultation regarding the above development. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on your proposals and Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) at this stage of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Please note that we request views from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the response provided is sent on behalf of both UKHSA and OHID.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
UK Health Security Agency	Please note that we have replied to earlier consultations as listed below and this response should be read in conjunction with that earlier correspondence: Request for Scoping Opinion 07/03/2022	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
The Coal Authority	Thank you for your notification received on the 25th May 2022 in respect of the above consultation. The Solar Farm project falls outside of the defined coalfield area and on this basis the Coal Authority have no specific comments to make.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Canal & River Trust	Thank you for your email below and notification of the Trust with regards to the development of the Nationally	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) on land north of Stamford, Lincolnshire.		
Anglian Water	Please feel free to contact me if you need any other information.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Energy Assets Pipelines	Energy Asset Pipelines does not appear to have any assets in the postcode around this site. Please visit Linesearch for our full asset register in the area.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
National Grid Gas	You should also be aware of NGG's guidance for working in proximity to its assets, further guidance and links are available as follows. Please be aware of the specific guidance for developing solar farms near to gas transmission pipelines: https://www.nationalgrid.com/gas-transmission/document/82936/download	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant has entered into discussions with National Grid Gas and is awaiting their template protective provisions in order to commence negotiations.
Humber Gateway OFTO Limited	I represent the Humber Gateway OFTO Limited. I have received the attached consultation notification relating to the Mallard Pass Solar Farm. I am not certain why this notification has been sent to the OFTO, from the map it appears that the proposed solar farm is several miles from the OFTO's assets?	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Vodafone Limited (National Plant Enquiries)	Please can you resubmit this and all future requests to include: - the site location address (including postcode if possible) within the subject heading, - send separate emails for each separate site location,	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	<p>- 12-digit grid references within the body of the email, - a site location plan. If you sent attachments in your original email then you will need to attach them again. Please re-send to osm.enquiries@atkinglobal.com</p>		
Vodafone Limited (National Plant Enquiries)	<p>I am now in receipt of your letter sent into Vodafone. I work for the Fibre Services Team within Vodafone I will be the point of contact going forward for Fibre Services so please feel free to reach out to me as and when necessary.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
North Northamptonshire Council	<p>Our planning team has forwarded on your application to me in regards to the above site. The reason I am emailing you is to request the grid co-ordinates (also known as eastings and northings) of the site in order to be able to register the site on our systems so our planning team can respond to your consultation. Any questions, please ask.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
North Northamptonshire Council	<p>Thank you for your consultation on the above matter which was received on 21 June 2022 and has been allocated the Reference No. NE/22/00832/EXT. Please also accept this as confirmation of your payment of £</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
North Northamptonshire Council	<p>I will endeavour to let you have this Council's response within the allocated time period but should , however, further information be</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	<p>required please make direct contact with the Case Officer, Patrick Reid on Direct Line No. 742054. Please quote the above Reference No. in any communication with this office about this matter.</p>		
North Northamptonshire Council	<p>We strongly encourage you keep up to date with this application, and any comments received by viewing it at www.eastnorthamptonshire.gov.uk/viewplanningapplications</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
North Northamptonshire Council	<p>Please note that North Northamptonshire Council prefers to receive all communication electronically.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
North Northamptonshire Council	<p>Please be advised that due to the high volume of applications being received, there will likely be delays in reaching a decision. If your application is affected the case officer will be in touch to advise further and/or seek an extension of time beyond current decision making targets, as necessary. Please check the webpage for updates; we will get to your case as soon as we can. Officers do not have the capacity to provide detailed updates on individual cases.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
North Northamptonshire Council	<p>Contact with the case officer should preferably be by email, noting the Council's target response time of 5 working days. Applicants/agents are</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	<p>expected to track the progress of their case on the Council's website at https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-andcomment-application - where documents and comments received will be available to view.</p> <p>For more information on how we process applications please read our Development Management Charter at https://www.eastnorthamptonshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/3934/development_control_charter</p> <p>For details of how we treat your data, please see our Privacy Statement: www.northnorthants.gov.uk/privacynotices</p>		
North Northamptonshire Council	<p>On behalf of North Northamptonshire Council, please accept these comments to the ongoing consultation on the proposed solar farm near Essendine.</p> <p>'The proposed development is not considered to impact visually or otherwise have a material impact on other considerations of the authority area of North Northamptonshire due to the physical separation, being roughly three miles or so at the nearest point. North Northamptonshire therefore has no comments to make on the application.'</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
North Kesteven District	Thank you for your enquiry regarding the above which has been passed to an Officer to be dealt with. It is receiving attention and a further communication will be sent.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	<p>Please note this is a free Pre-Application service which is intended to only provide a simple response as to whether an application for planning permission is required for the proposed development and an indication of the relevant material planning considerations in the assessment of an application. This free Pre-Application service is not intended to provide a without prejudice view on the merits of the development or whether an application for such would be likely to receive officer support. Should you require a detailed response on these matters, we do offer a paid pre-application advice service, details of which can be found at https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building/planning/pre-application-advice/</p>		
Newark and Sherwood District	<p>We have checked the information submitted and can confirm that the application is valid and has been registered with a target date of 22 June 2022 by which we aim to make a decision.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Newark and Sherwood District	<p>In accordance with guidance regarding application submission, the description of the proposal should explain the works accurately and concisely. We may therefore have amended your description of the proposal (see above). If you disagree with the amendments please contact a member of our planning team by telephone or email as soon as practicable.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Newark and Sherwood District	<p>Details of the case officer will be confirmed on the website within 48 hours of the date of this letter.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	Furthermore, you can also track the progress of your application and view comments online at www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/planningapplications/ . Please note, only those neighbour comments relating to applications submitted on or after 1st January 2019 are available online to view.		
Newark and Sherwood District	If telephoning the case officer about progress, please allow at least 21 days from the date of validation to allow for any consultation and neighbour comments to be received.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Newark and Sherwood District	You are advised that whilst the information provided is sufficient to allow validation of the planning application, in considering the application the Council will need to consider any constraints on the site and how such constraints are to be addressed in order to ensure the proposed development can be implemented in an acceptable manner. For example these constraints may relate to (but are not necessary limited to) drainage, contamination, trees and archaeology within the site. In some cases these issues require work to be undertaken before any building work is carried out. In such cases it may be necessary to attach pre-commencement conditions to ensure these matters are appropriately addressed. You are advised to consider whether there is any further information that might assist in addressing such constraints on the application. The Council is committed to making decisions in a timely manner and where permission is to	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	be granted but there remain matters that cannot be addressed during the application process, a pre-commencement condition may assist in issuing decisions earlier. In such circumstances the case officer will contact you to agree the terms of any pre-commencement conditions.		
Newark and Sherwood District	If we are not able to make a decision before the target date, you can make an appeal against the non-determination of your application.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Newark and Sherwood District	You can also make an appeal after the target date if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · you have not been told your application is invalid (incomplete) or you disagree that it is valid · you have not been told your fee cheque has been dishonoured; or · you have not been given a decision in writing. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Newark and Sherwood District	To make your appeal phone the Planning Inspectorate on 0117 3726372, go online at www.planningportal.gov.uk/appeal or write to The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/15A, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN. In the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, if the application refers to a 'householder application', any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Newark and Sherwood District	Covid19 Outbreak Due to Covid 19 and in line with our approved safe	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	<p>systems of work, we have reviewed when it is necessary for a case officer to undertake a site visit. Not all applications will require a site visit as we may have sufficient knowledge or can access information on our systems to allow us to properly consider the proposal. If a site visit is necessary (risk assessed on a case by case basis), the case officer will contact the owner/occupier prior to any visit. It is important to note, the case officer is unable to meet with the applicant/agent/owner during their visit and if approached, may leave the site immediately (please note, this may delay our decision). Furthermore, if a member of the household presents symptoms or is self-isolating, please let us know as a matter of urgency either by telephone or email (details above). Physical samples of materials for applications should not be submitted to the Council. Photographs, brochures/weblinks and detailed product specifications should provide sufficient detail for assessment by officers. If an actual sample is needed, your case officer will contact you to arrange how they wish to view it.</p>		
Newark and Sherwood District	<p>Data protection and privacy: We are committed to protecting your personal data and privacy. The personal information you provide will only be used by Newark and Sherwood District Council, the Data Controller, in accordance with UK General Data Protection Regulation</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
	<p>(UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and used for the purposes of determining the application. Please see our website for further information regarding our privacy notice. If you require any further information regarding the above notification, please telephone our Customer Services Team on 01636 650000 quoting application number 22/01037/NPA.</p>		
Newark and Sherwood District	<p>Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended), Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and Regulations 11 and 13 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017(the EIA Regulations).</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Newark and Sherwood District	<p>I can advise that Newark & Sherwood District Council have no comments to make on the Consultation documents listed on mallardpasssolar.co.uk/documents; including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) dated May 2022 given its located away from the boundary of our district.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Newark and Sherwood District	<p>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.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Newark and Sherwood District	<p>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 01636 655860.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
North East Lincolnshire Council	We do not wish to make any comments.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Gareth Davies MP for Grantham and Stamford	I am writing to you in order to express my significant concerns, and those of many of my constituents, about the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm development as part of your Stage Two Statutory Consultation.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Gareth Davies MP for Grantham and Stamford	My main issues with your proposal are as follows:	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Gareth Davies MP for Grantham and Stamford	I hope this letter has helped to highlight some of the key worries that exist in my constituency about your proposal.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>I have received many letters of concern and signatures from residents on my petition against this development.</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
No Comment			
			have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	The proposal to construct the 2,238-acre Mallard Pass solar plant on the border of East Rutland and Lincolnshire by Canadian Solar and Windel Energy ought to be rejected for the reasons set out above.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Consultation and Engagement			
South Kesteven District Council	As such, South Kesteven District Council wishes to place on record its formal holding objection, until such time as the above issues have been addressed. In the event that the applicant elects to submit further evidence / amended details to overcome the above concerns, South Kesteven District Council would request to be formally consulted on any additional information to allow it to review the extent to which it sufficiently addresses the issues raised.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	South Kesteven District Council wishes to continue to engage proactively with the applicant in addressing these concerns and shaping the proposed development up to the point of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application being made.	No	The Applicant has formally consulted with Local Planning Authorities throughout both Non-Statutory and Statutory consultation. Early, additional, and ongoing engagement has taken place with Local Planning Authorities. Please see Section 4 and Section 13 of this Consultation Report.
South Kesteven District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is clear within the PEIR that the information is preliminary and the applicant is seeking consultee comments. It is also clear in the report that the design of the development will take any comments received into account. 	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. All feedback received has formed part of the DCO Application for the Proposed Development. In this DCO, the Applicant has produced this Consultation Report that details the feedback and consultation responses we have received, and provided responses to feedback, detailing how the Applicant has considered it and the way in which it has influenced the Proposed

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Consultation and Engagement			
			<p>Development. It is guaranteed that all feedback received to our consultation is recorded and responded to in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5</p> <p>The Applicant has carefully considered and has had regard to all of the feedback received during the consultation periods. This includes any questions and comments submitted to us via feedback forms, emails, or letters.</p>
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Next Steps • Minor point - a summary is included here and in the preceding chapter</p> <p>• Perhaps would have been helpful to include consultation contact details</p>	No	Contact details for the Proposed Development contact lines were included in the notification sent to S42 stakeholders with links to consultation materials (available in Appendix 3)
South Kesteven District Council	<p>4.0 REVIEW OF ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIAL AND VISUALISATIONS</p> <p>Illustrative Material</p> <p>4.1 A series of Figures are provided at A3 and generally are of very good quality and presentation.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council	In all cases, the site boundaries are not shown on the extract maps, despite the supporting text, and so it is not easy to immediately follow the findings in the text.	No	The notification email sent to S42 stakeholders (see Appendix 3) included a plan of the Proposed Development that included the site boundary. Links were also provided to consultation documents, including the PEIR that includes maps with the site boundary included (Figure 1.1)

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Consultation and Engagement			
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	As such, South Kesteven District Council wishes to place on record its formal holding objection, until such time as the above issues have been addressed. In the event that the applicant elects to submit further evidence / amended details to overcome the above concerns, South Kesteven District Council would request to be formally consulted on any additional information to allow it to review the extent to which it sufficiently addresses the issues raised.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	7.7 As such, South Kesteven District Council wishes to place on record its formal holding objection, until such time as the above issues have been addressed. In the event that the applicant elects to submit further evidence / amended details to overcome the above concerns, South Kesteven District Council would request to be formally consulted on any additional information to allow it to review the extent to which it sufficiently addresses the issues raised.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	7.8 South Kesteven District Council wishes to continue to engage proactively with the applicant in addressing these concerns and shaping the proposed development up to the point of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application being made.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	• It is clear within the PEIR that the information is preliminary and the applicant is seeking consultee comments. It is also clear in the report that the	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Consultation and Engagement			
	design of the development will take any comments received into account.		
Rutland County Council	Next Steps • Minor point - a summary is included here and in the preceding chapter • Perhaps would have been helpful to include consultation contact details	No	Contact details for the Proposed Development contact lines were included in the S42 notification sent to S42 stakeholders (see Appendix 3).
Rutland County Council	4.0 REVIEW OF ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIAL AND VISUALISATIONS Illustrative Material 4.1 A series of Figures are provided at A3 and generally are of very good quality and presentation.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Rutland County Council	In all cases, the site boundaries are not shown on the extract maps, despite the supporting text, and so it is not easy to immediately follow the findings in the text.	No	The notification email sent to S42 stakeholders (see Appendix 3) included a plan of the Proposed Development that included the site boundary. Links were also provided to consultation documents, including the PEIR that includes maps with the site boundary included (Figure 1.1)
Rythall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council	Stage One consultation for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm was very poor in the information provided, the plans contained very little visual clarity and the team who were available to be consulted on these matters were unable to supply even the basic answers. Which left many residents who both attended the consultation meetings and from reading the literature supplied confused and in many cases angry, being unable to gauge what	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. As set out in Chapter 8 of this Report, the Applicant made publicly available all statutory consultation materials in a highly accessible PDF format on the project dedicated website for any interested parties to read, print, and download. This included (seen in Appendix 9): • Community Consultation Leaflet

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Consultation and Engagement			
	<p>impact it would have on them and the lives of their family.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Consultation Document • Feedback Form (in addition to the online feedback form via the digital engagement platform) • Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR); • Preliminary Environmental Information Report Non-Technical Summary (PEIR NTS); • Draft Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Employment Plan (OESSCEP) • Selection of Maps showing key PEIR Plans and Figures • Indicative cross-sections showing illustrations of the Proposed Development from worm's-eye view • Photomontages showing visualisations of the Proposed Development from various viewpoints • Consultation event display boards • Poster advertising Stage Two Section 47 consultation events • Statement of Community Consultation (copies to take away) (shown in Appendix 6); • Section 47 Notice (shown in Appendix 6);

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Consultation and Engagement			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 48 Notice (shown in Appendix 8.2); • List of Community Groups and Seldom Heard Groups (shown in Appendix 9). <p>Members of the public were also able to request printed materials and USB sticks containing any of the statutory consultation materials listed above. Please see Section 8 of this Report for more details on stakeholder requests of materials and USB sticks.</p>
Ryhall & Belmesthorpe Parish Council	<p>Stage Two offered very little to allay those concerns. Like the first stage, plans were poor with key reference points (for residents) being deliberately ‘clouded’ or obstructed with text. No clear photographic viewpoints were supplied and computer enhanced imagery was not used to give a residents perspective of what they, their family or friends would be able to see when out walking in the areas of the proposed solar arrays. The plans showed field areas which did not exist at that scale, and from local knowledge, are known to contain more than just one field, but a number with many more hedgerows than were evident from the plans supplied.</p>		<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. On the Proposed Development website, as outlined in Chapter 8 of this Report, visualisations, photomontages, and indicative cross sections were made available for the public to view as part of this statutory consultation.</p> <p>In addition, the landing page of the project dedicated website included an interactive map, which showed the Stage Two Proposed Development boundaries. This map tool, shown in Figure 8, allowed stakeholders to pan around the map and search for their desired location.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Consultation and Engagement			
			<p>At public exhibition events, the following Proposed Development information was available on display and/or for attendees to take home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of Maps showing key PEIR Plans and Figures (certain copies to take away) • Indicative cross-sections showing illustrations of the Proposed Development from worm's-eye view • Photomontages showing visualisations of the Proposed Development from various viewpoints <p>Following the first public exhibition event at Essendine Village Hall, the Applicant printed more maps for attendees to take home as attendees noted the importance of having printed maps and visualisations available to take away with them.</p>
Carlby Parish Council	After the extremely poor and somewhat misleading first non-statutory consultation event before Christmas at Ryhall Village Hall this time round as it was the a Statutory Public Consultation Event so I hoped for transparency, full disclosure and someone there to professionally address my concerns with straight talking information and true compassion for the damage this project will do to the area rather than just ecological mitigation	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Consultation and Engagement			
	spin.....to say I was disappointed is an understatement.		
Carlby Parish Council	There was nothing in the small posters/blurb to show	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Carlby Parish Council	Come on Mallard Pass you need to be transparent, visible, responsible and accountable!	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Carlby Parish Council	If these were Statutory Public Consultation events to openly advise, inform and truly help the local residents who will be so very affected by your proposals to fully understand the project then.... I think you failed!	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	Public Engagement I have been extremely disappointed with the lack of meaningful public engagement from the developers. After receiving many complaints that the first consultation was inadequate, I organised a meeting on the 7th April 2022 for the developers to meet residents and answer their questions. After agreeing to attend, the developers pulled out a week before the event. The reason given to me was that there was no new information on the proposal for them to communicate to the community.	No	Alicia Kearns MP Office made a request for a public meeting on 11 February 2022. This was arranged for 07 April 2022. The Applicant sent a letter to Alicia Kearns' Office to postpone the public meeting on 29 March 2022. A letter was also published to the project's dedicated website shown in Appendix 7.
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	I later received emails from constituents that representatives from Windel Energy had used a public consultation event at Ryhall to tell residents that they had not attended due to my chairing of the meeting. I was also informed that these representatives were using the consultation events		The Applicant sent a follow up email to Alicia Kearns MP office on 06 April 2022. The Applicant sent a second follow up email on 11 May 2022 to renew commitment to rearrange public meeting. A meeting took place at Alicia Kearns MP's office on 19 October to discuss

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Consultation and Engagement			
	<p>to tell residents I only opposed the development for my own political gain. The consultation events should be for the developers to provide detail on their proposals and answer questions concerned residents may have. I consider it wholly inappropriate and representative of the overall pattern of public engagement by the developers that they misled me on why they dropped out of the public meeting and questioned my motives in opposing the development and representing the views of my constituents.</p>		<p>concerns with representatives of MPSF Limited.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	<p>When I attended a public consultation event in Ryhall on the 1st July 2022, the aforementioned individual admitted questioning my motives in opposing Mallard Pass and agreed to meet with me in Parliament to discuss my concerns over Canadian Solar's supply chains. Despite numerous attempts by my office to organise this meeting it has not been forthcoming. Given the scale of this development and the impact it would have on the</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. Alicia Kearns MP Office made a request for a public meeting on 11 February 2022. This was arranged for 07 April 2022. The Applicant sent a letter to Alicia Kearns' Office to postpone the public meeting on 29 March 2022. A letter also published to the project's</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Consultation and Engagement			
	<p>communities affected, I am deeply disappointed at the unwillingness of the developers to engage in good faith with me and the wider public.</p>		<p>dedicated website shown in Appendix 7.</p> <p>The Applicant sent a follow up email on 06 April 2022. The Applicant sent a second follow up email on 11 May 2022 to renew commitment to rearrange public meeting.</p> <p>A meeting took place at Alicia Kearns MP's office on 19 October to discuss concerns with representatives of MPSF Limited.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP's Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Consultation and Engagement			
			other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.
Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton	The poor quality of the consultation carried out by the developers and their lack of positive engagement with both myself and the community has led to an irreconcilable breakdown of trust. There are several areas of concern where answers are urgently needed but have so far only met with deflection and avoidance.	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The Applicant made publicly available all information about the Proposed Development and endeavoured to respond to all stakeholder enquiries as rigorously as possible. However, the Applicant was unable to respond to a number of stakeholder enquiries during the Section 47 statutory consultation due to the level of information that was currently available at that point in time, which was not yet sufficient to provide full answers to all questions received. All comments and questions received during public consultations on the Proposed Development are recorded and responded to in Appendix 4 of this Report.</p> <p>In addition, the Applicant continued to engage with the community and respond to enquiries beyond these consultation periods up until the point of DCO Application submission. This ongoing</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Consultation and Engagement			
			<p>consultation is outlined in Chapter 7 of this Consultation Report.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to the points raised in Alicia Kearns MP’s Stage Two statutory consultation response in a meeting held on 19 October 2022 at the House of Commons, attended by representatives of MPSF Ltd and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alicia Kearns, MP • Harry Warren, Office of Alicia Kearns, MP • A representative from the Office of Gareth Davies MP <p>The planning matters raised in the Stage Two statutory consultation response from Alicia Kearns MP have been raised by other consultees and addressed in the Consultation Report and other application documents.</p>
Stamford Town Council Planning Committee	Despite the comprehensive work done by the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), it is still impossible to determine what the overall effects of this PD (Proposed Development) will have on the wildlife during the construction and operational stages of the Solar PV Farm. The PEIR states that additional surveys need to be carried	Yes	Please see Chapter 7 of the ES: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010127/APP/6.1] for the Applicant’s approach to ecology and wildlife.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Consultation and Engagement			
	out in April-May 2022 so have these been carried out?		

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Other Environmental Topics			
South Kesteven District Council	<p>Glint and Glare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix needs to be read to understand the chapter, ideally an appendix should just be supporting information that the reader can opt to read but not have to read in order to understand the assessment No other comments - approach to assessment in accordance with best practice 	No	For more information regarding Glint and Glare, please see Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1].
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	<p>5.14 Aircraft Movements and Associated Activities</p> <p>5.14.1 Criterion 8 of the Renewable Energy Appendix requires solar farm proposals to demonstrate that the design and positioning of proposed solar installations have been carefully considered to avoid the potential nuisance of glint and glare to aircraft movements.</p>	No	<p>In regard to assessment of potential effects on aviation specifically, no solar reflections are geometrically possible towards the ATC Tower or either of the 2-mile approach paths for runway 07/25 at RAF Wittering. Therefore, RAF Wittering (Medium Sensitivity) would be subject to an impact of Negligible Magnitude which would result in a Negligible Adverse Significance of Effect which is Not Significant.</p> <p>Any effects experienced at Shacklewell Airfield, Castle Bytham Airfield and RAF Cottesmore are predicted to be acceptable in accordance with the associated guidance and industry best practice. Therefore, Shacklewell Airfield, Castle Bytham Airfield and RAF Cottesmore (Medium Sensitivity) would be subject to an impact of Low Magnitude which would result in a Minor</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Other Environmental Topics			
			Adverse Significance of Effect which is Not Significant. For more information, please see Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics of the ES and [EN010127/APP/6.1] Section 15.4 regarding Glint and Glare.
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	• Glint and Glare	No	The Applicant notes this comment.
Rutland County Council	Glint and Glare • Appendix needs to be read to understand the chapter, ideally an appendix should just be supporting information that the reader can opt to read but not have to read in order to understand the assessment • No other comments - approach to assessment in accordance with best practice	No	For more information, please see Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics of the ES (Glint and Glare) [EN010127/APP/6.1]
South Kesteven District Council Planning Committee	5.11 Access & Highways Infrastructure 5.11.1 Local Plan Policy ID2 (Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure) identifies that the Council will support and promote an efficient and safe transport network, which offers a range of transport choices for the movement of people and goods, reduces the need to travel by car, and encourages the use of alternatives, such as walking, cycling or public transport. The policy requires development proposals to not result in any unacceptable highway safety impacts or result in severe cumulative impacts on the highway network. Proposed schemes should also include	No	Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur. There will be restrictions placed on the delivery windows for HGVs, with no

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Other Environmental Topics			
	<p>appropriate provision for vehicle, two-wheeler and cycle parking.</p> <p>5.11.2 Furthermore, Criterion 6 of the Renewable Energy Appendix requires proposals for solar farms to consider and incorporate, as appropriate, the following matters: •The design and positioning of active solar technology should be carefully considered to avoid the potential nuisance of glint and glare onto high-speed roads. Where vegetation is proposed as a form of mitigation against glint and glare, species which will provide effective screening all year round are preferable.</p> <p>•A construction statement should be prepared by the developer which forecasts the vehicle trips that are likely to be generated during construction and the routes which are likely to be used. The LPA may require further detailed information, such as a Traffic Management Plan, if necessary.</p>		<p>deliveries allowed to take place during School start and pick times. The restrictions on HGVs delivery hours will be secured by way of Requirement on the DCO application, through the CTMP. With respect to the impact on the Strategic Road Network, it has been agreed with National Highways that the impact of the Proposed Development falls below the threshold for assessment to be required, which is identified as 30 two-way vehicle trips during the AM or PM peak hour. As there will be no impact on the peak hours, it has been agreed with National Highways that no assessment of the Strategic Road Network is required.</p> <p>Embedded mitigation relevant for glint and glare effects will be implemented through the oLEMP. For example, hedgerow and tree planting on either side of PRowS. For more information, please see Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics of the ES (Glint and Glare). Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Other Environmental Topics			
			roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. For more information, please see Chapter 9: Highways and Access, of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] .
Network Rail	Key concerns will be how the scheme impacts on the railway operations in terms of glint and glare issues causing distraction for train drivers approaching and passing the site, how any issues of this nature that may arise are to be mitigated, the management of construction works around the operational railway and details such as boundary treatments, any lighting and drainage schemes that may impact on the operational railway.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. Impacts upon railway infrastructure have been assessed within the ES Chapter 15, Other Environmental Topics [EN010127/APP/6.1] and mitigation in the form of screening has been proposed by the Applicant. The Applicant notes that the embedded mitigation relevant for glint and glare effects will be implemented through the oLEMP. For example, hedgerow and tree planting on either side of PRowS. For more information, please see Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics of the ES (Glint and Glare). The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.
Network Rail	In order to ensure that the scheme does not impact on operational railway safety, the developer must liaise closely with Network Rail Asset Protection to ensure that the haulage routes into the site are appropriate, and the design and construction of the new facility and associated infrastructure will not	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment. . For more information, please see Chapter 9: Access and Highways of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1] . Impacts upon railway infrastructure have been assessed within the ES Chapter 15,

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Other Environmental Topics			
	<p>have an adverse impact on railway operations (including glint and glare and level crossing issues as outlined above). It is therefore assumed that a condition of the Order would be that detailed specifications of the proposed scheme, Glint and Glare assessments and mitigations and traffic management plans are to be provided and agreed in writing before development can commence.</p>		<p>Other Environmental Topics [EN010127/APP/6.1], and mitigation in the form of screening has been proposed by the Applicant.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the embedded mitigation relevant for glint and glare effects will be implemented through the oLEMP. For example, hedgerow and tree planting on either side of PRowS. For more information, please see Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics of the ES (Glint and Glare).</p> <p>The protective provisions are currently being negotiated between the parties.</p>
<p>Stamford Town Council Planning Committee</p>	<p>An increased risk of transport accidents during both the constructional and operational stages. Glint and glare from the panels can affect animals, car and train drivers and dwellings, but according to the PEIR the effects from this is 'medium'.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>A glint and glare assessment (Appendix 15.3 of the ES) [EN010127/APP/6.2] of the operational and construction phase has been prepared to assess the possible effects upon road users, residential amenity, aviation activity, and railway operations and infrastructure. The assessment concludes that with a combination of existing and proposed existing screening, the Proposed Development is not predicted to have significant glint and glare impacts on surrounding aviation activity, road users, or railway operations and infrastructure.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Other Environmental Topics			
			<p>The potential additional screening location area is shown in the Glint and Glare Assessment [EN010127/APP/6.2] and secured in the oLEMP [EN010127/APP/7.9].</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the construction phase of the Proposed Development is likely to have adverse, local, temporary, and medium-term impacts on Accidents and Safety.</p> <p>A review of the accidents occurring over the most recent three-year period has been undertaken to identify existing accident clusters across the construction routes to the Order limits. A cluster is considered to be identified where more than five accidents have occurred over a three-year period within close proximity of the Order limits. The review highlights that none of the junctions or links located along the local road network within proximity of the Proposed Development had more than five accidents within the three-year period.</p> <p>Construction traffic would only access the Solar PV Site via the proposed construction traffic routes and access points pursuant to the oCTMP and will consequently avoid using inappropriate</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Other Environmental Topics			
			<p>roads or other parts of so the network that have identified constraints, where possible. It is also acknowledged that construction and HGV operator staff will also be appropriately trained to minimise the propensity for accidents to occur. On that basis, and using professional judgement, it is considered that the construction phase of the Proposed Development would have a non-significant effect on Accidents and Safety.</p> <p>As outlined in this section, the embedded mitigation relevant for glint and glare effects will be implemented through the oLEMP. For example, hedgerow and tree planting on either side of PRoWs. For more information, please see Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics of the ES (Glint and Glare).</p>

**5.3 TABLE 5-2 APPLICANT RESPONSE IN REGARD TO SECTION 42
(LANDOWNER SECTION 44) COMMENTS**

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
Partner D Genever Farm Partnership.	We have been asked to contribute our thoughts regarding the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm. As an agricultural business we farm land very close to and in one instance completely surrounded by the proposed development. We are therefore responding as a 'Category 3' party.	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
	The land we farm is fairly dispersed and lies between Uffington and Castle Bytham a distance of approximately 14 miles from one end to the other. The country lane that we use to access our land runs through the middle of Mallard Pass for a distance of approximately 6 miles. During the construction phase the increased traffic will undoubtedly cause us delays when moving between fields with large agricultural machinery.	No	<p>The traffic impacts are outlined in Chapter 9: Highways and Access of the ES [EN010127/APP/6.1] and noise impacts from construction traffic are assessed in Chapter 10: Noise [EN010127/APP/6.1]</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the primary traffic impacts associated with the Proposed Development will be linked to the construction phase. The measures to mitigate the traffic impacts of construction are outlined within the supporting Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).</p> <p>In relation to traffic generation, the working hour for the Proposed Development will be in 12-hour shifts each day, with employees travelling to and from the Order limits an hour either side of these times (i.e., between 06:00 and 07:00, and 19:00 and 20:00). Where onsite works are to be conducted outside the core working hours, they will comply with the</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
			<p>restrictions pursuant to the consenting process.</p> <p>Therefore, it was agreed with Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council and National Highways that no localised capacity assessments needed to be undertaken, as the impact of the Proposed Development fell below the threshold of 30 two-way vehicle movements during the morning (08:00-09:00) and evening (17:00-18:00) peak hour – as there is to be no impact during the identified peak hours</p> <p>Whilst the uplift in daily traffic flows may result in more delay than at present, it is not considered that this will be significant due to the restrictions in the timings for construction vehicles and the arrangements for staff who will arrive and depart outside of the peak hours set out in the oCTMP.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that there will be no traffic impact on the morning and evening peak hours when the local road network is generally the most congested.</p>
	<p>The area in which Mallard Pass is planned currently suffers from several large wild deer herds. The</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Perimeter fencing and CCTV systems around the solar array will comprise of wooden posts and wire mesh fencing. Perimeter fences will</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
	<p>tall fencing which will surround the park will obstruct the free movement of the deer and they will find themselves trapped in pockets of land and corners of fields. This will lead to increased grazing and trampling damage in these areas. Assuming the Mallard Pass fences are successful at keeping the deer out of the solar farm there will be less land available for them to graze and therefore non solar farm land will be grazed more intensively with the associated crop losses. Once the deer have made it onto the public roads their easy escape route through hedges and into fields will be restricted by the fencing resulting in confused deer running along the road trying to escape on coming vehicles with the associated safety issues.</p>		<p>not be constructed through existing hedgerows or across ditches. There will also be clearances above ground, or the inclusion of mammal gates to permit the movement of wildlife.</p> <p>For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
	<p>We own the Ryhall Heath SSSI at Vale Farm. Have there been any studies on the effect of the solar farm on the insect population at this important environmental site?? Will the reflection from the panels surrounding the SSSI have a negative effect on this fragile eco system??</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. Areas of Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI have been removed from the Order limits in order to avoid direct impacts as cabling routing or site access works are no longer being considered in this location. Areas of the SSSI that remain within the Order limits are for vegetation management only. In addition, sections of the A6121 and Ryhall Road have been removed from the Order</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
			<p>Limits, avoiding direct impacts on the Tolethorpe Verges SSSI as it has been agreed with the Local Highway Authority that localised road improvements are not required to facilitate the movement of construction vehicles, with the exception of the A6121/B1176 and the Ryhall Road/Old Great North Road Junction.</p> <p>The relevant assessment of the impact and mitigation measures proposed is detailed within Section 6.5 of the ES (LVIA assessment).</p>
	<p>In farming terms we are a relatively young business with a youthful workforce. The next generation are keen to continue the growth of the business and see it flourish in the future. To grow an arable farming business requires more acres of land to be farmed. Previously we have managed this by purchasing pockets of land when they have come up for sale or by renting under 'Farm Business Tenancies.' Mallard Pass will put a huge bias in the local land market in favour of those landowners / farmers who have chosen to have their land included in the scheme. They will be receiving large returns for the land involved in the project. This disposable income can then be used to go out and rent / buy more land to replace the land lost to Mallard Pass. We will therefore be unable to</p>	No	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. The farm businesses all stated that, although agricultural practices within the Order limits will change, continued arable use is considered very unlikely to change across their wider land areas outside the Order limits. Within the Order limits a proportion of the mitigation and enhancement areas will continue to be farmed, whilst land management, which could include sheep grazing, will take place within the Order limits.</p> <p>Once the Proposed Development is operational, the owners of the four farm operations within the Order limits predict that the 13 Full-time equivalents (FTEs) currently directly supported will remain the same and</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
	<p>compete with our neighbours at land tenures as we rely solely of income from agricultural activities.</p> <p>We understand that renewable / nuclear energy has to be the way forward but feel that the scale of this project will put pressures on our business not only during the construction phase but for several generations to follow.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>that the diversification of operations will help to sustain their commercial viability.</p> <p>As set out in the Site Selection Report, the starting point for site selection was ensuring that there was sufficient land to service the Applicant's grid connection agreement with National Grid Electricity Transmission to export 240MW (AC) of clean power to the national grid via the Ryhall Substation.</p> <p>As such, the parameters applied for in this application (including the size of the Proposed Development) allow for a solar farm capable of generating up to 350MW (DC) to account for the normally applied factors in solar scheme development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Degradation of panels over time; 2. Seasonal and daily variation of solar irradiance; and 3. Loss of power in the conversion from AC to DC. <p>This approach will ensure that Mallard Pass Solar Farm is able to optimise the available grid connection and generate as much clean power as possible each day and over its lifetime.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
			<p>Using this as a starting point, the Applicant has sought to take account of the results of its assessment work (including understanding existing sensitive receptors and important ecological features), the Project Principles discussed in the Design and Access Statement, [EN010127/APP/7.3] and consultation feedback in presenting the scheme now submitted for consent.</p> <p>In particular it is noted that the Solar PV Site decreased from approximately 570 ha at Non-Statutory Consultation (Stage 1) to 463 ha at Statutory Consultation (Stage 2). The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to 425.88 ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site.</p> <p>The submission design incorporates the following amends as a result of the feedback received during this statutory consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further removal of solar development from the area to the east of Essendine, providing greater set back from the settlements. • Removal of solar development to the north of the Drift providing further offset to

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
			<p>residential dwellings in the interests of visual amenity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of solar development from Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) at their entry / exit points where they meet roads or lanes. • Additional screening planting at a number of locations throughout the Site. <p>For more information, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
Easternrose Limited	<p>Introduction Thank you for your letter dated 17TH June 2022, we are a business called Easternrose that owns residential property, Glen House in the rural village of Essendine. As you can imagine there are a few key issues that concern us as a business, namely the possible negative impact this will have on our current and all possible future tenants who have chosen to live in rural surroundings. Your proposed site is already a popular place of natural beauty for both residents and tourists alike whether it be for cycling, walking, horse riding or driving to take in the sights, surrounding habitat and landscape.</p>	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
	<p>1 Construction site As the construction phase may take up to two years the additional noise, pollution and extra risk for residents due to HGV,s, potential abnormal</p>	No	A detailed and robust noise assessment forms part of the ES (Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration [EN010127/APP/6.1]. This considers the nature of the noise sources

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
	loads and workers construction traffic coming through or past the outskirts of Essendine.		<p>associated with the Proposed Development, including construction and construction traffic, operational noise from electrical plant including that of the proposed substation, and decommissioning works.</p> <p>When considering the potential noise impacts of the Proposed Development as a result of construction activities including related traffic passing to and from the Site, the relevant embedded mitigation measures are described within section 10.3 of Chapter 10 of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]. These include the general construction working hours (07:00 to 19:00 – Monday to Saturday), with further restriction on some noise-generating activities and HGV movements on Saturday afternoons (13:00 to 19:00).</p> <p>These measures are set out in the oCEMP and oDEMP.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures described in section 10.5 of Chapter 10 include control of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) if undertaken at night, as well as controlling piling noise and informing residents of noisy works: these measures will also be implemented through the CEMP and DEMP.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
			<p>A DCO requirement is proposed to control operational noise levels from plant to suitable levels at neighbouring residential properties.</p> <p>Noise from electrical plant has been assessed in Section 10.4 of Chapter 10 of the ES, with mitigation proposed in Section 10.5 to secure stringent noise limits from the plant (including the substation) at all neighbouring properties. Following mitigation, no significant impacts are expected. Noise limits for the Proposed Development are set out in a DCO Requirement.</p>
	<p>1.1 “Development and uses, whether they involve the installation of plant or machinery or not, will not be permitted where: a) noise or vibrations generated, or b) smell, dust, light, fumes, electro magnetic radiation, exposure to other pollutants; would cause material disturbance or nuisance to occupiers of surrounding properties.” Uttlesford Local Plan</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], the Grid Connection Cable and Onsite Substation, which form a part of the Proposed Development, exceed 132kV and therefore have the potential to cause electromagnetic fields with potential for adverse effects on human health. The Grid Connection Cable will be buried underground at a suitable depth and the Onsite Substation will be set back from Uffington Lane and designed in accordance with relevant guidance (DECC Power Lines: Demonstrating compliance with EMF public exposure</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
	<p>1.2 That said, as stated by Gareth Davies Conservative MP for Grantham and Stamford “the sheer scale of the development is disproportionate not only is the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm going to be 8 times larger than the current largest solar farm in the United Kingdom” www.mallardpassactiongroup.com also directly affects 8 villages and its boundaries will impact a further 10 villages.</p> <p>1.3 “Mallard Pass Solar Plant proposal is utterly inappropriate. By building on quality agricultural land, we will destroy a natural resource in the heart of England green and pleasant land” Alicia Kearns MP for Rutland and Melton.</p>	Yes	<p>guidelines, A Voluntary Code of Practice 2012). Therefore, electromagnetic fields are unlikely to have any adverse effects on residential receptors.</p> <p>The Solar PV Site decreased from approximately 570 ha at Non-Statutory Consultation (Stage 1) to 463 ha at Statutory Consultation (Stage 2). The total Solar PV Site Area has now been reduced to 425.88 ha at DCO Application stage. The remaining 443 ha of land would be retained as existing woodland, hedgerows, or arable farmland, making up 48% of the Site.</p> <p>The submission design incorporates the following amends as a result of the feedback received during this statutory consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further removal of solar development from the area to the east of Essendine, providing greater set back from the settlements. • Removal of solar development to the north of the Drift providing further offset to residential dwellings in the interests of visual amenity. • Removal of solar development from Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) at their entry / exit points where they meet roads or lanes.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional screening planting at a number of locations throughout the Site. <p>For more information, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development, of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
	<p>2 Solar Farms alternatives</p> <p>Solar Farms in general are wholly inefficient by comparison to offshore wind farms, one turbine has the capacity to supply power to 16,000 homes as opposed to 140 acre solar farm supplying electricity to approx. 9,000 homes. In terms of efficiency ratings the amount of power exported by the grid for solar is between 11-15% whereas offshore is 50%+, for example on one given day it has been reported that 78% of UK electricity came from off shore wind surely this would be far more environmental. https://www.cpreherts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2021/10/The-Problem-with-Solar-Farms</p>	No	<p>The DCO Application will seek to allow for flexibility that allows for different configurations of Solar PV Modules. The final elevations of the PV Modules will be influenced by various design factors such as local topography, and election of PV Module type and configuration.</p> <p>Regarding the efficiency of solar PV technology, 7.1 Statement of Need, Figure 10.2, shows how the efficiency of solar PV cell technology has improved over the previous decade. The Figure demonstrates that the cells used in most ground-mount solar developments have increased in measured efficiency from c.13% (1977) to a most recent average of the top three measurements of 26.8%. Although panel efficiency is generally slightly lower than cell efficiency – because of the cables and joints required to export the generated power –</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
			<p>larger panels are more efficient than smaller panels.</p> <p>To provide some context on the efficiency of solar PV technology in comparison to that of other technologies, we note that recent data from BEIS' Digest of UK Energy Statistics shows that combined cycle gas turbines have an efficiency of c.46% (but emit 394gCO₂/kWh(e) [National Grid ESO's Carbon Intensity Forecast Methodology, 2021]). Coal generation in the UK achieved an average efficiency of 28% over the period 2016 – 2020 and emits 1429gCO₂/kWh(e). Wind power is 30-45% efficient, increasing to 50% during peak wind times for the larger turbines (which are more generally located out to sea rather than onshore). The efficiency of Hinkley Point C nuclear power station (currently under construction) has been assessed at 36% [UK EPR Fundamental Safety Overview, Volume 2: Design and Safety Report, Chapter B: Introduction and General Description of the Plant, Sub-chapter B.3].</p> <p>The efficiency of solar PV technology is therefore not significantly lower than the efficiencies of other mainstream generation technologies.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
	<p>2.1 Our own government cannot agree with a clear policy conflict within government which seeks to protect and enhance our domestic production to maintain food security, yet it is encouraging the growth of renewable energy on valuable productive farmland.</p>	No	<p>For more information, please see Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1]</p> <p>The Order limits was selected on the basis that it was predominantly Grade 3, offering the potential for Grade 3b land subject to further survey, with small pockets of Grade 2. This was also supplemented by initial conversations with the landowners regarding the quality and viability of the Order limits for agriculture. Following further analysis, some additional Grade 2 land was identified and as noted below, where this was in single fields, this was removed from the areas proposed for PV Arrays.</p> <p>The regional level ALC maps show that the agricultural land within relatively close proximity to the grid connection is either Grade 2 or 3, with higher quality land (Grade 1) further east of Peterborough. There are very small pockets of Grade 4 land, coinciding with the SSSIs to the north of Pickworth, but none of sufficient size to deliver a solar farm and there would be the potential for significant adverse effects on the SSSIs. Further information on ALC is provided in Chapter 12 of this ES [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
	2.2 “The public is very supportive of solar PV, but that may change if we continue to pursue mega-scale projects that use hundreds of acres of greenfield land,” commented Neil Spann, managing director, Power Roll. “We do, however, have a lot of ‘big sheds’ in the UK and that means a lot of roof space with the potential to accommodate solar on the scale we need to achieve net zero.”	No	The Applicant makes note of this comment.
	2.3 “The UK has enough roof space to cover all the solar farms we could ever need without spoiling the landscape.” Tuesday 5th January 2021 https://solarpowermanagement.net/article/ Power Roll's analysis shows that there are around 2.5 billion square meters of south-facing commercial roof space in the UK, which could support over 400 GW of solar power; well in excess of the latest estimates of the capacity required to deliver net zero.	No	Section 7.6 of the Statement of Need [EN010127/APP/7.1] concludes that although brownfield sites and rooftop installations should be progressed where possible, they will not do away with the need to progress large-scale proposals such as the Proposed Development in order to bring forward the capacities of solar generation which are forecast as needed to meet the UK’s urgent need for low-carbon generation. Brownfield and rooftop installations are therefore not a suitable alternative to the Proposed Development.
	2.4 Spann continued: “We recognise that many roofs are not strong enough to support traditional heavy crystalline silicon PV panels. There are flexible PV technologies on the market, but they are too expensive for anything other than niche use. However, with lightweight, affordable solar film we can start to deploy solar PV at scale on commercial buildings - even making use of non-load bearing roofs.		Further, as outlined in the Planning Statement Appendix, [EN010127/APP/7.2] , there is relatively little previously developed land located within a sufficient distance of the National Grid Ryhall Substation that an appropriate grid connection could be provided to.

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
			<p>The previously developed land registers maintained by South Kesteven District Council and Rutland County Council show 22ha and 3.4ha respectively, which even together would be significantly below the area required to deliver a utility-scale solar farm.</p> <p>For more information on the assessment of Site alternatives, please see Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Development of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
	<p>3. Property The amenity of neighbouring properties can be seriously harmed by the erection of secured boundaries 3-6 foot high fences with intrusive CCTV addition lighting and fans if the solar panels overheat, there will be solar panels mounted up to 3.3m spread across 2238 acres of open countryside it is also highly unlikely the land will be returned to agriculture in 40 years time.</p>	Yes	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in Chapter 14: Socio-Economics of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], this assessment concluded that there will be no potential significant adverse socio-economic effects during the construction, operation, or decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Therefore, no additional mitigation measures over and above those stated in other technical chapters of the ES are required to avoid or minimise the socio-economic effects identified in Chapter 14.</p> <p>Some examples of mitigation measures include:</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties • 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties • The removal of the Solar PV Site from north of the Drift providing a suitable offset of residential dwellings in the interests of visual amenity.
	<p>3.1 Flood Risk The creation of any large scale solar development will increase the flood risk to the local countryside, roads, villages, and outlying properties over a wide area. Laying new tracks and access routes during the construction process to enable the solar panels and fencing to be erected, will cause compaction of the soil across the whole site. During operation ongoing maintenance will cause further compaction to the soil which is already less aerated, reducing the ability to absorb rainwater.</p> <p>The run-off characteristics of rainwater from solar panels is different to rainwater falling straight to the ground. Rainwater falls evenly over a wide area, the run-off of rainwater from the panels would be in concentrated amounts, like rain running into the gutter of a house. When rainfall is heavy, gutters are deluged with water and overpowered. The</p>	No	<p>Solar panels have been shown to not increase flood risk elsewhere due to the lack of impermeable footprint. The impact on flooding elsewhere is assessed as negligible within the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) [EN010127/APP/6.2], and surface water runoff will be managed through thus use of SuDS and RSuDS as detailed in the Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS), [EN010127/APP/6.2].</p> <p>However, the following measures relating to the hydrological environment are embedded into the design and construction of the Proposed Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50m watercourse buffers for major construction works (i.e. compound) with the exception of watercourse crossings along access tracks; and

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
	<p>same is true for the solar panels except the rain would create water channels/gullies in the soil, causing further compaction of the soil, and ultimately speeding up the run-off from the site into nearby fields, roads, rivers and other vulnerable areas such as some local villages.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10m watercourse buffers for minor construction works (i.e. solar panel installation) with the exception of watercourse crossings along access tracks; • The Proposed Development will utilise existing access road and tracks already in place at this location, this will help to minimise ground disturbance and requirement for further watercourse crossings. <p>For more information, please see Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1].</p>
	<p>In summary the Glen House block of flats current beautiful countryside view will be greatly impaired which could further impact tenants visual and mental health, as previously stated in our introduction tenants have purposely chosen to live in rural countryside in the village of Essendine and do not wish to look out of their window and see an industrialised colossal monstrosity of solar panels covering 2238 acres of open countryside. Not to mention the potentially negative impact on property value</p> <p>“Regarding solar farms, we find that house prices decrease by about 2.6% after opening” Wind turbines, solar farms, and house prices -</p>	Yes	<p>The Applicant makes note of this comment. As outlined in Chapter 14: Socio-Economics of the ES, [EN010127/APP/6.1], this assessment concluded that there will be no potential significant adverse socio-economic effects during the construction, operation, or decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Therefore, no additional mitigation measures over and above those stated in other technical chapters of the ES are required to avoid or minimise the socio-economic effects identified in Chapter 14.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Dev. Change?	Applicant Response
Section 42 (Landowner Section 44 Comments)			
	<p>ScienceDirect https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article Whilst we can appreciate the need for global climate change and future proofing energy we are saying a big yes to solar however we are saying an even bigger no to Mallard Pass, we believe there a far greater options available such as using the rooftops space available, brownfield land or wind farms in the sea and not our green luscious land, therefore we feel as a fellow business we cannot support your plans/proposal.</p>		<p>Some examples of mitigation measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proposed Development will be sensitively sited and offset from residential properties • 250m offset of solar stations from residential properties • The removal of the Solar PV Site from north of the Drift providing a suitable offset of residential dwellings in the interests of visual amenity.



Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Consultation Report

Appendix 6: Section 47, Duty to Consult the Local Community and Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

PINS reference number: EN010127

Document reference number: /APP/5.2

Revision number: 01

Relevant APFP regulation number: Reg 5(2)(q)

Table of Contents

6.	Section 47, Duty to Consult the Local Community and Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	
6.1.	Introduction	2
6.2.	Statement of Community Consultation Cover Letters to Planning Authorities (23 March 2022)	3
6.2.1.	Section 47 Letter and Covering Email to Marc Willis (Lincolnshire County Council)	3
6.2.2.	Section 47 Letter and Covering Email to Phil Jordan (South Kesteven District Council)	8
6.2.3.	Section 47 Letter and Covering Email to Nick Thrower (Rutland County Council)	13
6.2.4.	Section 47 Letter and Covering Email to Alan O. Jones (Peterborough City Council)	18
6.3.	Draft Statement of Community Consultation	23
6.3.1.	Draft Statement of Community Consultation (23 March 2022)	23
6.3.2.	Proposed Hard to Reach Groups, Community Groups and Local Information Points (23 March 2022)	37
6.3.3.	Earlier working draft Statement of Community Consultation (17 February 2022)	41
6.4.	Final Statement of Community Consultation (19 May 2022)	55
6.5.	Section 47 Notice (20 May 2022)	71
6.5.1.	Section 47 Notice	71
6.5.2.	Rutland and Stamford Mercury	73

6. SECTION 47 DUTY TO CONSULT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (SoCC)

6.1 INTRODUCTION

6.1.1 This Appendix comprises the relevant documentation prepared by the Applicant in accordance with Section 47(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6a)(6b)(7) of the 2008 Act.

6.1.2 The Appendix comprises the following information and documents:

- Statement of Community Consultation Cover Letters to Planning Authorities (23 March 2022);
- Draft Statement of Community Consultation (23 March 2022) (including list of Hard to Reach Groups, Community Groups and Local Information Points) and earlier working draft SoCC (17 February 2022);
- Final Statement of Community Consultation (19 May 2022); and
- A copy of the Section 47 Notice (20 May 2022) (including advertisement showing the Applicant published this in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land).



- 6.2 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COVER LETTERS TO PLANNING AUTHORITIES (23 MARCH 2022)**
- 6.2.1 SECTION 47 LETTER AND COVERING EMAIL TO MARC WILLIS (LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)



Marc Willis
Applications Manager
Lincolnshire County Council
County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

Sent via email to [REDACTED]@lincolnshire.gov.uk

23 March 2022

Dear Marc Willis,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm: Section 47 Planning Act (2008) Consultation on Draft Statement of Community Consultation with Local Planning Authorities

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing a new solar farm partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The proposed development, known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm ('Mallard Pass'), will support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.

The proposals for Mallard Pass have an anticipated potential output from the solar array of over 50 MW. Accordingly, it will be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and must comply with the Development Consent Order (DCO) regime as defined in the Planning Act 2008 ('2008 Act').

As part of our duty to consult the local community on the proposals for Mallard Pass, we have prepared a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The draft SoCC outlines how communities can engage throughout the development process and explains how we intend to consult with communities in the vicinity of the project.

Local authorities have an important role in the 2008 Act process. In accordance with Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act, Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is required to consult with the host local authorities on the draft SoCC, as set out under Section 43(1) of the 2008 Act. We are also seeking the views from local authorities with an administrative boundary that our proposed core consultation zone extends into. Your input will be used to ensure that the people affected by the proposed development can take part in a thorough, accessible, and effective consultation exercise.

We recognise that effective and appropriate consultation is of critical importance to this project. As a local authority, we strongly welcome your local knowledge and insight to advise us on how best to conduct community consultation. You are invited to comment on any aspect of the SoCC and its consider as you consider appropriate. In particular, we seek your guidance to inform:

- **Section 6 – Who will we consult?:** we welcome your comments and suggestions on our approach to ensuring accessible consultation. Please do let us know of any parish councils (beyond those we have listed), community or 'hard to reach' groups



Write to us at:
FREEPOST MALLARD
PASS SOLAR FARM



Email us at:
info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Call our Freephone information line:
0808 196 8717



Visit our website at:
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



you advise us engaging with. We will be contacting these groups ahead of our Stage Two consultation, to ensure our actives are well-publicised and accessible. Please share any recommendations you may have for how best to contact and engage with these groups. Please also note the extent of our Core Consultation Zone, shown in Figure 3.

- **Section 7 – How will we consult?:** we welcome your comments and suggestions on our proposed range of consultation and publicity activities. This includes the proposed channels of consultation, the number and location of in-person and online information events we will hold, and the local newspapers we will be using to publicise our consultation.
- **Section 8 – Community Access Points:** we welcome your comments and suggestions on our proposed community access points and guidance on accessing these facilities owing to any ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

Section 47(3) of the 2008 Act provides a statutory 28 days for comments on a draft SoCC. This period will commence on the day after the local authority receives the consultation documents. However, recognising that this period includes Easter weekend, and the associated Bank Holidays, we have extended the statutory period and kindly request all comments to the draft SoCC to be received **no later than Friday 22 April 2022**.

Following receipt of all comments from the local authorities, we will seek to incorporate comments and suggestions and, as required in Section 47(5) of the 2008 Act, have regard to the comments received.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd intends to publicise the updated SoCC in May 2022. The SoCC will be publicised across our core consultation zone and wider consultation area through local media, local notices and online via our dedicated project website and Twitter.

Shortly after publicising our SoCC, we intend to launch our Stage Two consultation. This will be further publicised and will be undertaken in line with the methods set out in the SoCC, including sending a Community Consultation Leaflet to an agreed core consultation zone. This will provide information on our proposals and the opportunities to participate in Stage Two consultation activities. As set out in the draft SoCC, we will be holding a series of community consultation activities during the phase two consultation period, to present our detailed design, mitigation, and enhancement proposals for Mallard Pass. This will involve utilising a range of digital and non-digital channels.

We invite all comments to the attached draft SoCC be received no later than **Friday 22 April 2022**. Please could you submit any comments to your existing contact within the Mallard Pass Team, copying in the project inbox (info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk) for completeness.

Yours sincerely,



For and On Behalf of Mallard Pass Solar Farm



Write to us at:
FREEPOST MALLARD
PASS SOLAR FARM



Email us at:
info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Call our Freephone information line:
0808 196 8717



Visit our website at:
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk

info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: Jonathan Harris [redacted] <[redacted]@wdllp.com>
Sent: 23 March 2022 17:54
To: Marc Willis
Cc: David Bell; info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Subject: Mallard Pass Solar Farm - draft Statement of Community Consultation
Attachments: 220321_MPSF_draft SoCC LPA Cover Letter_LCC.pdf; 220323_MPSF SoCC_Draft for consultation.pdf; 220323 MPSF Hard to Reach Groups and LIPs.pdf

Dear Marc,

Please find attached a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, along with a cover letter formally commencing our consultation with Lincolnshire County Council on this draft (in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Planning Act).

I previously shared an earlier working draft of the SoCC with you on 17 February 2022. The vast majority of the document contents remains the same, although you will note we are now presenting this as a designed document in line with how it will ultimately be printed and read by the community.

For your reference, the following changes have been made in response to comments we received on the earlier working draft:

- Section 7 (Page 16): We have included text to confirm webinars will be publicised to the community in the same way as in-person Information Events (i.e. through consultation leaflets, across local media, at local information points and at Community Access Points).
- Section 7 (Page 16): We have confirmed that meetings and briefing sessions will be offered to local parish councils, elected members and key local stakeholder groups that are present within the Core Consultation Zone, and that these meetings may be in-person or virtual depending upon circumstances at the time.
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The SoCC refers to Hard to Reach Groups and Local Information Points. We will be contacting Hard to Reach Groups ahead of our Stage Two consultation to promote our upcoming consultation opportunities and seek their input on how to ensure they are accessible. We will be issuing Local Information Points with display materials to promote the consultation opportunities. For reference, please find attached a separate list of identified Hard to Reach Groups and Local Information Points. Please feel free to advise us of any appropriate additions to these lists.

We kindly ask for all comments to the draft SoCC to be received no later than **Friday 22 April 2022**. Your comments can be returned directly to David Bell as your primary contact in the Mallard Pass Team. Please also copy in our project email address (info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk) for completeness.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any further questions you may have on this important stage of the process.

Kind regards,
Jonathan

Jonathan Harris
BA (Hons) MSc MRTPI
Senior Associate

1



Chartered Surveyors & Town Planners
6 New Bridge Street
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6.2.2 SECTION 47 LETTER AND COVERING EMAIL TO PHIL JORDAN
(SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL)



Phil Jordan MRTPI
Principal Planning Officer
Development & Growth
South Kesteven District Council
Council Offices, St. Peter's Hill
Grantham,
Lincolnshire,
NG31 6PZ

Sent via email to [REDACTED] [southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@southkesteven.gov.uk)

23 March 2022

Dear Phil Jordan,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm: Section 47 Planning Act (2008) Consultation on Draft Statement of Community Consultation with Local Planning Authorities

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing a new solar farm partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The proposed development, known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm ('Mallard Pass'), will support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.

The proposals for Mallard Pass have an anticipated potential output from the solar array of over 50 MW. Accordingly, it will be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and must comply with the Development Consent Order (DCO) regime as defined in the Planning Act 2008 ('2008 Act').

As part of our duty to consult the local community on the proposals for Mallard Pass, we have prepared a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The draft SoCC outlines how communities can engage throughout the development process and explains how we intend to consult with communities in the vicinity of the project.

Local authorities have an important role in the 2008 Act process. In accordance with Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act, Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is required to consult with the host local authorities on the draft SoCC, as set out under Section 43(1) of the 2008 Act. We are also seeking the views from local authorities with an administrative boundary that our proposed core consultation zone extends into. Your input will be used to ensure that the people affected by the proposed development can take part in a thorough, accessible, and effective consultation exercise.

We recognise that effective and appropriate consultation is of critical importance to this project. As a local authority, we strongly welcome your local knowledge and insight to advise us on how best to conduct community consultation. You are invited to comment on any aspect of the SoCC and its consider as you consider appropriate. In particular, we seek your guidance to inform:

- **Section 6 – Who will we consult?:** we welcome your comments and suggestions on our approach to ensuring accessible consultation. Please do let us know of any parish councils (beyond those we have listed), community or 'hard to reach' groups

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 **Call our Freephone information line:**
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 **Visit our website at:**
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



you advise us engaging with. We will be contacting these groups ahead of our Stage Two consultation, to ensure our actives are well-publicised and accessible. Please share any recommendations you may have for how best to contact and engage with these groups. Please also note the extent of our Core Consultation Zone, shown in Figure 3.

- **Section 7 – How will we consult?:** we welcome your comments and suggestions on our proposed range of consultation and publicity activities. This includes the proposed channels of consultation, the number and location of in-person and online information events we will hold, and the local newspapers we will be using to publicise our consultation.
- **Section 8 – Community Access Points:** we welcome your comments and suggestions on our proposed community access points and guidance on accessing these facilities owing to any ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

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Following receipt of all comments from the local authorities, we will seek to incorporate comments and suggestions and, as required in Section 47(5) of the 2008 Act, have regard to the comments received.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd intends to publicise the updated SoCC in May 2022. The SoCC will be publicised across our core consultation zone and wider consultation area through local media, local notices and online via our dedicated project website and Twitter.

Shortly after publicising our SoCC, we intend to launch our Stage Two consultation. This will be further publicised and will be undertaken in line with the methods set out in the SoCC, including sending a Community Consultation Leaflet to an agreed core consultation zone. This will provide information on our proposals and the opportunities to participate in Stage Two consultation activities. As set out in the draft SoCC, we will be holding a series of community consultation activities during the phase two consultation period, to present our detailed design, mitigation, and enhancement proposals for Mallard Pass. This will involve utilising a range of digital and non-digital channels.

We invite all comments to the attached draft SoCC be received no later than **Friday 22 April 2022**. Please could you submit any comments to your existing contact within the Mallard Pass Team, copying in the project inbox (info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk) for completeness.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Price
For and On Behalf of Mallard Pass Solar Farm



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info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Call our Freephone information line:
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Visit our website at:
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info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: Jonathan Harris [redacted] <[redacted]@dwllp.com>
Sent: 23 March 2022 17:54
To: Phil Jordan
Cc: David Bell; info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Subject: Mallard Pass Solar Farm - draft Statement of Community Consultation
Attachments: 220323 MPSF Hard to Reach Groups and LIPs.pdf; 220323_MPSF SoCC_Draft for consultation.pdf; 220321_MPSF_draft SoCC LPA Cover Letter_SKDC.pdf

Dear Phil,

Please find attached a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, along with a cover letter formally commencing our consultation with South Kesteven District Council on this draft (in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Planning Act).

I previously shared an earlier working draft of the SoCC with you on 17 February 2022. The vast majority of the document contents remains the same, although you will note we are now presenting this as a designed document in line with how it will ultimately be printed and read by the community.

For your reference, the following changes have been made in response to comments we received on the earlier working draft:

- Section 7 (Page 16): We have included text to confirm webinars will be publicised to the community in the same way as in-person Information Events (i.e. through consultation leaflets, across local media, at local information points and at Community Access Points).
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- Section 7 (Page 18): Rutland & Stamford Sound has been included as a local broadcaster we will engage with to promote the Stage Two consultation opportunities.
- Section 8 (Page 19): Ryhall Library has been added as a proposed Community Access Point in place of Rutland County Council offices. This is due to it being staffed and in much closer proximity to the application site. We have also removed Lincolnshire County Council offices in Lincoln as a proposed Community Access Point, given the distance to the application site.

The SoCC refers to Hard to Reach Groups and Local Information Points. We will be contacting Hard to Reach Groups ahead of our Stage Two consultation to promote our upcoming consultation opportunities and seek their input on how to ensure they are accessible. We will be issuing Local Information Points with display materials to promote the consultation opportunities. For reference, please find attached a separate list of identified Hard to Reach Groups and Local Information Points. Please feel free to advise us of any appropriate additions to these lists.

We kindly ask for all comments to the draft SoCC to be received no later than **Friday 22 April 2022**. Your comments can be returned directly to David Bell as your primary contact in the Mallard Pass Team. Please also copy in our project email address (info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk) for completeness.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any further questions you may have on this important stage of the process.

Kind regards,
Jonathan

Jonathan Harris
BA (Hons) MSc MRTPI
Senior Associate

1



Chartered Surveyors & Town Planners
6 New Bridge Street
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6.2.3 SECTION 47 LETTER AND COVERING EMAIL TO NICK THROWER
(RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL)



Nick Thrower
Principal Planning Officer
Rutland County Council
Catmose
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6HP

Sent via email to [\[redacted\]@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:info@rutland.gov.uk)

23 March 2022

Dear Nick Thrower,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm: Section 47 Planning Act (2008) Consultation on Draft Statement of Community Consultation with Local Planning Authorities

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing a new solar farm partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The proposed development, known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm ('Mallard Pass'), will support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.

The proposals for Mallard Pass have an anticipated potential output from the solar array of over 50 MW. Accordingly, it will be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and must comply with the Development Consent Order (DCO) regime as defined in the Planning Act 2008 ('2008 Act').

As part of our duty to consult the local community on the proposals for Mallard Pass, we have prepared a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The draft SoCC outlines how communities can engage throughout the development process and explains how we intend to consult with communities in the vicinity of the project.

Local authorities have an important role in the 2008 Act process. In accordance with Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act, Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is required to consult with the host local authorities on the draft SoCC, as set out under Section 43(1) of the 2008 Act. We are also seeking the views from local authorities with an administrative boundary that our proposed core consultation zone extends into. Your input will be used to ensure that the people affected by the proposed development can take part in a thorough, accessible, and effective consultation exercise.

We recognise that effective and appropriate consultation is of critical importance to this project. As a local authority, we strongly welcome your local knowledge and insight to advise us on how best to conduct community consultation. You are invited to comment on any aspect of the SoCC and its consider as you consider appropriate. In particular, we seek your guidance to inform:

- **Section 6 – Who will we consult?:** we welcome your comments and suggestions on our approach to ensuring accessible consultation. Please do let us know of any parish councils (beyond those we have listed), community or 'hard to reach' groups you advise us engaging with. We will be contacting these groups ahead of our Stage

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PASS SOLAR FARM

 **Email us at:**
info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

 **Call our Freephone information line:**
0808 196 8717

 **Visit our website at:**
www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Two consultation, to ensure our actives are well-publicised and accessible. Please share any recommendations you may have for how best to contact and engage with these groups. Please also note the extent of our Core Consultation Zone, shown in Figure 3.

- **Section 7 – How will we consult?:** we welcome your comments and suggestions on our proposed range of consultation and publicity activities. This includes the proposed channels of consultation, the number and location of in-person and online information events we will hold, and the local newspapers we will be using to publicise our consultation.
- **Section 8 – Community Access Points:** we welcome your comments and suggestions on our proposed community access points and guidance on accessing these facilities owing to any ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

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Following receipt of all comments from the local authorities, we will seek to incorporate comments and suggestions and, as required in Section 47(5) of the 2008 Act, have regard to the comments received.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd intends to publicise the updated SoCC in May 2022. The SoCC will be publicised across our core consultation zone and wider consultation area through local media, local notices and online via our dedicated project website and Twitter.

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We invite all comments to the attached draft SoCC be received no later than **Friday 22 April 2022**. Please could you submit any comments to your existing contact within the Mallard Pass Team, copying in the project inbox (info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk) for completeness.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Price
For and On Behalf of Mallard Pass Solar Farm



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info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



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info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: Jonathan Harris <[REDACTED]@dwllp.com>
Sent: 23 March 2022 17:57
To: Nicholas Thrower
Cc: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Subject: Mallard Pass Solar Farm - draft Statement of Community Consultation
Attachments: 220323 MPSF Hard to Reach Groups and LIPs.pdf; 220323_MPSF SoCC_Draft for consultation.pdf; 220321_MPSF_draft SoCC LPA Cover Letter_RCC.pdf

Dear Nick,

Please find attached a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, along with a cover letter formally commencing our consultation with Rutland County Council on this draft (in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Planning Act).

Thank you for your comments in response to the earlier working draft of the SoCC I had previously shared. For your reference, we have incorporated the following updates into this draft:

- Section 7 (Page 16): We have included text to confirm webinars will be publicised to the community in the same way as in-person Information Events (i.e. through consultation leaflets, across local media, at local information points and at Community Access Points).
- Section 7 (Page 16): We have confirmed that meetings and briefing sessions will be offered to local parish councils, elected members and key local stakeholder groups that are present within the Core Consultation Zone, and that these meetings may be in-person or virtual depending upon circumstances at the time.
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We kindly ask for all comments to the draft SoCC to be received no later than **Friday 22 April 2022**. Your comments can be returned directly to myself as your primary contact in the Mallard Pass Team. Please also copy in our project email address (info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk) for completeness.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any further questions you may have on this important stage of the process.

Kind regards,

Jonathan Harris
BA (Hons) MSc MRTPI
Senior Associate

1



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6.2.4 SECTION 47 LETTER AND COVERING EMAIL TO ALAN O. JONES
(PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL)



Mr A O Jones
Planning Services
Sand Martin House
Bittern Way
Fletton Quays
Peterborough
PE2 8TY

Sent via email to: planningcontrol@peterborough.gov.uk

23 March 2022

Dear Mr Jones,

Mallard Pass Solar Farm: Section 47 Planning Act (2008) Consultation on Draft Statement of Community Consultation with Local Planning Authorities

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing a new solar farm partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The proposed development, known as Mallard Pass Solar Farm ('Mallard Pass'), will support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.

The proposals for Mallard Pass have an anticipated potential output from the solar array of over 50 MW. Accordingly, it will be classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and must comply with the Development Consent Order (DCO) regime as defined in the Planning Act 2008 ('2008 Act').

As part of our duty to consult the local community on the proposals for Mallard Pass, we have prepared a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). The draft SoCC outlines how communities can engage throughout the development process and explains how we intend to consult with communities in the vicinity of the project.

Local authorities have an important role in the 2008 Act process. In accordance with Section 47(2) of the 2008 Act, Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is required to consult with the host local authorities on the draft SoCC, as set out under Section 43(1) of the 2008 Act. We are also seeking the views from local authorities with an administrative boundary that our proposed core consultation zone extends into. Your input will be used to ensure that the people affected by the proposed development can take part in a thorough, accessible, and effective consultation exercise.

We recognise that effective and appropriate consultation is of critical importance to this project. As a local authority, we strongly welcome your local knowledge and insight to advise us on how best to conduct community consultation. You are invited to comment on any aspect of the SoCC and its consider as you consider appropriate. In particular, we seek your guidance to inform:

- **Section 6 – Who will we consult?:** we welcome your comments and suggestions on our approach to ensuring accessible consultation. Please do let us know of any parish councils (beyond those we have listed), community or 'hard to reach' groups you advise us engaging with. We will be contacting these groups ahead of our Stage

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Two consultation, to ensure our actives are well-publicised and accessible. Please share any recommendations you may have for how best to contact and engage with these groups. Please also note the extent of our Core Consultation Zone, shown in Figure 3.

- **Section 7 – How will we consult?:** we welcome your comments and suggestions on our proposed range of consultation and publicity activities. This includes the proposed channels of consultation, the number and location of in-person and online information events we will hold, and the local newspapers we will be using to publicise our consultation.
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Section 47(3) of the 2008 Act provides a statutory 28 days for comments on a draft SoCC. This period will commence on the day after the local authority receives the consultation documents. However, recognising that this period includes Easter weekend, and the associated Bank Holidays, we have extended the statutory period and kindly request all comments to the draft SoCC to be received **no later than Friday 22 April 2022**.

Following receipt of all comments from the local authorities, we will seek to incorporate comments and suggestions and, as required in Section 47(5) of the 2008 Act, have regard to the comments received.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd intends to publicise the updated SoCC in May 2022. The SoCC will be publicised across our core consultation zone and wider consultation area through local media, local notices and online via our dedicated project website and Twitter.

Shortly after publicising our SoCC, we intend to launch our Stage Two consultation. This will be further publicised and will be undertaken in line with the methods set out in the SoCC, including sending a Community Consultation Leaflet to an agreed core consultation zone. This will provide information on our proposals and the opportunities to participate in Stage Two consultation activities. As set out in the draft SoCC, we will be holding a series of community consultation activities during the phase two consultation period, to present our detailed design, mitigation, and enhancement proposals for Mallard Pass. This will involve utilising a range of digital and non-digital channels.

We invite all comments to the attached draft SoCC be received no later than **Friday 22 April 2022**. Please could you submit any comments to your existing contact within the Mallard Pass Team, copying in the project inbox (info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk) for completeness.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Price
For and On Behalf of Mallard Pass Solar Farm



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Call our Freephone information line:
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info@mallardpassolar.co.uk

From: Jonathan Harris [REDACTED]@dwllp.com>
Sent: 23 March 2022 19:41
To: planningcontrol@peterborough.gov.uk
Cc: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
Subject: Mallard Pass Solar Farm - draft Statement of Community Consultation
Attachments: 220323_MPSF_draft SoCC LPA Cover Letter_PCC.pdf; 220323_MPSF SoCC_Draft for consultation.pdf; 220323 MPSF Hard to Reach Groups and LIPs.pdf

Dear Mr Jones,

Please find attached a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for Mallard Pass Solar Farm, along with a cover letter formally commencing our consultation with Peterborough City Council on this draft (in accordance with Section 47 of the 2008 Planning Act).

I appreciate we have had little engagement on this project to date. Please let me know if you would appreciate a discussion on our proposals for Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

We will be publishing our final SoCC ahead of our Stage Two consultation, which we intend to commence later in the spring. The SoCC sets out how we plan to undertake community consultation on our proposals. It includes information on what, when, how, and who we will be consulting.

In accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, we are undertaking consultation with host local authorities on a draft of our Statement of Community Consultation prior to publishing it. We have chosen to consult Peterborough City Council as our core consultation zone (shown as Figure 3 in the attached SoCC) extends into your administrative boundary.

The SoCC refers to Hard to Reach Groups and Local Information Points. We will be contacting Hard to Reach Groups ahead of our Stage Two consultation to promote our upcoming consultation opportunities and seek their input on how to ensure they are accessible. We will be issuing Local Information Points with display materials to promote the consultation opportunities. For reference, please find attached a separate list of identified Hard to Reach Groups and Local Information Points. Please feel free to advise us of any appropriate additions to these lists.

We kindly ask for all comments on the draft SoCC to be received no later than **Friday 22 April 2022**. Your comments can be returned directly to myself as your primary contact in the Mallard Pass Team. Please also copy in our project email address (info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk) for completeness.

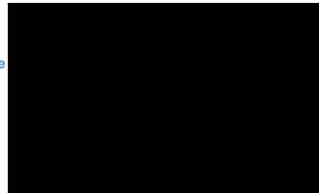
Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any further questions you may have on this important stage of the process.

Kind regards,
Jonathan

Jonathan Harris
BA (Hons) MSc MRTPI
Senior Associate



Chartered Surveyors & Town Planners
6 New Bridge Street
London
EC4V 6AB





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6.3 DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

6.3.1 DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (23 MARCH 2022)



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Statement of Community Consultation

Draft for consultation

1. Introduction

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing a new solar farm partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland.

The solar farm will support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour. The project is called Mallard Pass Solar Farm, referred to in this document as 'Mallard Pass'.

This document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC"), has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 and guidance to explain how Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd intends to carry out its statutory consultation with you, the local community, for the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) for Mallard Pass.

The approach to consultation set out in this document has been consulted on with Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council, South Kesteven District Council, and Peterborough City Council. We have had regard to the comments that they have made.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd recognises consultation to be a vital stage in the development of our proposals.

We want to listen to your views and work with you to develop our proposals for Mallard Pass. This will allow us to develop our plans responsibly and in a manner that supports local community interests.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418009/150326_Pre-Application_Guidance.pdf

2

2. About us

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is a partnership between Windel Energy and Canadian Solar, two companies with strong track records in delivering renewable energy developments.

Founded in 2018, Windel is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies. Windel has more than 3 gigawatts (GW) of clean, renewable power and battery energy storage in various stages of development.

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Windel and Canadian Solar have appointed a professional project team to provide support and expertise throughout the consenting stages of Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Together, the project team has significant experience of working across solar and DCO projects.

3

3. Mallard Pass Solar Farm

The proposals for Mallard Pass include:

- A solar array, which will provide electricity to the national grid.
- An anticipated potential output from the solar array of over 50 MW.
- Electrical connection infrastructure to the existing Ryhall substation, together with underground cables to connect the field parcels.
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- Mitigation and enhancement measures.
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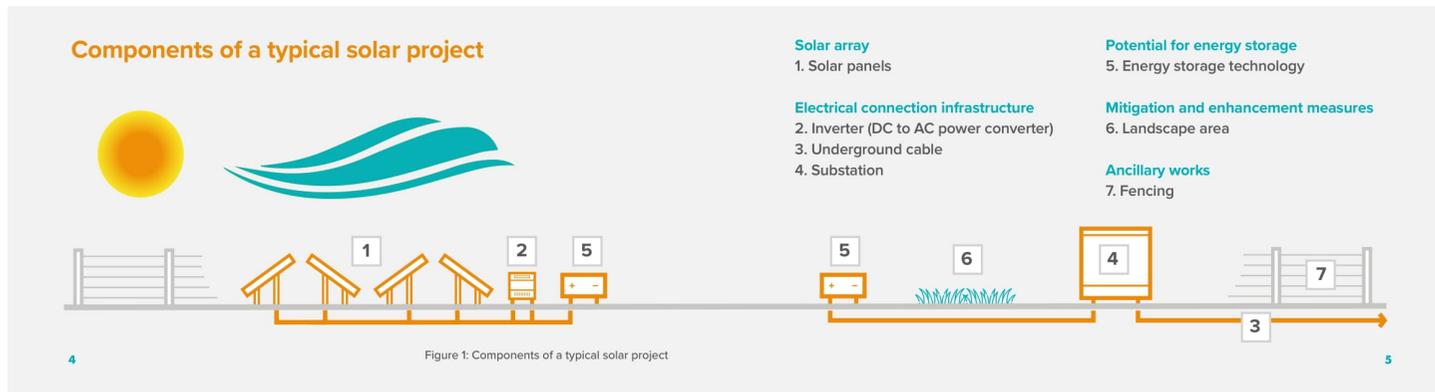
If approved, Mallard Pass could generate in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. The site for the solar farm, including mitigation and enhancement measures, as well as an area for potential highways works, equates to approximately 900 hectares (around 2,225 acres) of agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine.

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- Power in the region of 92,000 homes.
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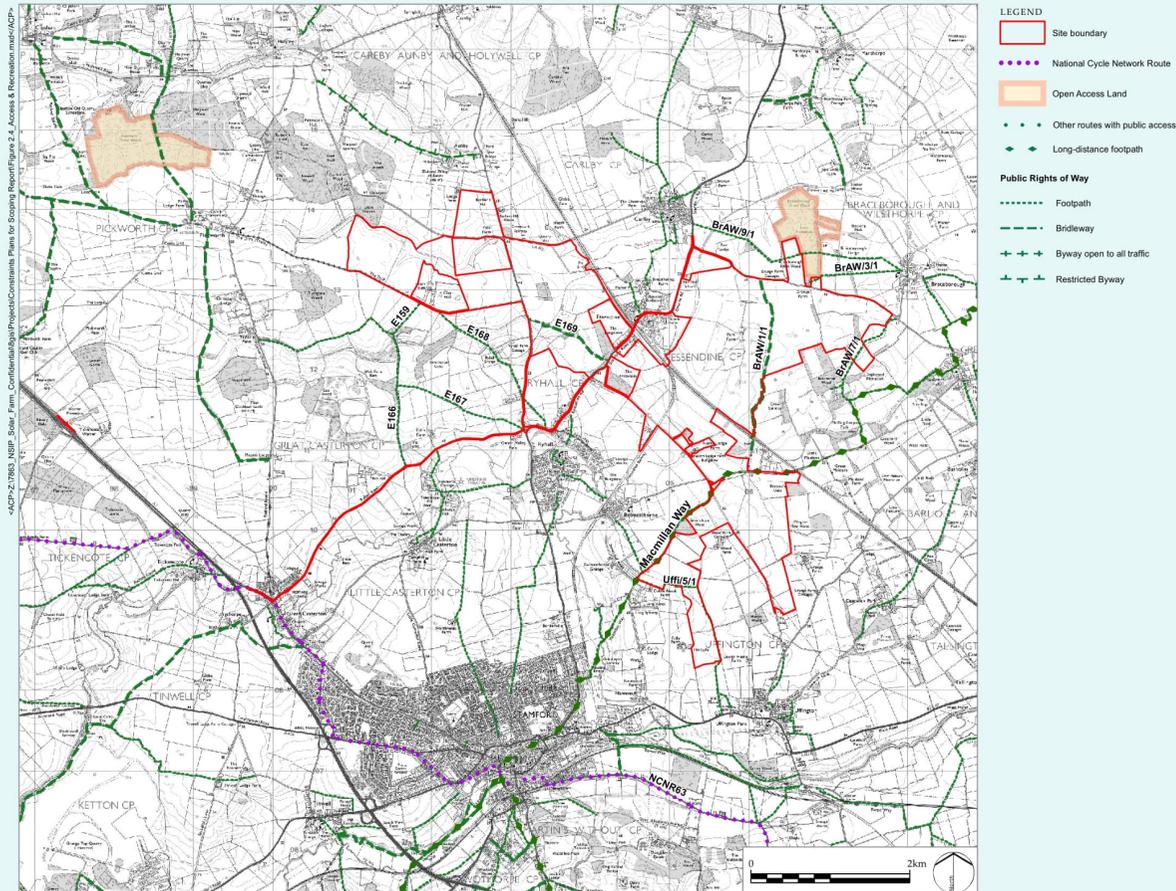


Figure 2: Proposed site boundary

4. Our public consultation process

We are undertaking an iterative consultation process for Mallard Pass.

The feedback and information we receive will help inform the final design of the project that we submit to the Planning Inspectorate for approval. Our consultation will consist of at least two stages of consultation, including:

- A non-statutory Stage One consultation, lasting six weeks, which was held from 4 November 2021 until 16 December 2021
- A statutory Stage Two consultation, lasting eight weeks, from XX 2022 to XX 2022

This SoCC relates to the carrying out of the Stage Two consultation.

1 Stage One consultation (4 November 2021 - 16 December 2021)

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The feedback received, together with information from our environmental surveys and discussions with technical stakeholders, informed the development of our design. Stage One consultation was open to all interested members of the public and featured digital and non-digital methods for engagement.

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Stage Two consultation is the consultation that we must carry out by law. More specific details of what we will consult on are listed in Section 5 of this SoCC, and the methods for how we will consult are listed in Section 7.

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COVID-19

Our approach will be guided by the Government's policy on COVID-19 restrictions at the time of each stage of consultation, and the need to keep people safe. We will ensure that all consultation material is easily accessible and that consultation events are proportionate to allow for open dialogue whilst protecting public health.



Consultation reporting

As part of the DCO application to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, planned for the end of 2022, we will publish a Consultation Report that:

- Describes our consultation process.
- Explains how we have satisfied and adhered to legal requirements.
- Details how we have worked with Local Planning Authorities to ensure our consultation is suitable for the area through the proposals set out in this SoCC.
- Details the feedback and consultation responses we have received.
- Responds to the feedback we have received, including explaining how we have had regard to your feedback and how it has influenced our proposals.

5. What will we consult on?

The aim of our pre-application public consultation is to ensure that both community and technical consultees have a chance to understand and influence our proposals.

At each stage of consultation, we will be seeking feedback to help develop our proposals. This will include potential issues such as, but not limited to:

- Short term and temporary impacts during construction, such as upon wildlife and local residents.
- Long term operational impacts, such as upon wildlife, landscape, local residents, and views.
- Benefits, such as the opportunity for biodiversity and recreational improvements.

The parameters of Mallard Pass, known as the Project Envelope, will be discussed through the consultation materials. These include the maximum size and scale of the project and information on the potential construction methodologies of the project. More information will become available regarding these aspects as our proposals develop.

We have already held our Stage One non-statutory consultation to inform the refinement of our early-stage proposals. We will be holding a further stage of statutory consultation on our more detailed proposals.



10



11

What will we consult on	
<p>Stage One non-statutory consultation (held 04 November – 16 December 2021)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early-stage concept plan of Mallard Pass including potential mitigation and enhancement areas • Vision for the project • Opportunities for delivering biodiversity net gain • Opportunities for recreational improvements
<p>Stage Two statutory consultation (XX 2022 – XX 2022)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed plans which have had regard to the comments received during our Stage One consultation • Developed design proposals for how Mallard Pass could look to local residents and visitors. This will include visualisations of the solar farm from local viewpoints • Suggested mitigation measures • Our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS)

6. Who will we consult?

Our consultation process is open to anyone who may be interested in, or in any way feels impacted by, our proposals for Mallard Pass.

You can get in touch with us at any stage of the development process. Our contact details can be found in Section 12 of this SoCC. We are seeking to actively engage with the widest possible range of individuals and groups. We want our consultation to be accessible for everyone to respond, regardless of their personal circumstances. Figure 3 shows the consultation area, which includes:

A Core Consultation Zone, which centres on the proposed site and extends by a minimum distance of 2,000 metres from the proposed site boundary. Properties within the Core Consultation Zone will directly receive communications such as consultation leaflets (as set out in Section 7) from us in the post. Information events will be held at locations within the Core Consultation Zone, and relevant organisations, such as parish councils and community groups, will be notified of consultation opportunities.

Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings within the Core Consultation Zone include: Essendine; Ryhall; Little Casterton; Great Casterton; Careby, Aunby and Holywell; Carlby; Braceborough and Wilsthorpe; Greatford, Barholm and Stowe; Uffington; and Stamford.

A Wider Consultation Area, as we recognise that there may be some interested individuals or parties who are not within the Core Consultation Zone. We are committed to ensuring that these interested parties still have an opportunity to view our proposals and have their say. We will publicise consultation opportunities to communities outside the core consultation zone by advertising in local media, using social media, and maintaining a register of interested individuals. Informative consultation materials will be published online and available to view and collect via our contact details.

12

As well as the community consultation, we will be consulting with a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees on Mallard Pass Solar Farm, including:

- Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land included within the DCO application.
- MPs, Local Planning Authorities and Parish Councils.
- Statutory stakeholders, such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.
- Environmental groups, including RSBP and the local Wildlife Trusts.
- Local interest and community groups.



Hard to reach groups

We have developed our consultation to be accessible to all groups in the community. We recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified a number of organisations representing hard to reach groups in the consultation area. These organisations will be contacted ahead of Stage Two consultation to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of their members. We will continue to notify them of consultation opportunities.



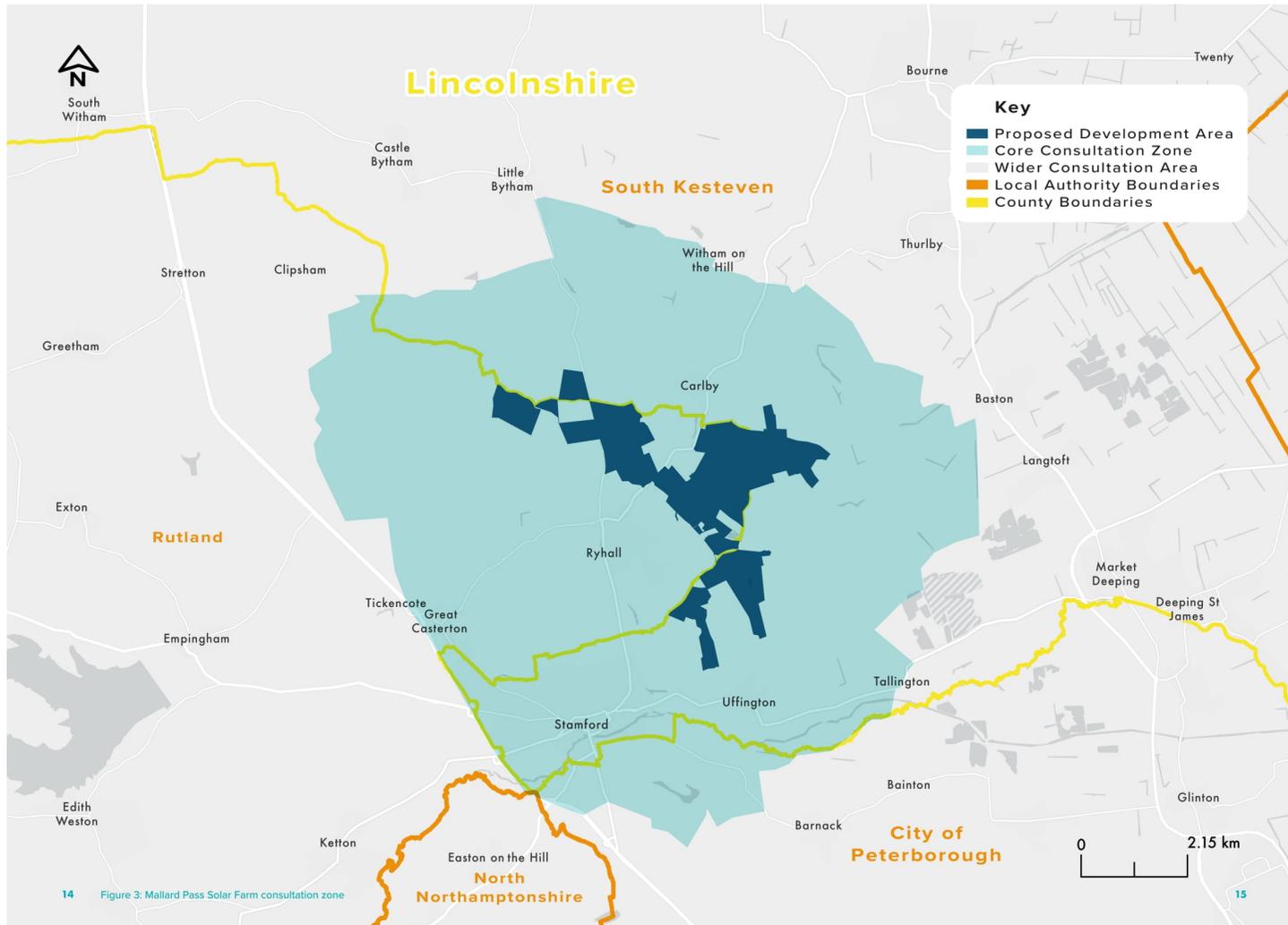
Ongoing engagement

Anyone is welcome to get in touch with us at any point before, during or in-between stages of consultation. Our contact details are listed in Section 12 of this SoCC.

From now until our application is submitted, we will consider the feedback and comments we receive and incorporate these within our proposals where possible.

You will also have the opportunity to formally comment on our proposals for Mallard Pass when the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Guidance on the process can be found on the PINS website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice>.

13



7. How will we consult?

The consultation activities described in this section of the SoCC ensure inclusive, meaningful and open consultation. The activities include a range of methods to ensure our consultation can be accessed by all members of the community.

Our statutory Stage Two consultation is planned to take place between XX 2022 and XX 2022, and will be carried out in the following ways:



Meetings and events

Information events will be held at locations across the Core Consultation Zone (see Section 6), Covid-19 restrictions permitting. They will be advertised in consultation leaflets, across local media, at local information points and at CAP sites.

We will hold three information events during our Stage Two consultation, including an event in Essendine, Ryhall, and Stamford. These events will be held on different days of the week, with a range of hours to accommodate different availability within the community.

Members of the Mallard Pass Team will be at these events to answer questions and discuss the proposals in more detail. Project materials setting out the developed proposals will be displayed and available to take away.

Webinars will be held for any member of the public to join via telephone and internet. They will be advertised in the same way as information events. Participants will be invited to submit questions. Members of the Mallard Pass project team will then respond to the questions on the webinar. All questions will be recorded, and a follow up response will be provided to questions that we weren't able to answer during a webinar.

Meetings and briefing sessions will be offered to local parish councils, elected members and key local stakeholder groups that are present within the Core Consultation Zone. These meetings may be in-person or virtual depending upon circumstances at the time.

16



Literature

Consultation leaflets will be posted to all properties in the Core Consultation Zone at the start of Stage Two consultation. These leaflets will also be available online, to collect from Community Access Points, and to take away from our information events. Leaflets can also be posted to those outside the Core Consultation Zone on request.

These leaflets will publicise the Stage Two consultation opportunities and the information being consulted on. This will include the details of the consultation period and the activities being undertaken, such as dates, times and locations of information events or community webinars. Leaflets will also include details of how to access the project website and communications channels.

A Main Consultation Document will include more detail on the developed proposals for Mallard Pass. This document will be provided to elected representatives and key stakeholders, available online, at Community Access Points, and to take away from our information events.

Feedback forms will be made available for community members to respond to the consultation. These will be available online and in hard copy at Community Access Points, information events, and by request. Feedback forms can be returned free of charge using the Mallard Pass FREEPOST address (FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm).



Open communication

Our communications lines are open throughout the entire pre-application stage. Through these channels you will be able to speak to a member of our consultation team to ask questions, request information (including in alternative formats) and provide feedback:

- **By calling: 0808 196 8717** (open 09:00-17:00, Monday-Friday. A voice message service will operate for out of office hours and all enquiries will be acknowledged within 24 hours during the working week).
- **By emailing: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk**
- **By writing**, free of charge, to: **FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm**

17



Our project website and online information

A dedicated project website (www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk) is live for you to find out more information and provide your feedback.

Consultation material will be presented digitally, providing information consistent with that available at events and through hard copy materials.



Advertising and local notices

- **Local press adverts** will be placed in Rutland Times, Stamford & Rutland Mercury and Bourne Local to inform local communities of the forthcoming Stage Two consultation. Adverts will include contact information and consultation event dates, times and locations.
- **Local information points** such as village halls, places of worship, shops and civic buildings will be provided with posters containing consultation information.
- **Social media** will be used to share information about our consultation process via our dedicated project Twitter account: [@MallardPass](https://twitter.com/MallardPass)
- **Parish councils** will be provided with digital materials to enable them to advertise and promote the consultation via their own websites, social media and online community forums. Requests for hard copy materials will also be considered.



Local media engagement

We will be promoting our Stage Two consultation by engaging with local media outlets, including: Rutland & Stamford Mercury, Rutland Times, Lincs FM, Rutland & Stamford Sound, and BBC East Midlands. This will support with broadcasting the consultation to a wider audience and further ensure that interested individuals and parties have an opportunity to comment on our proposals.

Should any changes to our consultation activities be required due to unforeseen events outside of our control, new details will be publicised in line with the methods set out in this SoCC.

18

8. Community Access Points

Hard copies of this document and Stage Two consultation materials, including our leaflet, Main Consultation Document, and PEIR, will be available at the following locations:

South Kesteven District Council Office and Library

3 Abbey Road
Bourne
Lincolnshire
PE10 9EF

Stamford Town Council

Stamford Town Council
Town Hall
St Mary's Hill
Stamford
Lincs
PE9 2DR

Ryhall Library

Coppice Rd
Ryhall
Rutland
PE9 4HY

Due to COVID-19, some public buildings may be unable to host documents, may be accessible by appointment only, or opening times may vary. Please check venue websites for up-to-date information.

All documents are available on our project website (www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk) or hard copies can be posted on request.

19

9. The planning process

Mallard Pass is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it has a proposed generating capacity of over 50 MW. As an NSIP we must apply for a DCO.

The DCO application will be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate, the agency responsible for managing the examination process for NSIPs. It will then, if accepted, be examined by an independent Examining Authority, who will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The SoS will then review this before making a decision on whether to grant a DCO.

For more information on this process, or for advice on how to respond to our pre-application consultation, you can access the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8 at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8.0.pdf>



20



21

10. Environmental Information

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd will undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for Mallard Pass.

The methodology the EIA will be agreed with the relevant regulatory and environmental bodies and your Local Planning Authorities.

The following reports (listed below) will be consulted on as part of the EIA process and as the DCO application is prepared:

Scoping Report

Our Scoping Report was published in February 2022 and presented the Project Envelope and the processes we will undertake to assess any potential impacts to the existing environment.

Feedback on this from Local Planning Authorities and statutory consultees resulted in a Scoping Opinion, which was published by the Planning Inspectorate in March 2022. Both of these documents are available to view on the Planning Inspectorate's website (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/mallard-pass-solar-project>).

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

The PEIR will build upon the findings from the previous scoping documents and the feedback received through the Stage One consultation and engagement with stakeholders.

It will incorporate findings of the surveys and preliminary environmental assessments that have been carried out to date. This will enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely potential impacts that Mallard Pass may have on the local environment. In our Stage Two consultation, we will be seeking feedback on the findings of the PEIR.

Environmental Statement (ES)

The ES will advance the content of the PEIR and continue to incorporate the responses from the Stage Two consultation, stakeholder engagement and results of the surveys undertaken. It will also describe any changes to the project and any mitigation measures that need to be implemented. The ES will form part of the DCO application for submission.

22

11. Consultation timeline



All future dates are indicative and subject to change.

23

12. Contact us

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

You can get in touch with members of our stakeholder engagement team using any of the communication lines listed below.

Should you require any documents in large print, audio or braille, please contact us at the details provided.



Email:

info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Freephone information line:

0808 196 8717



Freepost:

FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



Visit our website:

www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Twitter:

[@MallardPass](https://twitter.com/MallardPass)



6.3.2 PROPOSED HARD TO REACH GROUPS, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND LOCAL INFORMATION POINTS (23 MARCH 2022)

Proposed Local Information Points and Hard to Reach Groups

The tables below present the Local Information Points and Hard to Reach Groups identified by the Mallard Pass Solar Farm project team.

Local Information Points will be provided with display materials to promote the consultation opportunities. **Hard to Reach Groups** will be contacted ahead of Stage Two to promote upcoming consultation opportunities and seek their input to ensure they are accessible.

1. Local Information Points

Type	Name
Village Hall	Essendine Village Hall
Village Hall	Ryhall Village Hall
Town Hall	Stamford Town Hall
Post Office/Shop	Ryhall Village Stores and Post Office
Church	St Stephen's Church - Carlby
Church	St Mary Magdalene Church - Essendine
Church	Ryhall Methodist Church
Church	St John the Evangelist Church Ryhall
Church	St Peter and St Paul Church - Great Casterton
Church	St Mary's Church - Stamford
Church	United Reformed Church
Shop	Londis - Casterton
Shop	Stamford Garden Centre and Cafe - Casterton
Sports Centre	Blackstone Sports & Social Club - Stamford
Pub	Crown Inn - Great Casterton
Pub	The Danish Invader
Pub	Mama Liz's
Pub	The Hurdler - Stamford
Pub	The London Inn
Pub	The Lord Burghley
Pub	The Stamford Post
Pub	The Tobie Norris
Bar	The Wine Bar Stamford

2. Hard To Reach Groups

Organisation
Leicestershire & Rutland Ramblers
Rutland Access Group
Voluntary Action Rutland
Lincolnshire Climate Conscious Students
Railfuture Lincolnshire
Railfuture East Midlands (Rutland and Leicestershire)
The Bridge East Midlands (in partnership with the Rutland Community Wellbeing Service)
Emmaus Leicestershire and Rutland
Framework Housing
LAMP (Leicester Action for Mental Health Project)
MHM (Mental Health Matters)
MindSpace Stamford
Dementia Support South Lincs
Dementia Action Alliance Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
Age UK Leicestershire and Rutland
Lincolnshire South Federation of WIs.
Leicester and Rutland Federation of WIs.
Evergreen Care Stamford & District
JUST Lincolnshire
The Leicester LGBT Centre
Stamford Young People's Charity
Stamford and District Young Farmers Club
Rutland Youth Council
TOFU (Time Out For Us)
Jules House Youth Group
Leicester and Rutland Walking Group
Rutland Community Ventures
Active Rutland
Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service: South Kesteven Volunteer Centre



National Farmers Union: Leicester, Northamptonshire and Rutland
Education Business Partnership - Lincoln (EPB)
Stamford Community Energy



6.3.3 EARLIER WORKING DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (17 FEBRUARY 2022)



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Statement of Community Consultation

Draft for consultation

XX April 2022

1. Introduction

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing a new solar farm partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland.

The solar farm will support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour. The project is called Mallard Pass Solar Farm, referred to in this document as 'Mallard Pass'.

This document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation ("SoCC"), has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 and guidance¹ to explain how Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd intends to carry out its statutory consultation with you, the local community, for the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) for Mallard Pass.

The approach to consultation set out in this document has been consulted on with Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council, and South Kesteven District Council. We have had regard to the comments that they have made.

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¹

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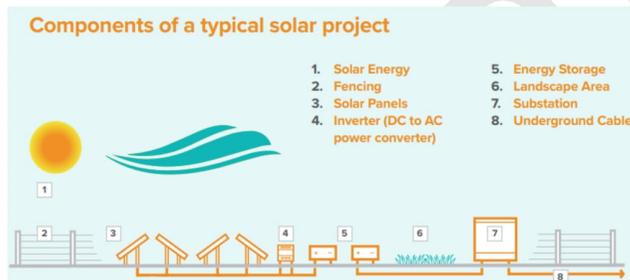
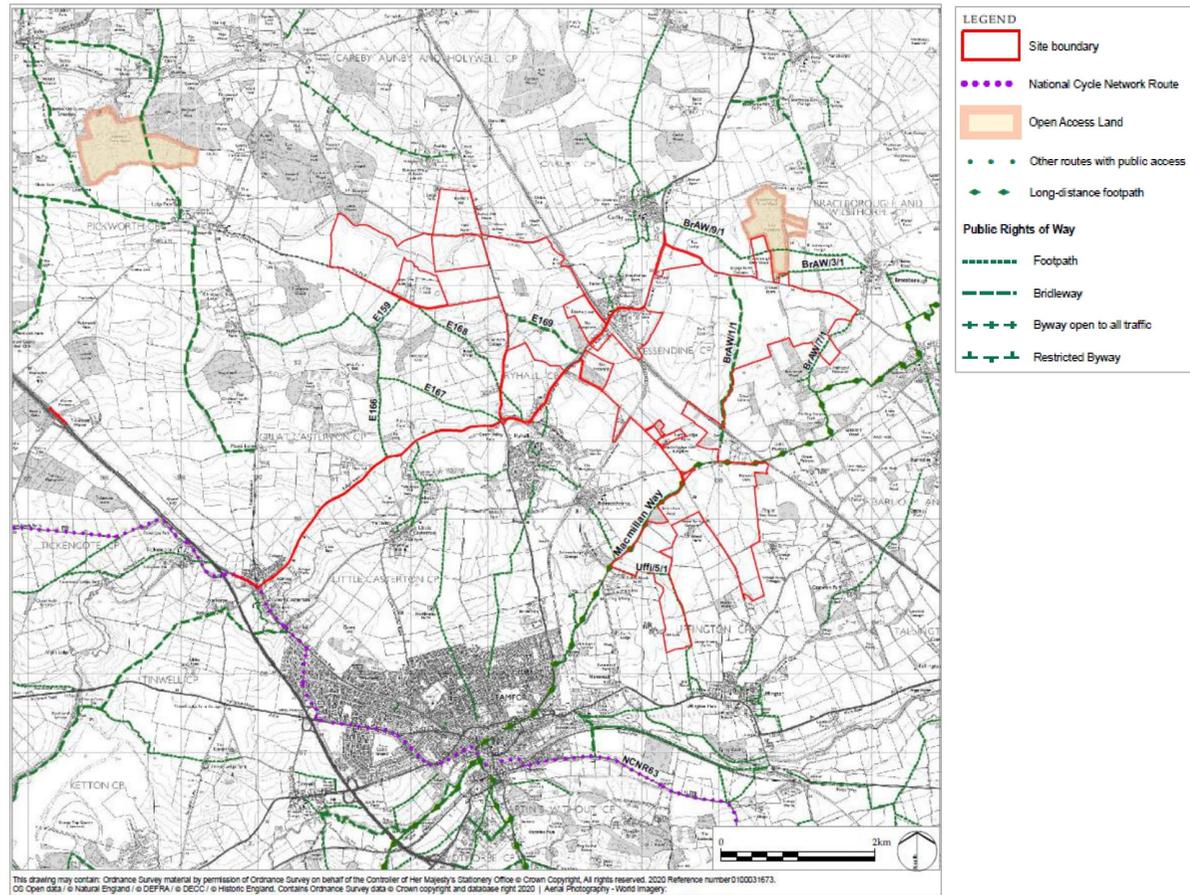


Figure 1: Components of a typical solar project

Figure 2: Proposed site boundary



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	What will we consult on
Stage One non-statutory consultation (held 04 November – 16 December 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early-stage concept plan of Mallard Pass including potential mitigation and enhancement areas • Vision for the project • Opportunities for delivering biodiversity net gain • Opportunities for recreational improvements
Stage Two statutory consultation (XX 2022 – XX 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed plans which have had regard to the comments received during our Stage One consultation. • Developed design proposals for how Mallard Pass could look to local residents and visitors. This will include visualisations of the solar farm from local viewpoints. • Suggested mitigation measures • Our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS)

6. Who will we consult?

Our consultation process is open to anyone who may be interested in, or in any way feels impacted by, our proposals for Mallard Pass.

You can get in touch with us at any stage of the development process. Our contact details can be found in Section 12 of this SoCC. We are seeking to actively engage with the widest possible range of individuals and groups. We want our consultation to be accessible for everyone to respond, regardless of their personal circumstances. Figure 3 shows the consultation area, which has been divided into two zones:

A Core Consultation Zone, which centres on the proposed site and extends by a minimum distance of 2,000 metres from the proposed site boundary. This includes the communities of Essendine, Ryhall, Carby, Uffington, and Stamford.

Properties within the Core Consultation Zone will directly receive communications such as consultation leaflets (as set out in section 7) from us in the post. Information events will be held at locations within the Core Consultation Zone, and relevant organisations, such as parish councils and community groups, will be notified of consultation opportunities.

Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings within the Core Consultation Zone include: Essendine; Ryhall; Little Casterton; Great Casterton; Careby, Aunby and Holywell; Carby; Braceborough and Wilsthorpe; Greatford, Barholm and Stowe; Uffington; and Stamford.

A Wider Consultation Area, as we recognise that there may be some interested individuals or parties who are not within the Core Consultation Zone. We are committed to ensuring that these interested parties still have an opportunity to view our proposals and have their say. We will publicise consultation opportunities to communities within the wider consultation zone by advertising in local media, using social media, and maintaining a register of interested individuals. Informative consultation materials will be published online and available to view and collect via our contact details.

As well as the community consultation, we will be consulting with a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees on Mallard Pass Solar Farm, including:

- Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land included within the DCO application.
- MPs, Local Planning Authorities and parish councils.
- Statutory stakeholders, such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.
- Environmental groups, including RSBP and the local Wildlife Trusts.

Hard to reach groups

We have developed our consultation to be accessible to all groups in the community. We recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified a number of organisations representing hard to reach groups in the consultation area. These organisations will be contacted ahead of Stage Two consultation to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of their members. We will continue to notify them of consultation opportunities.

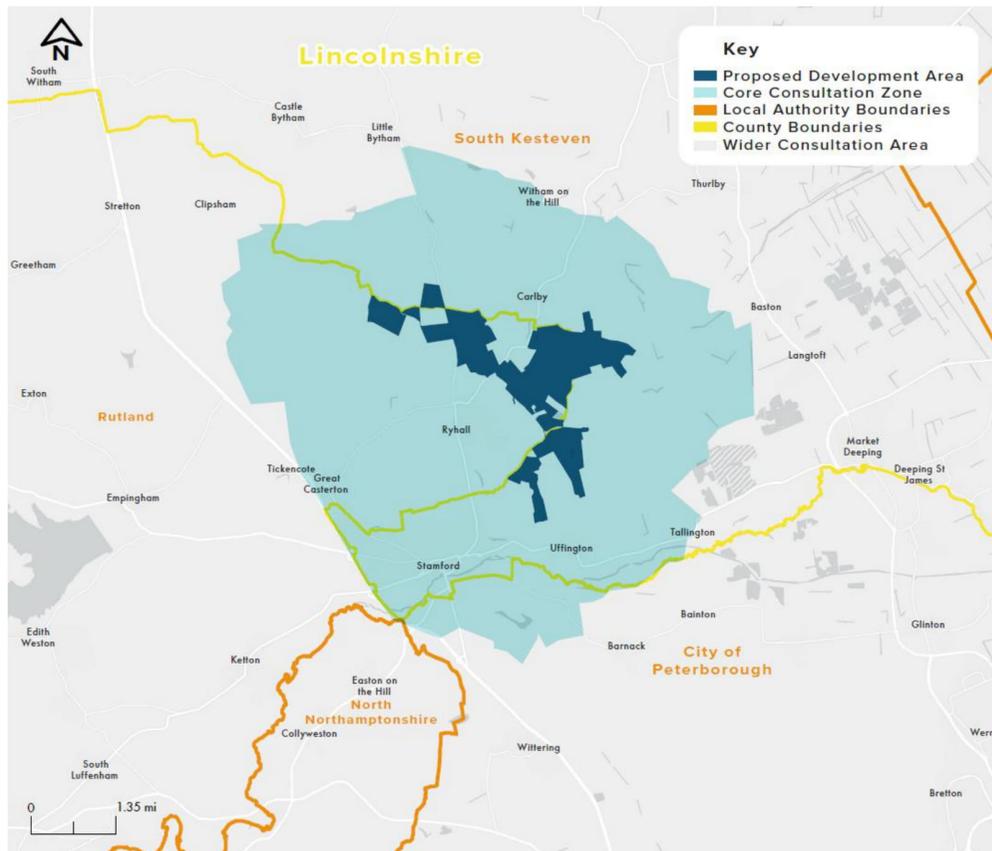
Ongoing engagement

Anyone is welcome to get in touch with us at any point before, during or in-between stages of consultation. Our contact details are listed in Section 12 of this SoCC.

From now until our application is submitted, we will consider the feedback and comments we receive and incorporate these within our proposals where possible. You will also have the opportunity to formally comment on our proposals for the relocation project when the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Guidance on the process can be found on the PINS website at:

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

Figure 3: Mallard Pass Solar Farm consultation zone



7. How will we consult?

The consultation activities described in this section of the SoCC ensure inclusive, meaningful and open consultation. The activities include a range of methods to ensure our consultation can be accessed by all members of the community.

Our statutory Stage Two consultation is planned to take place between XX 2022 and XX 2022, and will be carried out in the following ways:

Meetings and events

Information events will be held at locations across the Core Consultation Zone (see Section 6), Covid-19 restrictions permitting. They will be advertised in consultation leaflets, across local media, at local information points and at CAP sites.

We will hold three information events during our Stage Two consultation, including an event in Essendine, Ryhall, and Stamford. These events will be held on different days of the week, with varied hours to accommodate different availability within the community.

Members of the Mallard Pass Team will be at these events to answer questions and discuss the proposals in more detail. Project materials setting out the developed proposals will be displayed and available to take away.

Webinars will be held for any member of the public to join via telephone and internet. Participants will be invited to submit questions. Members of the MPSF project team will then respond to the questions on the webinar. All questions will be recorded, and a follow up response will be provided to questions that we weren't able to answer during a webinar.

Meetings and briefing sessions may be arranged with local parish councils, elected members and key local stakeholder groups that are present within the Core Consultation Zone and the Wider Consultation Area.

Literature

Consultation leaflets will be posted to all properties in the Core Consultation Zone at the start of Stage Two consultation. These leaflets will also be available online, to collect from Community Access Points, and to take away from our information events. Leaflets can also be posted to those outside the Core Consultation Zone on request.

These leaflets will publicise the Stage Two consultation opportunities and information. This will include details of the consultation period and the activities being undertaken, such as dates, times and locations of information events. Leaflets will also include details of how to access the project website, communications channels, and any available technical information such as the **Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)**.

A **Main Consultation Document** will include more detail on the developed proposals for Mallard Pass. This document will be provided to elected representatives and key stakeholders, available online, at Community Access Points, and to take away from our information events.

Feedback forms will be made available for community members to respond to the consultation. These will be available online and in hard copy at Community Access Points, information events, and by request. Feedback forms can be returned free of charge using the Mallard Pass FREEPOST address (FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm).

Open communication

Our communications lines are open throughout the entire pre-application stage. Through these channels you will be able to speak to a member of our consultation team to ask questions, request information (including in alternative formats) and provide feedback:

- By calling: 0808 196 8717 (open 09:00-17:00, Monday-Friday. A voice message service will operate for out of office hours and all enquiries will be acknowledged within 24 hours during the working week).
- By emailing: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
- By writing, free of charge, to: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Our project website and online information

A **dedicated project website** (www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk) is live for you to find out more information and provide your feedback.

Consultation material will be presented digitally, providing information consistent with that available at events and through hard copy materials.

Advertising and local notices

- **Local press adverts** will be placed in Rutland Times, Stamford & Rutland Mercury and Bourne Local to inform local communities of the forthcoming Stage Two consultation. Adverts will include contact information and consultation event dates, times and locations.
- **Local information points** such as village halls, places of worship, shops and civic buildings will be provided with posters containing consultation information.
- **Social media** will be used to share information about our consultation process via our dedicated project Twitter account: @MallardPass

Parish councils will be provided with digital materials to enable them to advertise and promote the consultation via their own websites, social media and online community forums. Requests for hard copy materials will also be considered.

Local media engagement

We will be promoting our Stage Two consultation by engaging with local media outlets, including: Rutland & Stamford Mercury, Rutland Times, Dairy Local, Lincs FM and BBC East Midlands. This will support with broadcasting the consultation to a wider audience and further ensure that interested individuals and parties have an opportunity to comment on our proposals.

Should any changes to our consultation activities be required due to unforeseen events outside of our control, new details will be publicised in line with the methods set out in this SoCC.

8. Community Access Points

Hard copies of this document and Stage Two consultation materials, including our leaflet, Main Consultation Document, and PEIR, will be available at the following locations:

<p>South Kesteven District Council Office and Library</p> <p>3 Abbey Road Bourne Lincolnshire PE10 9EF</p>	<p>Stamford Town Council</p> <p>Stamford Town Council Town Hall St Mary's Hill Stamford Lincs PE9 2DR</p>
<p>Lincolnshire County Council Office</p> <p>Lincolnshire County Council County Offices Newland Lincoln LN1 1YL</p>	<p>Rutland County Council Office</p> <p>Rutland County Council Catmose House Catmose Street Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP</p>

Due to COVID-19, some public buildings may be unable to host documents, may be accessible by appointment only, or opening times may vary. Please check venue websites for up-to-date information.

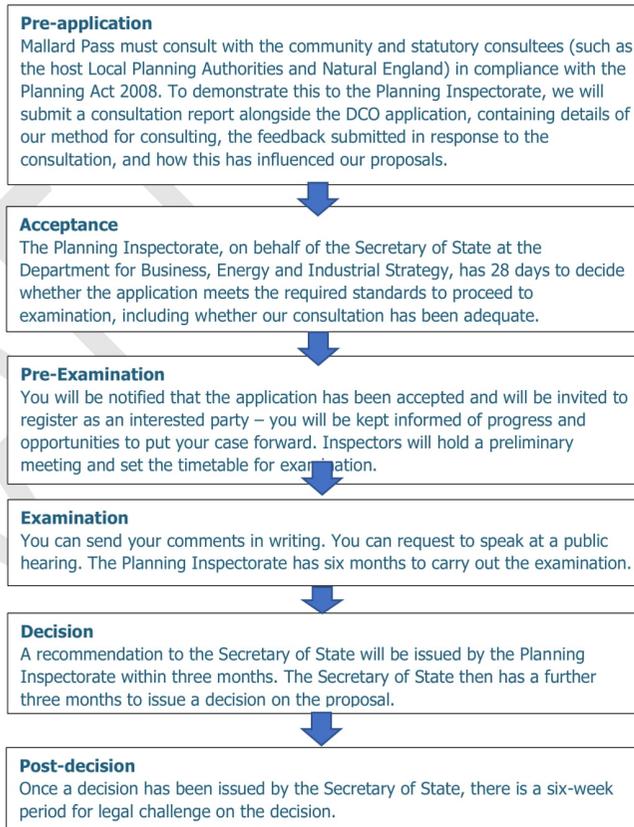
All documents are available on our project website (www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk) or hard copies can be posted on request.

9. The planning process

Mallard Pass is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it has a proposed generating capacity of over 50 MW. As an NSIP we must apply for a DCO.

The DCO application will be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate, the agency responsible for managing the examination process for NSIPs. It will then, if accepted, be examined by an independent Examining Authority, who will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The SoS will then review this before making a decision on whether to grant a DCO.

For more information on this process, or for advice on how to respond to our pre-application consultation, you can access the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8 at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8.0.pdf>



10. Environmental Information

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd will undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for Mallard Pass. The methodology the EIA will be agreed with the relevant regulatory and environmental bodies and your Local Planning Authorities.

The following reports (listed below) will be consulted on as part of the EIA process and as the DCO application is prepared:

Scoping Report

Our Scoping Report was published in February 2022 and presented the Project Envelope and the processes we will undertake to assess any potential impacts to the existing environment.

Feedback on this from Local Planning Authorities and statutory consultees resulted in a Scoping Opinion, which was published by the Planning Inspectorate in March 2022. Both of these documents are available to view on the Planning Inspectorate's website (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/mallard-pass-solar-project>).

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

The PEIR will build upon the findings from the previous scoping documents and the feedback received through the Stage One consultation and engagement with stakeholders.

It will incorporate findings of the surveys and preliminary environmental assessments that have been carried out to date. This will enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely potential impacts that Mallard Pass may have on the local environment. In our Stage Two consultation, we will be seeking feedback on the findings of the PEIR.

Environmental Statement (ES)

The ES will advance the content of the PEIR and continue to incorporate the responses from the Stage Two consultation, stakeholder engagement and results of the surveys undertaken. It will also describe any changes to the project and any mitigation measures that need to be implemented. The ES will form part of the DCO application for submission.

11. Indicative consultation timeline



All future dates are indicative and subject to change

12. Contact Us

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

You can get in touch with members of our stakeholder engagement team using any of the communications lines listed below.

Should you require any documents in large print, audio or braille then please contact us at the details provided. All graphics and maps in this document are for illustrative purposes only.



Email: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk

Freephone information line: [0808 196 8717](tel:08081968717)

Freepost: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



6.4 FINAL STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (19 MAY 2022)



Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Statement of Community Consultation

Published in accordance with
Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008

May 2022

1. Introduction

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing a new solar farm partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland.

The vision for the project, referred to in this Document as 'Mallard Pass', is to support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.

This Document, known as a **Statement of Community Consultation** ("SoCC"), has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 and guidance¹. It explains how Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd intends to carry out its statutory consultation and consult with you, the local community, during the 'pre-application stage' before we submit our Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). There is more information on the DCO process in Section 9 of this SoCC.

Mallard Pass must apply for a DCO because it is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW), meaning that it is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means our DCO application will be made to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), who, following an Examination of the application by PINS, will decide whether or not to grant the project development consent.

The approach to consultation set out in this SoCC was prepared in consultation with the host Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council, South Kesteven District Council, and Peterborough City Council. We have taken their advice and recommendations into consideration when planning our consultation activities.

Stage Two Statutory Consultation for Mallard Pass Solar Farm will run for 10 weeks, between Thursday 26 May and Thursday 04 August 2022. All Stage Two materials will be made available for public consultation upon formal launch, on Thursday 26 May 2022. All feedback must be received on or before Thursday 04 August 2022.

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418009/150326_Pre-Application_Guidance.pdf.

2. About us

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is a partnership between Windel Energy and Canadian Solar, two companies with strong track records in delivering renewable energy developments.

Founded in 2018, Windel is a privately held company that specialises in the development and asset management of renewable energy projects and low carbon technologies. Windel is based in Northumberland and Swansea, and has more than 3 gigawatts (GW) of clean, renewable power in various stages of development.

Canadian Solar was founded in 2001 in Canada and is one of the world's largest solar power companies. It is a leading manufacturer of solar photovoltaic modules and provider of solar energy solutions and has a geographically diversified pipeline of utility-scale solar power projects in various stages of development.

Windel Energy and Canadian Solar have appointed a professional project team to provide support and expertise throughout the consenting stages of Mallard Pass Solar Farm. Together, the project team has significant experience of working across solar and DCO projects.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd recognises consultation to be a vital stage in the development of our proposals.

We want to listen to your views and work with you to develop our proposals for Mallard Pass. This will allow us to develop our plans responsibly and in a manner that supports local community interests.

3. Mallard Pass Solar Farm

The proposals for Mallard Pass include:

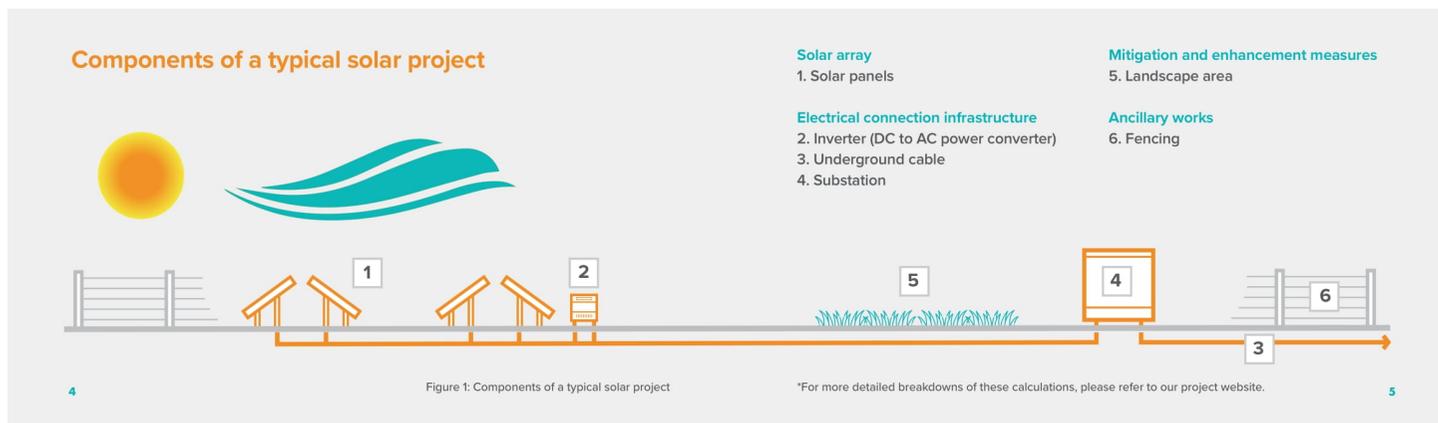
- A solar array which will provide electricity to the national grid.
- An anticipated potential output from the solar array of over 50 MW.
- Electrical connection infrastructure to the Ryhall 400 kilovolts (kV) substation, together with underground cables to connect the field parcels.
- Mitigation and enhancement measures.
- Other ancillary works; including access during construction and operation, fencing, landscaping and drainage.

If approved, Mallard Pass could generate in the region of 350 MW of renewable energy. The site area is partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland, located on land either side of the East Coast Main Line. It equates to approximately 906 hectares (around 2,225 acres), including areas for solar development, mitigation and enhancement measures, as well as an area for potential highway works.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm has the potential to:

- Generate enough renewable electricity to power the equivalent of 92,000 UK households a year.*
- Support low-cost energy generation that increases the reliability of our national grid.
- Help the UK reach urgent climate change targets while supporting the local environment by delivering a biodiversity net gain.
- Provide green spaces that connect habitats, enhance local biodiversity and link recreational routes.

At a time when gas prices are at an all-time high due to our reliance on imported energy, it is our ambition to create low-cost energy that is kind to the local environment and delivers for the planet.



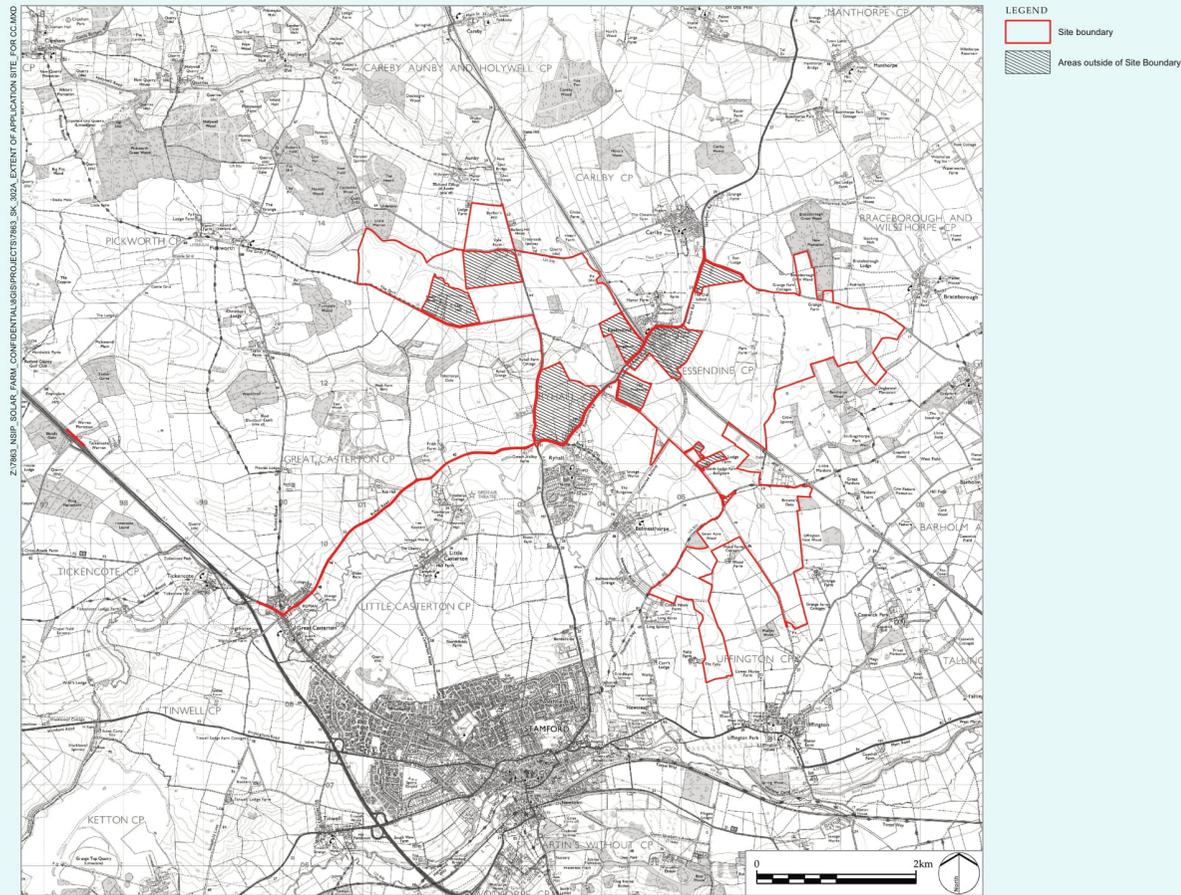


Figure 2: Proposed site boundary

4. Our public consultation process

We are undertaking an iterative consultation process for Mallard Pass.

The feedback and information we receive will help inform the final design of the project that we submit to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for approval. Our consultation will consist of at least two stages of consultation, including:

- A Stage One non-statutory consultation, lasting six weeks, from 04 November 2021 to 16 December 2021.
- A Stage Two Statutory Consultation, lasting ten weeks, from 26 May 2022 to 04 August 2022.

This SoCC relates to the carrying out of the Stage Two Statutory Consultation.

Stage One (04 November 2021 – 16 December 2021)

During our Stage One non-statutory phase of public consultation, we introduced our early-stage proposals for Mallard Pass to the community. We received community feedback on our concept plan and gained a broader understanding of the local area. The feedback received, together with information from our environmental surveys and discussions with technical stakeholders, informed the development of our design.

Stage One consultation was open to all interested members of the public and featured digital and non-digital methods for engagement.

Stage Two (26 May 2022 – 04 August 2022)

During our Stage Two Statutory Consultation, in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act, we will update you on our proposals for Mallard Pass. We plan to consult on our developed proposals along with the results from the ongoing environmental surveys and studies that have been carried out to date, which will be published in our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and summarised in the PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS).

8

Stage Two is statutory because it is the consultation that we must carry out by law. More specific details of what we will consult on are listed in Section 5 of this SoCC, and the methods for how we will consult are listed in Section 7.

You will still have the opportunity to formally comment on our proposals when the DCO application is submitted to PINS. PINS will invite public views on the proposals and interested parties will be able to register and submit their views for consideration during the Examination. Guidance on the process can be found at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/>.



COVID-19

Our approach will be guided by the Government's policy on COVID-19 restrictions at the time of each stage of consultation, and the need to keep people safe. We will ensure that all consultation material is easily accessible and that consultation events are proportionate to allow for open dialogue whilst protecting public health.



Consultation reporting

As part of the DCO application to be submitted to PINS planned for the end of 2022, we will publish a Consultation Report that:

- Describes our consultation process.
- Explains how we have satisfied and adhered to legal requirements.
- Details how we have worked with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to ensure our consultation is suitable for the area through the proposals set out in this SoCC.
- Details the feedback and consultation responses we have received.
- Responds to this feedback, including explaining how we have had regard to your feedback and how it has influenced our proposals.

9

5. What will we consult on?

The aim of our pre-application consultation is to ensure that both community and technical consultees have a chance to understand and influence our proposals.

At each stage of consultation, we will be seeking feedback to help develop our proposals. This will include potential issues such as, but not limited to:

- Short term and temporary impacts during construction, such as upon wildlife and local residents.
- Long term operational impacts, such as upon wildlife, landscape, local residents, and views.
- Benefits, such as the opportunity for biodiversity and recreational improvements.

The parameters of Mallard Pass, known as the Project Envelope, will be discussed through the consultation materials. These include the maximum size and scale of the project and information on the potential construction methodologies of the project. More information will become available regarding these aspects as our proposals develop.

What we will consult on	
<p>Stage One non-statutory consultation (held 04 November – 16 December 2021)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early-stage concept plan of Mallard Pass including potential mitigation and enhancement areas • Vision for the project • Opportunities for delivering biodiversity net gain • Opportunities for recreational improvements
<p>Stage Two Statutory Consultation (26 May – 04 August 2022)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed plans which have had regard to the comments received during our Stage One consultation • Developed design proposals for how Mallard Pass could look to local residents and visitors. This will include visualisations of the solar farm from local viewpoints • Suggested mitigation measures • Our PEIR and PEIR NTS, including but not limited to chapters on: wildlife, water resources and ground conditions, agriculture, and construction and traffic

6. Who will we consult?

Our consultation process is open to anyone who may be interested in, or in any way feels impacted by, our proposals for Mallard Pass.

You can get in touch with us at any stage of the development process. Our contact details can be found in Section 12 of this SoCC. We are seeking to actively engage with the widest possible range of individuals and groups, and want our consultation to be accessible to everyone, regardless of personal circumstances. Figure 3 shows the consultation area, which includes:

A Core Consultation Zone, which centres on the proposed site and extends by a minimum distance of 2,000 metres from the proposed development area. Properties within the Core Consultation Zone will directly receive communications such as consultation leaflets (as set out in Section 7) from us in the post. Information events will be held at locations within the Core Consultation Zone, and relevant organisations, such as parish councils and community groups, will be notified of consultation opportunities.

A Wider Consultation Area, as we recognise that there may be some interested individuals or parties who are not within the Core Consultation Zone. We are committed to ensuring that these interested parties still have an opportunity to view our proposals and have their say. We will publicise consultation opportunities to communities outside the Core Consultation Zone by advertising in local media, using social media, and maintaining a register of interested individuals. Informative consultation materials will be published online and be available to view and collect via our contact details.

Town Councils, Parish Councils and Meetings that we will contact include:

Essendine; Ryhall; Little Casterton; Great Casterton; Careby, Aunby and Holywell; Carby; Pickworth; Bourne; Witham on the Hill; Thurlby; Belmesthorpe; Castle Bytham; Little Bytham; Tallington Braceborough and Wilsthorpe; Greatford, Barholm and Stowe; Uffington; and Stamford.

12

As well as the community consultation, we will be consulting with a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees on Mallard Pass Solar Farm, including:

- Owners, tenants and occupiers of the land included within the DCO application.
- MPs, Local Planning Authorities and Parish Councils.
- Statutory stakeholders, such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.
- Environmental groups, including RSBP and the local Wildlife Trusts.
- Local interest and community groups.



Seldom heard groups

We have developed our consultation to be accessible to all groups in the community. We recognise that some individuals or groups may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. We have identified a number of organisations representing seldom heard groups in the consultation area. These organisations are listed on our project website and will be contacted ahead of Stage Two consultation to ensure that our approach best meets the needs of their members.



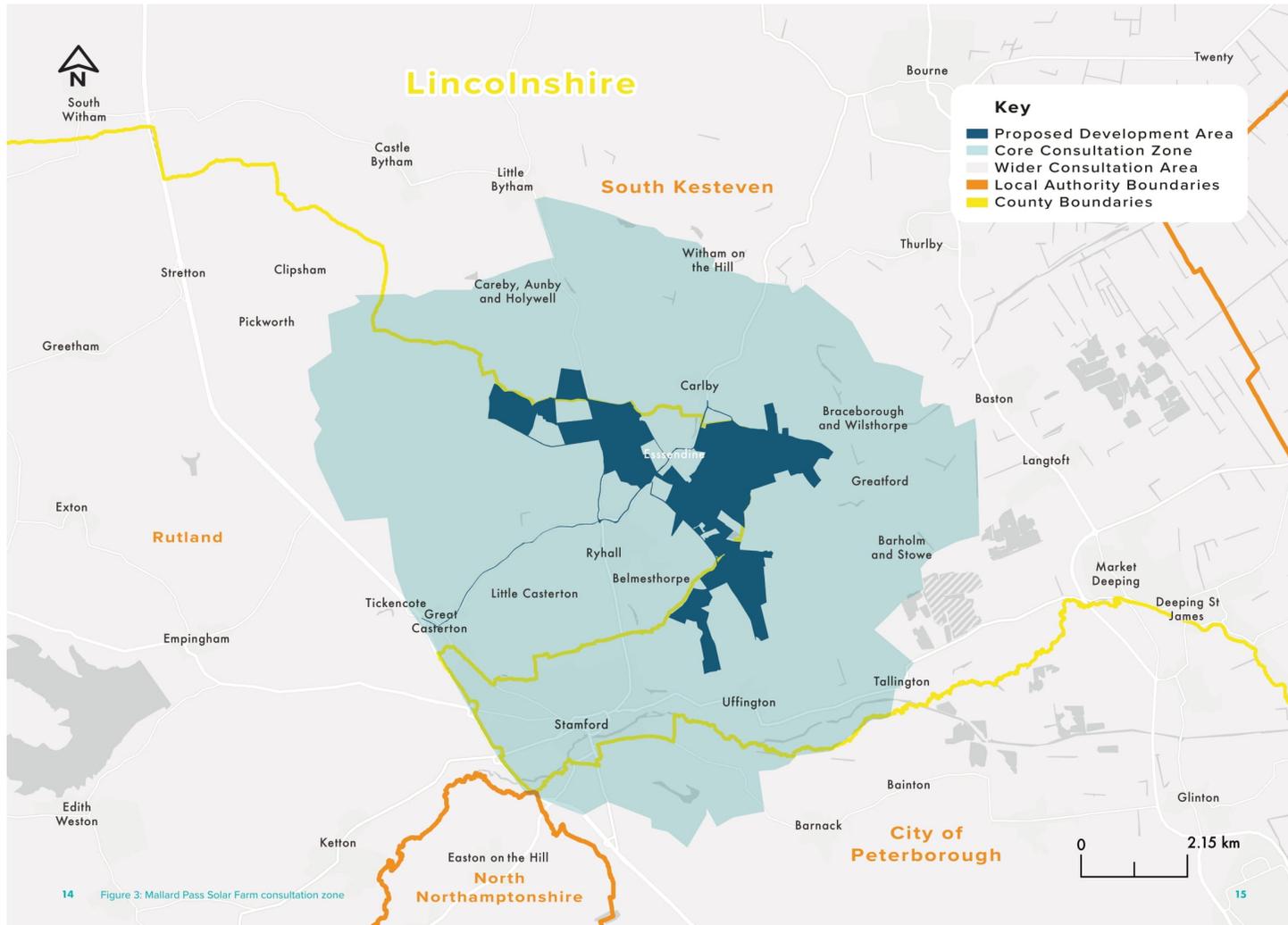
Ongoing engagement

Anyone is welcome to get in touch with us at any point before, during or in-between stages of consultation. Our contact details are listed in Section 12 of this SoCC.

From now until our application is submitted, we will consider the feedback and comments we receive and incorporate these within our proposals where possible.

You will also have the opportunity to formally comment on our proposals for Mallard Pass when the DCO application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Guidance on the process can be found on the PINS website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice>.

13



7. How will we consult?

The consultation activities described in this section of the SoCC ensure inclusive, meaningful and open consultation. The activities include a range of methods to ensure our consultation can be accessed by all members of the community.

Our Stage Two Statutory Consultation is planned to take place between **26 May 2022** and **04 August 2022**, and will be carried out in the following ways:



Meetings and events

Information events will be held during Stage Two, including a series of in-person public exhibition events and digital webinars. These events will be held in accessible locations, on different days of the week and with a range of hours so as to accommodate different availability and needs within the community.

Members of the Mallard Pass team will be in attendance to answer questions and discuss the proposals with residents and other key stakeholders in more detail. Project materials setting out the developed proposals will be displayed and available to take away.

All events will be advertised in the Consultation Leaflet, advertisements and notices published across local, regional and national media, at Local Information Points (LIPs) and Community Access Points (CAP) sites, and on our website.

16

During Stage Two, we will hold four in-person public exhibition events:

- **Saturday 25 June 2022** – 11 am to 5 pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd, Essendine, Stamford, PE9 4LQ
- **Wednesday 29 June 2022** – 3 pm to 8 pm – Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford, PE9 2DR
- **Thursday 30 June 2022** – 3 pm to 8 pm – Greatford Village Hall, Carlby Road, Greatford, PE9 4PR
- **Friday 1 July 2022** – 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall, Stamford, PE9 4HR

Webinar events will additionally be held for any member of the public to join via telephone and internet. A step-by-step guide to access our community webinars is available on our website at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-Your-Say.

- **Friday 17 June 2022** – 11 am to 1 pm
- **Tuesday 05 July 2022** – 6 pm to 8 pm

During our webinars, participants will be invited to submit questions, and members of the Mallard Pass project team will then respond on the webinar. All questions will be recorded, and a follow up response will be provided to questions that we weren't able to answer during a webinar event.

Meetings and briefing sessions will be offered to local parish councils, elected members and key local stakeholder groups that are present within the Core Consultation Zone. These meetings may be in-person or virtual depending upon circumstances at the time, and the details of these sessions will be arranged in liaison with attendees on a case-by-case basis.

17

Literature

All consultation materials are available at the Community Access Points (CAP) sites listed in Section 8 of this document, and will be available to take home from our events. These are also accessible to view, print and download from our website at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Documents.

A Consultation Leaflet will be posted to all properties in the Core Consultation Zone at the start of Stage Two. This document will also be available online, to collect from CAPs, and to take away from our information events. Leaflets can also be posted to those outside the Core Consultation Zone on request.

Our Leaflet will publicise the Stage Two consultation opportunities and the information being consulted on. This will include the details of the consultation period and the activities being undertaken, such as dates, times and locations of information events and community webinars. It will also include details of how to access the project website and communications channels.

A Main Consultation Document will include more detail on the developed proposals for Mallard Pass. This document will be provided to elected representatives and key stakeholders, available online, at CAPs and to take away from our information events.

Feedback forms will be made available for community members to respond to the consultation. These will be available online and in hard copy at CAPs, information events, and by request. Feedback forms can be returned free of charge using the Mallard Pass FREEPOST address (FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm).

18



Open communication

Our communications lines are open throughout the entire pre-application stage. Through these channels you will be able to speak to a member of our consultation team to ask questions, request information (including in alternative formats) and provide feedback:

- **By emailing:** info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk.
- **By calling:** **0808 196 8717** (open 09:00-17:00, Monday-Friday. A voice message service will operate for out of office hours and all missed phone enquiries will result in a callback within 24 hours during the working week.)
- **By writing to:** **FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm***

*Free of charge, no need for a stamp.



Our project website and online information

A dedicated project website (www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk) is live for you to find out more information and provide your feedback.

Consultation material will be presented digitally, providing information consistent with that available at events and through hard copy materials.

19



Advertising and local notices

- **Local press adverts** will be placed in Rutland Times, Stamford & Rutland Mercury and Bourne Local to inform local communities of the forthcoming Stage Two consultation. Adverts will include contact information and consultation event dates, times and locations.
- **Local Information Points (LIPs)** in the local vicinity, such as village halls, places of worship, shops and civic buildings will be provided with posters containing consultation information.
- **Social media** will be used to share information about our consultation process via our dedicated project Twitter account: **@MallardPass**.
- **Parish councils** and community groups will be provided with digital materials to enable them to advertise and promote the consultation via their own websites, newsletters, social media and online community forums as they see fit. Requests for hard copy materials will also be considered.



Local media engagement

We will be promoting our Stage Two consultation by engaging with local media outlets, including: Rutland & Stamford Mercury, Rutland Times, Lincs FM, Rutland & Stamford Sound, and BBC East Midlands. This will support with broadcasting the consultation to a wider audience and further ensure that interested individuals and parties have an opportunity to comment on our proposals.

Should any changes to our consultation activities be required due to unforeseen events outside of our control, new details will be publicised in line with the methods set out in this SoCC.

20

8. Community Access Points

Hard copies of this SoCC and Stage Two consultation materials, including our Leaflet, Main Document, PEIR and PEIR NTS, will be available at the following locations:

Essendine Village Hall

Bourne Rd
Essendine
Stamford
PE9 4LQ

Stamford Arts Centre

27 St Mary's St
Stamford
Lincolnshire
PE9 2DL

Ryhall Village Hall

Church St
Ryhall
Stamford
PE9 4HR

Due to COVID-19, some public buildings may be unable to host documents, may be accessible by appointment only, or opening times may vary. Please check with venues for up-to-date information.

All documents are available on our project website (www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk) or hard copies may be posted on request.

21

9. The planning process

Mallard Pass is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it has a proposed generating capacity of over 50 MW. As an NSIP we must apply for a DCO.

The DCO application will be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), the agency responsible for managing the examination process for NSIPs. It will then, if accepted, be examined by an independent Examining Authority, who will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The SoS will then review this before making a decision on whether to grant a DCO.

For more information on this process, or for advice on how to respond to our pre-application consultation, you can access the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8 at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-eight-overview-of-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-planning-process-for-members-of-the-public-and-others/>.



22

Pre-application (Winter 2021 – Autumn 2022)

Mallard Pass must consult with the community and statutory consultees (such as the host Local Planning Authorities and Natural England) in compliance with the Planning Act 2008. To demonstrate this to the Planning Inspectorate, we will submit a consultation report alongside the DCO application, containing details of our method for consulting, the feedback submitted in response to the consultation, and how this has influenced our proposals.

Acceptance (Winter 2022)

The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, has 28 days to decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination, including whether our consultation has been adequate.

Pre-examination (Winter 2022 – Spring 2023)

You will be notified that the application has been accepted and will be invited to register as an interested party – you will be kept informed of progress and opportunities to put your case forward. Inspectors will hold a preliminary meeting and set the timetable for examination.

Examination (Spring 2023 – Autumn 2023)

You can send your comments in writing. You can request to speak at a public hearing. The Planning Inspectorate has six months to carry out the examination.

Decision (Autumn 2023 – Winter 2023)

A recommendation to the Secretary of State will be issued by the Planning Inspectorate within three months. The Secretary of State then has a further three months to issue a decision on the proposal.

Post-decision (Winter 2023)

Once a decision has been issued by the Secretary of State, there is a six-week period for legal challenge on the decision.

23

10. Environmental information

Mallard Pass is classed as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development and will therefore undertake the EIA process.

The methodology the EIA will be agreed with the relevant regulatory and environmental bodies and your Local Planning Authorities (LPAs).

The following reports will be informed by consultation as part of the EIA process and as the DCO application is prepared:

Scoping Report

Our Scoping Report was published in February 2022 and presented the Project Envelope and the processes we will undertake to assess any potential impacts to the existing environment.

Feedback on this from LPAs and statutory consultees resulted in a Scoping Opinion, which was published by the Planning Inspectorate in March 2022. Both of these documents are available to view on the Planning Inspectorate's website at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/mallard-pass-solar-project>.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

The PEIR will build upon the findings from the previous scoping documents and the feedback received through the Stage One consultation and engagement with stakeholders. It will be accompanied by a PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS), which presents the information in the PEIR in non-technical language so that it may be understood by a wider audience.

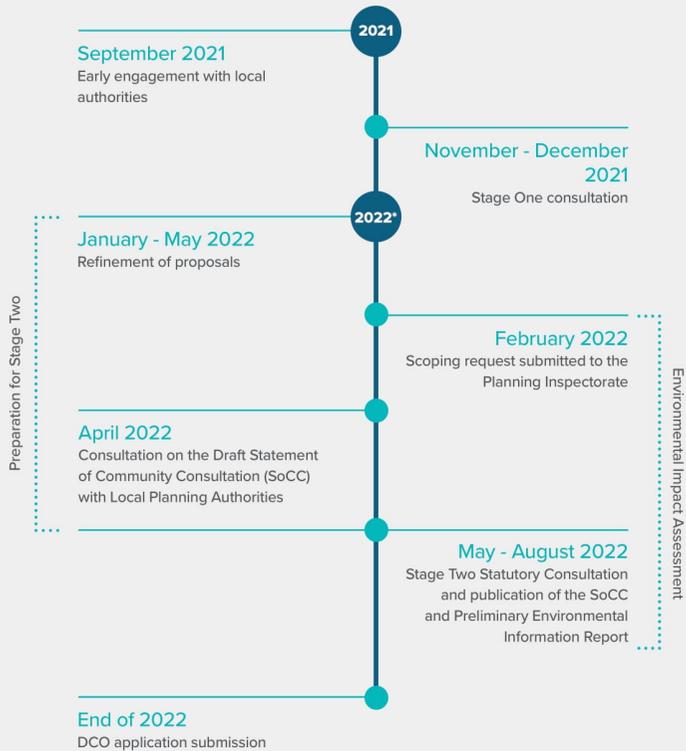
These documents will incorporate findings of the surveys and preliminary environmental assessments that have been carried out to date. This will enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely potential impacts that Mallard Pass may have on the local environment. In our Stage Two Statutory Consultation, we will be seeking feedback on the findings of the PEIR.

Environmental Statement (ES)

The ES will advance the content of the PEIR and continue to incorporate the responses from the Stage Two consultation, stakeholder engagement and results of the surveys undertaken. It will also describe any changes to the project and any mitigation measures that need to be implemented. The ES will form part of the DCO application for submission.

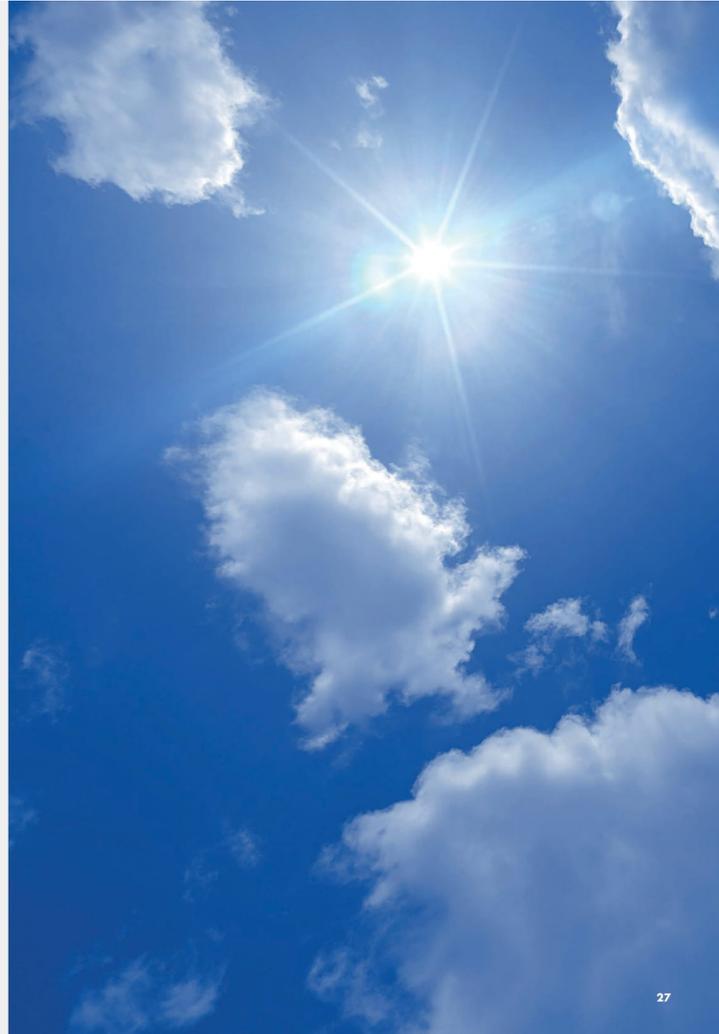


11. Consultation timeline



*All future dates are indicative and subject to change.

26



27

12. Contact us

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more information about Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

You can get in touch with members of our stakeholder engagement team using any of the communication lines listed below.

Should you require any documents in large print, audio or braille, please contact us at the details provided.



Email:

info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Freephone information line:

0808 196 8717



Freepost:

FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm



Visit our website:

www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk



Twitter:

[@MallardPass](https://twitter.com/MallardPass)

6.5 SECTION 47 NOTICE (20 MAY 2022)

6.5.1 SECTION 47 NOTICE

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Notice publicising a Statement of Community Consultation in accordance with Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008

1. The project

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is proposing a new solar farm partly situated in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, and partly in Rutland. The project is called Mallard Pass Solar Farm, referred to as 'Mallard Pass'.

Mallard Pass is proposed to be located on agricultural land either side of the East Coast Main Line near Essendine, and could generate in the region of 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. The proposals include a solar array, infrastructure to connect to the national grid, mitigation and enhancement measures, and other ancillary works.

The vision for Mallard Pass is to support the urgent need to decarbonise our electricity system, deliver reliable and sustainable low-cost energy, enhance the local environment and be a responsible neighbour.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it is proposed to have a generating capacity exceeding 50 MW. Mallard Pass must therefore submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Secretary of State of Business, Energy and Industrial (BEIS) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd is a partnership between Windel Energy and Canadian Solar, two companies with strong track records in delivering renewable energy developments.

2. Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd has a duty to consult with the local community under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd has therefore prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) that explains how people living near the proposed project boundary will be consulted throughout the pre-application process.

This includes how it plans to consult on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), PEIR Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and developed plans which have considered the comments received during the Stage One public consultation held in 2021. Mallard Pass consulted relevant Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) on the SoCC and duly considered the comments made regarding the proposed approach to consultation.

The consultation process is designed to provide information about the project and give the local community the opportunity to have their say, shape and inform Mallard Pass Solar Farm.

This advertisement provides a formal notice of the publication of the SoCC which can be viewed via the Mallard Pass Solar Farm project website www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk. Hard copies of the SoCC are also available from the Community Access Point (CAP) sites listed below and may be provided upon request in hard copy, large print, audio or braille formats.

3. The consultation process

Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd will be holding their Stage Two Statutory Consultation between **Thursday 26 May and Thursday 04 August 2022**. Stage Two will feature a series of consultation activities, which all interested stakeholders and members of the local community are encouraged to participate in.

Upon the launch of Stage Two, on Thursday 26 May 2022, all consultation materials will be made available to view, print and download at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Documents. These may also be provided upon request in hard copy, large print, audio or braille formats at the contact details below. Hard copies of the Stage Two Main Consultation Document, Feedback Form, Community Consultation Leaflet, PEIR and PEIR NTS will also be made available at the CAP sites listed below.

Feedback can be provided during Stage Two via the Mallard Pass project website, accessible at www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk/Have-Your-Say. Hard copy feedback forms will be made available at consultation events, from the CAP sites listed below, by request, or to download and print directly from the project website. Feedback forms may be submitted at events or returned by email or post (free of charge) using the details provided. **All feedback must be received on or before Thursday 04 August 2022.**

4. Community Access Point (CAP) sites

Hard copies of the SoCC are available at the following locations:

- **Essendine Village Hall**, Bourne Road, Essendine, Stamford, PE9 4LQ.
- **Stamford Arts Centre**, 27 St Mary's Street, Stamford, PE9 2DL.
- **Ryhall Village Hall**, Church Street, Ryhall, Stamford, PE9 4HR.

 **Write to us at:** FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm
 **Email us at:** info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk
 **Follow us on Twitter at:** @MallardPass
 **Call our Freephone information line at:** 0808 196 8717
 **Visit our website at:** www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk

6.5.2 RUTLAND AND STAMFORD MERCURY

SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 123(2A)

Notice is hereby given that South Kesteven District Council intends to dispose of the following land for the purposes of public open space:

Land comprising 622m² at Denton Play Area, Hanger Road, Denton, Grantham, Lincolnshire.

Copies of a plan showing the approximate position of the affected land, and this Notice, may be inspected by appointment, which can be arranged by contacting Sarah Dawkins, Asset & Estate Manager for South Kesteven District Council:

Tel: 01476 460680
Email: SDawkins@southkesteven.gov.uk

The area of land may be considered to be open space for the purposes of section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 for which public notice of the intended disposal must be given.

Objections to the intended disposal must be made in writing and addressed to: Mr Sarah Dawkins, South Kesteven District Council, Council Offices, St Peter's Hill, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6PZ. By no later than 12:00 noon on Friday 3rd June 2022.

SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISE LICENCE UNDER LICENSING ACT 2003

Applicant: Blue Ridge Holdings Ltd T/A Iron Horse Ranch House Premises: The Iron Horse Ranch House Address: 2 High Street, Market Drayton, Shropshire

The Licensee is granted to enable the following activities to take place: Provision of Full Music Monday - Sunday 08:00 until 03:30 Provision of Late Music Monday - Sunday 08:00 until 03:00 Provision of Recorded Music Monday - Sunday 08:00 until 01:00

Performance of Dance Monday - Sunday 23:00 until 03:00 Late night refreshment Monday - Sunday 23:00 until 03:30 Supply of Alcohol Monday - Sunday 08:00 until 03:00

The application will be available for inspection by request to the Licensing Team at South Kesteven District Council.

All representations made by any persons or responsible authorities to the Licensing Authority must be in writing, on the appropriate form available on our website to the Grants Officer, St Peter's Hill, Grantham NG31 6PZ or via email to: kessop@southkesteven.gov.uk

The last date for representations to be received by is 13th June 2022. It is an offence for anyone knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with a licence application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.

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DAVID JOHN HEATHER (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Transfer Act 1985 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 22 Redwood Close, Keston, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 3PS, who died on 10/02/2020 are invited to send written particulars of the claim to the undersigned on or before 28/03/2022 after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

CHATTERTON SOLICITORS, 4 Broad Street Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 1BY

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LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 TEMPORARY RESTRICTION TO TRAFFIC (STAMFORD) - FIFIELD LANE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL has made an Order on FIFIELD Lane to allow for works to be carried out on or adjacent to the road.

The effect of the Order will be to impose the temporary traffic restrictions on the roads as specified in the Schedule.

The Order came into operation on 21 May 2022 and will continue in force for a period of 18 months or the completion of the works whichever is the sooner.

The works are expected to commence on or about 21 May 2022 and continue for approximately 2 days.

Access will be maintained to properties on the affected length of road but may be subject to delays.

The restriction shall only apply during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

An alternative route for vehicles will be signed.

SCHEDULE - Road Closure - FIFIELD Lane - East-side only, whole length.

ANDY GUTHRIERSON, Executive Director of Place, Lincolnshire County Council

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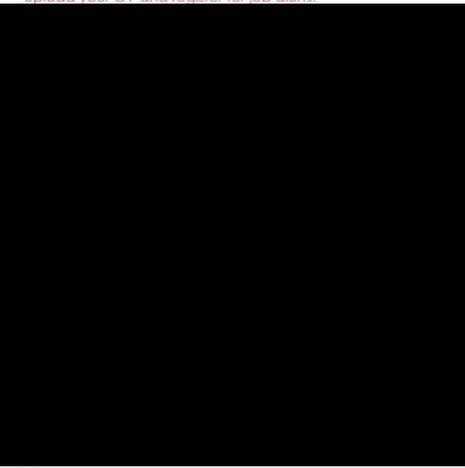
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Looking for a new job, change of career or just fed up in your current role?
Visit our website for 100s of local vacancies.
Upload your CV and register for job alerts.



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 - **Ryhall Village Hall**, Church Street, Ryhall, Stamford, PE9 4HR.

Write to us at: FREEPOST Mallard Pass Solar Farm | Email us at: info@MallardPassSolar.co.uk | Follow us on Twitter at: @MallardPass | Call our Freephone information line at: 0800 156 6717 | Visit our website at: www.MallardPassSolar.co.uk

