

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at CAH2 & Appendices

Deadline 7 (10th October 2023)

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Mallard Pass Solar Farm

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9.43 - Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at CAH2 & Appendices – Appendices A - C

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Summary of Applicants Oral Submissions at CAH2

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This note summarises the oral submissions made by Mallard Pass Solar Farm Ltd (the "Applicant") at Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 ("CAH2") held on 26 September 2023 in relation to the Applicant's application for development consent for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm Project (the "Proposed Development").
- 1.2 Where the Examining Authority (the "ExA") requested further information from the Applicant on specified matters, or the Applicant undertook to provide further information during the course of CAH2, that further information is either set out in this document or provided as part of the Applicant's Deadline 7 submissions elsewhere.
- 1.3 This note does not purport to summarise the oral submissions of other parties, and summaries of submissions made by other parties are only included where necessary to give context to the Applicant's submissions, or where the Applicant agreed with the submission(s) made and so made no further submissions (this is noted within the document where relevant).
- 1.4 The structure of this note follows the order of the items listed in the detailed agenda published by the ExA on 19 September 2023 (the "Agenda"). Numbered agenda items referred to are references to the numbered items in the Agenda. The Applicant's substantive oral submissions commenced at Item 3 of the Agenda. Therefore, this note does not address Items 1 and 2 on the Agenda as these were procedural and administrative in nature.

2.0 WRITTEN SUMMARY OF THE APPLICANT'S ORAL SUBMISSIONS AT CAH2

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	Compulsory Acquisition (CA) and Temporary Possession (TP)
a) ExA questions further to the Applicant's response to ExQ2 4.0.1 [REP5-013] regarding the land area required for the Proposed Development.	The ExA noted that the Applicant wanted to have the flexibility to use Single Axis Tracker (SAT) panels rather than Fixed South Facing (FSF) and in response to the ExA's query about whether single axis tracker (SAT) panels require more land than fixed south facing (FSF) panels, Mr Matt Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, said that the answer is yes, but only if considering the use of FSF vs SAT in isolation and without consideration of other constraints. He said the Applicant's response to ExQ2 4.0.1 [REP5-013] also explained how there could be situation where, due to the outcome of geological and archaeological investigations, a mix of different panel types are used to suit the conditions on the ground.
	The ExA asked for the Applicant to provide an idea of what the proportion of extra land-take was required for SAT panels compared to FSF panels if all things were equal and there were no other constraints to consider. Mr Matt Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, agreed to provide an answer as part of Deadline 7 submissions, but stressed that there being no other constraints to consider was not a realistic scenario.
	Post-hearing note (and dealing with Action Point 1): The Applicant has undertaken a comparison between Fixed South Facing (FSF) and Single Axis Trackers (SATs) using an unconstrainted 100m x 100m square containing PV Arrays only (i.e. no access tracks or solar stations). Based on the Applicant's design criteria the installed capacity for Fixed South Facing would be approximately 6% higher than that of SATs. It should be noted however, that whilst there is a reduction in SATs installed MWp capacity, this technology is more efficient and is able to generate a higher MWh/MWp/Yr in comparison to a Fixed South Facing layout, which will compensate for a lower installed MWp when compared with a FSF layout, as set out within the Applicants response for SWQ4.01 [REP5-012].
	The ExA noted that other solar applications also had this flexibility in it and queried if this was due to site and ground constraints mentioned previously or due to the applicants wanting to take advantage of any anticipated future improvements in technology. Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, explained that the answer was both. SATs generate more energy so there is a preference to use them, but if there are constraints then FSFs may be more appropriate to use in order to make the best use of the land. There may be technological advances in the future that may improve the generation provided by FSFs.
	In response to the ExA's query as to whether there was any difference in life and maintenance of SATs compared to FSFs. Mr Rob Pile, on behalf of the Applicant, said he was not aware of any difference between the two types of panels in this regard. Mr Gareth Phillips, on behalf of the Applicant, added that it was a similar position elsewhere on other projects where constraints of particular sites (which may vary from field to field) dictated the choice of panels.
	The ExA noted in its answer to ExQ2 4.0.1, the Applicant referred to Cottam, Byers Gill and Tillbridge as examples of NSIP-scale solar farms proposing to have the flexibility to use SATs. The ExA asked if the Applicant could provide details in respect of the overall land requirement for these schemes (in the same way as the Applicant did for other schemes in the Summary to

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	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1) [REP4-042]) to see how they compare to consented schemes which have not sought this flexibility.
	In response, Mr Gareth Phillips, on behalf of the Applicant, said each of the schemes are taking the same approach and it would not be in any applicant's interest to have more panels or take more land than they need as there is a commercial imperative to reduce land-take and supply chain procurement of a project. Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, added that he disagreed with the ExA's suggestion that the Proposed Development had a larger land-take than other schemes in REP4-042 , as when considering the schemes in terms of hectares per MW generated there is only 0.7 difference with Cleve Hill and c.0.5 hectares per MW difference with the other schemes.
	Post-hearing note (and in response to Action Point 2): The Applicant has provided a note updating the table provided at CAH1 Appendix A [REP4-042] to provide more information about other schemes seeking flexibility in respect of FSF and SAT panels at Appendix A of this Summary of Case.
	The ExA referred to paragraph 3.10.61 of draft NPS EN3, and in particular the final bullet point about "whether storage will be installed (with the option to install further panels as a substitute)", asking the Applicant what they thought it meant and whether if there is more storage there should be fewer panels and vice versa.
	Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, said the bullet point recognises some schemes may submit applications for storage but during discussions with the Grid they may choose to have panels instead. He also flagged that there is not a choice between overplanting and storage. The purpose of this paragraph is to recognise that applicants may need flexibility to allow for changes in technology and that the detailed design may still be evolving. The paragraph merely recognises that if flexibility is sought on whether to have storage or not, the applicant should show and assess options both with and without storage, and that for options without storage, panels can be shown in its place. It is not intended to limit schemes to either having solar or storage in particular areas, or to suggest that schemes without storage should have less solar, or vice versa.
	Si Gillett, on behalf of the Applicant, said the Applicant's Statement of Need [APP-202] at paragraph 7.7 described how overplanting allows for more generation (with a level of "clipped" volume or energy lost due to a limited fixed Grid connection point) but this needs land to be available and accessible in order to do this (which may not be the case for all schemes). Storage, in contrast, does not increase generation; it moves generation from one period of time to another. To generate as many MWH of energy as possible, a site with storage could afford a greater level of overplanting than a site without storage, as the "clipped" volume could be stored and kept for later. The Proposed Development is categorically not overplanting as a compensation for not having storage, as has been suggested by others in objection to the scheme.
	Mr Gillett said his understanding of the NPS Para 3.10.31 bullet point 4 is that if a site comes forward with land allocated for panels and land for storage and the storage is not built, then the element of substitution is that panels may be built on where storage had been intended. Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, said whether storage is installed is a commercial choice and at

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	the time of the application an applicant might want the flexibility to choose whether to have storage or not depending on what works commercially for them. The Applicant's position is that the scheme that has been put forward is the best optimisation of the Grid connection and the most efficient way of producing low carbon renewable energy.
	In response to the ExA's queries about how the process under Requirement 6 of the DCO will work when the Applicant proposes its choice of panel type at detailed design stage and whether the local planning authorities would be approve or refuse based on the justifications provided, Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, said the process would not go so far as the Applicant having to provide justification of the choice of panels to local planning authorities. Instead, the layout of panels flows from the choice made and will necessitate what is set out in Requirements 6 and 7 of the DCO for the scheme to be approved.
	Following a comment from Tony Orvis, on behalf of Mallard Pass Action Group, about wording used in section 11 of the Statement of Need [APP-202], Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, agreed that a definitive statement setting out the Applicant's position in respect of overplanting and storage would be submitted at Deadline 7.
	Post-hearing note (and in response to Action Point 3):
	Overplanting is not a substitute for storage, but overplanting ratios may be different between collocated and standalone schemes.
	The Applicant understands that, following ISH4, that certain parties may have interpreted the wording of Paragraph 11.5.1 of the Statement of Need in a way which was not intended by the Applicant. This post-hearing note seeks to clarify the intended meaning of Para 11.5.1 of the Statement of Need and demonstrates that overplanting is not a substitute for collocated storage at the scheme.
	Paragraph 7.7 of the Statement of Need [APP-202] describes the benefits of an overplanting strategy in relation to maximising the output of the Proposed Development over its operational life.
	Overplanting is further described in the Applicant's answers to the ExA's First Written Questions Q1.0.16 in [REP2-037].
	Paragraph 11.5.1 of the Statement of Need explains that the Proposed Development's grid connection agreement does not provide sufficient import power capacity to justify the inclusion of electricity storage capability.
	Paragraph 11.5.1 also explains that "In the absence of electricity storage facilities, the Proposed Development's overplanting strategy seeks to maximise use of the grid connection capacity through its operational life".

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	In order to provide additional clarification, the Applicant also refers to its written summary of oral submissions at ISH1 [REP4-022] Item 5(b) and at CAH2 where the Applicant also explained that overplanting was not a substitute for storage at a standalone solar scheme.
	Indeed, REP4-022 Item 5(b) specifically states that a solar development with co-located storage would also be expected to be overplanted where possible.
	If it is useful, the Applicant offers an analogy which illustrates this point, before providing a technology-specific explanation. If a river is allowed to run freely with no impediment, the rain which falls makes its way naturally to the sea. The natural resource must be used when it is available, or lost if it is not used. If the river is dammed, the water can, subject to the size of the dam, be stored for when it is needed. The bigger the dam, the more water can be stored and the more flexible the asset is at storing sufficient natural resource to meet local needs. BESS acts in a similar way in respect of renewable electricity generation. The presence of storage, or a greater capacity of storage, allows for more electricity to be stored which in the context of a solar scheme with a fixed grid connection capacity, permits a greater level of overplanting (because 'clipped' generation can be stored rather than lost).
	Section 7.7 of the Statement of Need [APP-202] explains the concept of 'clipping' at overplanted schemes, particularly in their early years of operation. As explained at ISH4, at schemes with collocated storage, the BESS could allow for the storage, rather than wastage, of otherwise "clipped" generation from overplanted schemes.
	Therefore, storage can be used to reduce any "wasted" generation in the early years of a scheme's operation, while overplanting increases low carbon generation generally at all other times. Therefore, a higher overplanting multiplier may be accommodated at a scheme with collocated solar and storage, than a scheme with no storage. Indeed, up to a multiplier of (storage power capacity + grid connection export capacity) / (grid connection export capacity) (i.e. 2 in all schemes where storage power capacity is sized to match the grid connection export capacity).
	The fact that the Proposed Development does not include battery energy storage, therefore changes the overplanting strategy for the Proposed Development in order "to maximise use of the grid connection capacity through its operational life", but is not the reason for the overplanting strategy. In other words, it would be an unintended and incorrect interpretation of Para 11.5.1 if the paragraph was read to mean that "because there is no storage the scheme is instead overplanted".
	As Para 11.5.2 of the Statement of Need [APP-202] then goes on to state: "Standalone solar schemes provide essential low-carbon electricity to the grid and not including storage capability at the site does not detract from their core contribution to decarbonising the electricity network".

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	The Applicant has included its reasoning and points of justification for not including storage as a part of the proposed development at the following points in the Examination: [REP2-037] – Applicant's response to FWQs Q1.2.4; [REP4-022] – Appendix C; and [REP5-012] – Q1.0.14.
b) ExA questions further to the Applicant's response to ExQ2 4.0.2 [REP5-013] regarding skylark mitigation areas.	Responding to the ExA's queries about why compulsory acquisition powers are required for the full field when skylark mitigation areas are only small and also why they are necessary when the planning regime prevents landowners from changing the use of the land from agricultural to another use, Mr Matt Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, said that the starting point for the response is the section 122 test and that the LEMP, secured by the DCO, requires the ecological and landscape mitigation in order to meet that test and to ensure that it is achieved. He added that what the Applicant is doing is affecting landowners' fundamental enjoyment of the land because we are not allowing them to use the land how they may want to and this property position is not affected by the point that they could get planning permission to change the use of the land. He added that it was not yet known precisely where the skylark mitigation areas would need to go.
	Mr Gareth Phillips, on behalf of the Applicant, also highlighted from a planning perspective that farmers had a broad range of permitted development rights and so the planning regime would not stop someone farming land in a way that would take them out of the purpose required for skylark mitigation in the DCO.
	Mr John Baker, on behalf of the Applicant, also added that the skylark mitigation required undrilled, unfarmed land for the duration of the nesting season, needed to be away from tramlines caused by tractors seeding and spraying, away from fencing and overhead powerlines, and can only be in arable cereal fields. This is to make sure that the skylark plots work as part of a mosaic of habitats that will be effective for the birds. For example, he said that if the farmer chose to plough in a different direction from one year to the next, it would affect where the skylark mitigation plots could cease to be effective due to the change of the position of the tractor tramlines. Mr Baker said the plots would have to be determined on a yearly basis although the previous year's plot would show in the stubble so farmers can farm the same way as the previous year and put them in the same place. He said the details of the requirements for the skylark mitigation plots were set out in 7.5.55 of Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES [APP-037].
	In response to the ExA's question about how the farming would continue on the land and whether the land would be leased back to a farm if it were compulsorily acquired, Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, said that as a starting point this is all land under option or proposed to be under option, so ultimately this should not be an issue. However, if the Applicant ended up using compulsory acquisition powers then discussions would continue to ensure that the agricultural use as a farm continued. He also flagged that it was not possible to compulsorily acquire a lease or a positive covenant. Mr Fox said that the land being secured to remain as a farm is secured at paragraph 4.2.34 of the Outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) [REP5-065].

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	Sue Holloway, on behalf of Mallard Pass Action Group (MPAG), suggested that the farming should be secured through the DCO rather than through an outline plan that can be changed post-consent. In response, Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, said that compliance with the oLEMP is secured through the DCO and any changes to the plan is under Requirement 5 subject to the conclusions of the Environmental Statement (ES) remaining unchanged. As the skylark mitigation is mentioned in the conclusions of the ES, it would be very difficult for that provision to change without changing the conclusions of the ES. Post-hearing note: The OLEMP has been further updated at Deadline 7 to better reflect the requirements for agricultural
	management within those fields retained within the Order limits for the purpose of skylark plot creation.
c) Any other matters regarding the Applicants case for CA and TP.	In response to the ExA's question about what would happen to the land at the end of the development's life if it had been compulsorily acquired by the Applicant and whether it would revert to farming from a planning perspective, Mr Matt Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, said if the Applicant had used compulsory acquisition powers then it would be the owner of the land. The mechanisms under Crichel Down Rules apply to public sector bodies and would not apply to the Applicant as a private company so what happens to the land would depend on the circumstances of the market at the time but there would be no compulsion to sell the land back. This is one of the consequences of compulsory acquisition powers in general terms.
	Mr Gareth Phillips, on behalf of the Applicant, added that once the DCO has expired and the works decommissioned, the land in question goes back to its original use and from a planning perspective if want to do something different then the owner would need to apply for planning permission. The value of the land will be based on its reversionary use (i.e. agricultural) and on who might bid, it is of no commercial value to the Applicant as a solar developer anymore, so it would be open to farmers to put a bid in for the use of it.
	The ExA commented that solar projects were different to other developments such as housing or a large power station in that they are installed for a fixed period and then the land goes back to its previous use, whereas once other developments are built they are built.
	Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, highlighted that there are numerous energy projects consented, where, even if a time limit is not on the face of the Order, the infrastructure is known to be time limited – for example the consented solar schemes to date apart from Longfield, and more recent peaking power stations (such as Abergelli and Wrexham power stations which publicly stated their lifetime was likely to be only 25 years (albeit this was not on the face of the DCO, as Mr Fox suggested might be the case at the Hearing) and were assessed on that basis. In none of those DCOs were there provisions for the land to be returned at the end of these projects. Also, 60 years is a long timeframe and significant proportion of a person's lifetime so it is difficult to argue that the value and use of land compulsorily acquired will remain true for the original landowner (even if they were still alive) at the point of decommissioning.
	In response to the comments made by Mr Raj Gupta, speaking on behalf of Mr Richard Williams (an affected person), that farmland ownership is generational and passes through the family and they wanted the Applicant to commit to abide by the

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	Crichel Down Rules (notwithstanding that they do not apply to the Applicant), Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, said in the context of this not being imposed on Longfield and other time limited DCOs, if the ExA chose to impose it here it would be setting a precedent for other schemes across the country and if the Government considered that it was required it could be put into the draft NPSs.
	Mr Fox also added that the Applicant had committed in the Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [REP6-010] for the land in which the solar areas are allocated to be restored to farmland with the panels (and other items relating to Works No. 1) being removed and landscaping and biodiversity measures being retained in situ. The oDEMP does not impose restrictions about what happens next.
	Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, said that the Applicant would review oDEMP at paragraphs 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4 to amend the text to ensure it deals with the restoration of land (as well as the removal of solar equipment) and to ensure the scenario where the Applicant owns the relevant land is also covered. The Applicant will also check and amend the oDEMP as required to make it clear that the Applicant will not be removing cables in the road.
	Post-hearing note (and dealing with Action Point 6): An updated oDEMP has been submitted at Deadline 7 dealing with these points.
4 Review of the Applicant's	Schedule of Negotiations and Powers Sought [REP4-005] and related matters
a) The Applicant to briefly	Mr Matt Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, set out the recent updates to the Book of Reference [REP5-050] which are:
explain any recent updates to	
the Book of Reference [REP5-050].	 In response to representations from William John Williams changes have been made to account for members of the Williams family to be added to various plots.
	The Environment Agency has been added to plots that contain the West Glen River following confirmation of their interest in these artists.
	 interest in those plots. The Applicant was made aware that Stamford Road, B1176 is maintained by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), rather than Rutland County Council. As a result, LCC were added to the 'Occupiers or Reputed Occupiers' column in respect of public highway for all plots associated to Stamford Road, B1176.
	As two of the points were raised by the relevant parties concerned and the local highway authorities will know which roads fall under their jurisdiction, Mr Fox said he believed that the relevant parties are aware of the changes that have been made.
	In respect to submissions made by Mrs Helen Woolley made at CAH1 about the plots relating to her property, he said the Applicant had listened to Mrs Woolley's points but because there is a discrepancy between Mrs Woolley's documentation and the position stated on the Land Registry, the Applicant was not proposing to make any changes but would ask Mrs Woolley to get in contact if she had any further concerns.

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b) The Applicant to briefly summarise any updates on outstanding objections and progress with negotiations.	 Mr Matt Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, gave a general overview of progress with negotiations with landowners and protective provisions which is as follows: Main landowners had negotiated option agreements apart from Mr Williams and the Bradley family. In respect of Mr Williams, the Applicant had sent back their latest position on Friday and had responded to some of Mr Williams' requests in a positive manner. The Bradley family had not submitted any objections but due to complicated arrangements they were taking time to sign the dotted line on the agreement yet. In respect of statutory undertakers, all but Network Rail have withdrawn their objections. In respect of Network Rail, the Framework is agreed and the Protective Provisions are agreed. Network Rail had indicated once Framework completed they would write to withdraw their objections. The Environment Agency have had a site visit and have exchanged SoCG and everybody is happy with the position reached and the drafting the final wording of the Protective Provisions just needs to be agreed – it is in principle, just the precise drafting is left to agree. Mrs Holloway, on behalf of MPAG, asked what the position with Gigaclear the utilities provider was in respect of protective provisions. Mr Fox confirmed that the Applicant had contacted them to ask if they wanted specific protective provisions in the DCO but they did not suggest that they did, and in any event Part 1 of the Protective Provisions in the DCO would apply to them. Post-hearing note (and dealing with Action Point 7): The Applicant and the Environment Agency have finalised and agreed Protective Provisions. The Applicant has submitted an updated DCO at Deadline 7 which includes this agreed form of Protective Provisions.
5. Cable crossing options	
a) The Applicant to provide update on proposed cable crossing options in relation to the East Coast Mainline Railway.	Mr Matt Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, provided a general update about the proposed cable crossing options in relation to the East Coast Mainline, saying that the Protective Provisions (which are in the form in the draft DCO currently) and Framework Agreement/BAPA are agreed (this completing imminently). The last 'in principle' document is the Option for Lease and there is a standard form of this appended to the Framework Agreement. He said he thought this last document therefore would be signed off during the course of the examination. In response to ExA's further question about what happens next after these documents are signed and what is the current position in respect of the archway option, Mr Fox said that Network Rail signing up to the three documents above are them signing up in principle that the Applicant can do that archway option but there will still be various approvals, sign-offs and clearances to be successfully obtained, pursuant to those documents, before the Applicant can know that the cables can go through the archway and be able to drop the Essendine village option completely. This will not be known until post DCO consent.

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	As such, the Applicant still needs the flexibility of two options (the archway or through Essendine village) so that if Network Rail do not like an aspect of detailed design for the cabling and blocks use of the archway, the Applicant can still go through the village. As previously stated, once the Option for Lease is signed then the Applicant will amend the DCO to state it will use one option or the other and once the choice is made the community will be informed via the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) (which was provided for in the OCEMP update at Deadline 5) and then the Applicant will no longer be able to use the DCO powers in respect of the other option.
	Mr Fox confirmed in response to ExA query about the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) option that the Applicant was solely pursuing the archway option and not the HDD option.
	The ExA asked the Applicant to keep the ExA updated about the situation with cabling for each remaining deadline of the examination. Mr Fox confirmed that this would be done.
	Deadline 7 update (and dealing with Action Point 8): The Framework Agreement and Option for Easement are not yet completed but progress has continued.
	Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, said depending on where the parties reach in respect of the Option for Lease if this is signed then the DCO will be amended as referred to above, but if not, then the Applicant will provide without prejudice wording (by Deadline 8A) about what article 20 wording would look like so the interested parties had time to review and comment.
6. Updated site-specific repro Order (Affected Persons)	esentations from persons who may be affected by the compulsory acquisition provisions in the draft Development Consent
a) Oral representations from Affected Persons who have notified a wish to make oral representations at this CAH2 and any section 102 or Category 3 persons wishing	Mr Trevor Burfield, speaking on behalf of Essendine Parish Council, said there were still concerns about the proposed cable works. One concern is that there were only outline plans of where the utilities are and there were concerns that if the works led to disruption of other utilities such as broadband, water and electricity then the villagers would suffer detriment (particularly if utility companies do not react promptly to fix a problem) and villagers wanted a problem like this to be fixed in hours not days (this was a view echoed by Mrs Adele Stainsby's representation on behalf of Essendine Village Hall).
to make oral representations. b) The ExA will invite the	While Mr Burfield said he was happy with the Applicant's assurances that access to the play area would be maintained throughout any cable works, he raised concerns about access to properties during the works as there were people with special requirements whose needs needed to be taken into consideration. He also raised concerns about where people can park their
Applicant to respond to each representation individually under this agenda item. The	cars if the trench digging is blocking people from accessing their driveways for a one or two. Mr Matt Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, said that amendments had been made to the Outline Construction Environmental
ExA will also ask questions.	Management Plan (oCEMP) [REP5-059] at Deadline 5 to make sure that vehicular access is maintained to the properties at all times (except for when the actual trenches are being dug). Following the Compulsory Acquisition Workshop event held at

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	Essendine Village Hall, the Applicant has committed to updating the oCEMP for Deadline 7 to provide that pedestrian access will be maintained and to require the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to contact residents and give advance notice of when the works will take place and to allow residents to indicate any special requirements they may have in respect of access for the contractor to take into account when undertaking the works.					
	Mr Fox added Protective Provisions in the DCO has protections for utility undertakers to ensure issues such as accidentally cutting through wires or pipes do not happen. However, for Deadline 7, he said amendments would be made to the oCEMP to set out that the Community Liaison Officer will be emergency contact for the community and the "point person" with talking to the statutory undertakers in the event there is a problem with utilities during the cable works. He explained, for context, if the Applicant was not applying for a DCO they would be doing this cabling work under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and these mitigation measures being put forward would not be provided as standard under that Act. By contrast, under the DCO the Applicant is putting in measures to limit the impact as much as possible.					
	Post-hearing note (and dealing with Action Point 9): An updated oCEMP to provide for pedestrian access being maintained, advance notice of works to be provided by Community Liaison Officer so residents can provide details of special requirements and for the Community Liaison Officer to be 'point person' for dealing with utility companies if there were any issues has been submitted at Deadline 7.					
	Mr Andrew Beamish, speaking as an affected person, raised the following concerns:					
	 An alternative cable route going around the top of Essendine through farmland, crossing the main road twice and Pickworth Lane and over a small bridge owned by a farmer had not been considered which would avoid the need to route lay cables in the road and disrupt village and businesses. The farm needed to maintain access at all times for articulated lorries to be able to come in and out of their property via 					
	 the access track (plot 02-138a) and via its Church Farm access. Wishing for the Permissive Path adjacent to his land to be moved for security reasons. 					
	In response to the point about the alternative route, Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, said that the Applicant would take this point away for further consideration and respond formally at Deadline 7. However, as starting point if the route were to go across farming land then this would lead to more land that the Applicant would be looking to compulsorily acquire and while appreciating the concerns raised about access, the current route is still on the public highway which avoids having to do this.					
	In response to the point made about maintaining access of Mr Beamish's business to the access track to articulated lorries and other vehicles, Mr Fox said that further to previous discussion held between the Applicant's representatives and Mr Beamish, the Applicant would look to update the oCEMP at Deadline 7 to include a commitment that where cabling works is to be undertaken across access tracks then as well as a requirement to consult with parties there will be a requirement to maintain the access. This is possible due to the Applicant having powers over the adjacent land to the north of the access track, and through plots 02-					

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	0146 and 02-147 to 'swing around' the entrance to the track. This would provide a commitment to maintain Mr Beamish's access to the access track at all times.
	In response to the point raised about maintaining the Church Farm access at all times, Mr Fox said the Applicant would take this point away for further consideration and respond formally at Deadline 7. The Applicant will also continue to liaise with Mr Beamish.
	Post Hearing Note (and dealing with Action Point 10): The Applicant has updated the OCEMP at Deadline 7 with regard to both of these issues. In respect of the Church Farm access, whilst the Applicant considers that it is likely that access will be able to be maintained throughout construction of any cable routing through the village (whether through the construction methodology, or by working with adjacent landowners whom the Applicant has options with), it cannot at this stage commit to this definitively. However, as discussed at the Hearing, it is noted that the Applicant has committed to numerous methods of communicating with all interests in Essendine such that the impact of this can be managed. Furthermore, it is noted that any inability to use this access would be for a very limited period of time, likely a period of days, (i.e. while the trenching is being undertaken) the impacts of which could be managed via on-going liaison (for example by agreeing temporary coverings for specific deliveries if sufficient advance notice was given).
	The ExA also raised the comment that plot 02-138a needs to be added to Schedule 9. Post-hearing note (and dealing with Action Point 11): This has been done in the updated DCO submitted at Deadline 7.
	In response to the ExA's request for a further update about Mr Beamish's security concerns about the new permissive paths and Mr Beamish's update to say he was waiting to hear from the Applicant about this, Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, acknowledged Mr Beamish's concerns and said the Applicant was considering this but had to also take this into account with the landscape and visual impacts to ensure that any change to the paths would work as a concept.
	Post-hearing note (and dealing with Action Point 12):
	Permissive Path
	The Applicant has reviewed this and has amended the route of the permissive path, which has been agreed with the landowner (whom the Applicant has agreed an option with). This has been provided on the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan which is appended to the oLEMP submitted at Deadline 7. This does not necessitate changes to any other application plans, but has led to a tweak to the powers sought over plot 02-150 in Schedule 9 to allow the path to connect to Bourne Road over a highway ditch (where pedestrians will then be able to cross Bourne Road to an existing pavement on the other side of the road).
	Alternative Route Crossing

Agenda Item	Applicant's Response					
	During the early stages of land selection for MPSF, the Applicant undertook an appraisal of the possible options for crossing the East Coast Main line with underground power cables to connect PV Arrays located to the east of the East Coast Main Line with the National Grid substation.					
	At the time of consideration, the cable voltage had not been determined therefore the cable route options had to be as flexible as possible, along with a preference to keep it as short as possible.					
	The Applicant's starting location for the search was at the '3 arches' (the location of the proposed cable tray crossing) which directly connects Fields 27 and 20 (APP-112). From this starting location the Applicant considered existing crossings either under or over the East Coast Mainline, both north and south of this location.					
	The Applicant considered the following crossings (shown on the map at Appendix C to this Summary) -					
	3 Arches - Central archway clear for passage with underground gas main passing through with two arches either side. Using the arches would give the most direct cable connection route and least disruptive.					
	A6121 road bridge - A more recent road bridge over the East Coast Mainline and already housed utilities. This appeared to be a good option although would require the installation of cables within the highway as part of the cable route.					
	• Manor Farm access bridge (the bridge referred to by Mr Beamish – photos below): Constructed of 3 brick arches, approximately 3.7m metres between parapets with a gravel track. The Applicant's experience has been that Network Rail over recent years have not allowed any utilities to pass on farm access bridges and have been removing old bridges where alternative access is available to the farm or farmland. Whilst the Applicant is not aware of such proposals for Manor Farm bridge, experience had been that within the life of the Proposed Development the removal of the bridge was a high possibility. It would also involve more cabling on third party land. Furthermore, the Applicant team's experience is that it is unlikely that NR would allow crossing at this point due to the age of the structure and the problem with constructing at any kind of depth through the deck of the bridge. The Applicant considered this to be a high risk.					

Applicant's Response Agenda Item Underpass between Castle Bytham and Carlby - this was considered an option but would be a considerably longer cable route across multiple land ownerships, and require crossing the West Glen River twice. Bridlepath bridge south of the 3 Arches - Old metal bridge now used by horses and walkers. The bridge bed appeared to be shallow not allowing for cables to be accommodated. Level Crossing on road to Greatford - Single track road. This would require possible closure of the railway and road for a period of time, causing disruption... Directional Drilling (HDD) - Although not existing a directional drill option under the railway was also considered to avoid any need for road or rail closures. Based on this early appraisal the Applicant selected the following three options for discussions with Network Railway: 3 Arches A6121 road bridge **Direction Drilling**

Agenda Item	Applicant's Response				
	In response to Mr Richard Williams' comment that negotiations are ongoing with unresolved points relating to normal commercial lease terms to protect the land and the ExA should set a precedent making the Crichel Down Rules apply to the Applicant, Mr Gareth Phillips said that negotiations were ongoing and moving forward and Mr Williams' compulsory acquisition submissions were a bid to obtain commercial leverage in those discussions and once the lease was in place these issues would fall away. If Mr Williams and Mr Gupta provide a detailed submission justifying and providing precedents for the use of Crichel Down Rules in this context then the Applicant would consider them accordingly.				
	Mr Fox added that points raised by Mr Williams in respect of alternatives and the public benefit had already been answered in writing at Deadlines 5 and 6.				
	Clarifying a point that Mrs Stainsby made in respect of the value of compensation mentioned at the Compulsory Acquisition Workshop held between the Applicant's representatives and Essendine villagers, Mr Fox said the value of £50 was given to provide villagers with context that if they did have a subsoil plot then it would have limited value and compensation is meant in this context. The figure was not stated as or offered as compensation in respect of disruption caused by the cable work.				
	In response to concerns expressed by Mrs Helen Woolley (an affected person) and her request for reassurance that the works outside her property will not disrupt her access to fibre broadband (which is provided via cables in the manhole and powered by telegraph pole opposite her property) and that her access to the track to the south side of her property will remain at all times throughout the works, Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant said the works near her property are not cable works but related to removing hedgerows and the Applicant would confirm whether the assurance can be provided about utilities and access at Deadline 7.				
	In response to Mrs Woolley's query about why there are three secondary compounds within 0.7 miles of each other (one outside her house and two visible from her house at The Drift) and only a small amount of solar in the area, Mr Fox said that the Applicant would provide confirmation about why this is the case but he would flag that the field opposite the crossroads is a large solar field and the compounds would enable work on this field.				
	In response to Mrs Woolley's concerns that the proposed road traffic control measures will lead to very lengthy diversions for local residents, Mr Fox said, on behalf of the Applicant, that the Applicant acknowledged Mrs Woolley's concern that this could happen. The potential closure to the crossroads to allow the cabling to be laid safely across it would be for a relatively short time (perhaps one or two weeks if that) and that the detail of the proposed measures would be approved by the local planning authority who would consider the acceptability of diversions.				
	Post-hearing note (and dealing with Action Point 15):				
	The Applicant can confirm that the works in the vicinity of Mrs Wooley's property will be limited to vegetation clearance on the western side of the B1176 in order to achieve the required visibility splays to the secondary compound access. The proposed				

Agenda Item Applicant's Response
site access junction plan (presented in Appendix F of the updated oCTMP, drawing reference 4990-2001-T-028-D, see Appendix B) shows the required visibility splays in pink. When the proposed access is being constructed, there may be a need for temporary traffic signals and a temporary speed limit when these works are being undertaken, which is shown on the Traffic Regulation Measures – Temporary Measures plans, although this will not impact access or any of the utilities to Mrs Wooley's property.
To facilitate the construction of the Proposed Development, the Applicant has located the temporary construction compounds within the Solar PV Site at or close to access points, to minimise the extent of ground disturbance outside of the Solar PV Site. temporary construction compound has been located within each 'block' of PV Arrays so that each block is served by a temporary staff welfare facilities and temporary storage of materials. If a 'block' of PV Arrays were not to be served by its own temporary construction compound there would be a need for additional daily movements of staff and materials over the public highway between the block of PV Arrays and the nearest temporary construction compound, where welfare facilities and materials would be stored.
At this stage, it is not possible to confirm the exact requirements of any diversion routes as it will be subject to the phasing of the construction and cabling works, as well as taking into consideration any other construction works that are taking place at that point in time. It is anticipated that any road closures on the B1176 will utilise a diversion route to the north via Little Bytham although the exact details will be outlined within the future iterations of the CTMP once available. The CTMP would need to be approved by the Local Authorities who would determine the acceptability of the phasing and closures prior to the commencement of any works taking place. The scope of the works and any diversions would be communicated in advance to affected residents and local businesses through the Community Liaison Group and the Traffic Management Working Group.
Mrs Holloway, on behalf of MPAG, raised the concern that it is a challenge to get the county highway authorities to communicate with one another and act in a joined up way when there are works which will also impact villagers across the boundary and she had concerns that the local authorities will not approach these proposed temporary road measures in a holistic way. Mr Fox, or behalf of the Applicant, said that the Applicant would consider whether the Outline Construction Transport Management Plan (oCTMP) or DCO could be updated to ensure that the authorities are coordinated when temporary road measures and other plans are signed off and approved.
Post-hearing note (dealing with Action Point 15): The dDCO (rather than the OCTMP) has been updated to incorporate a commitment that in the event there is a situation where the CTMP is being updated and submitted to only one Local Authority of approval, the other Local Authorities will also be sent a copy of the updated CTMP. Coordination through the Traffic Management Working Group (TWMG) will also allow help to ensure that all affected parties are aware of any traffic management and road closures that are planned well in advance of the commencement of any works.
7. Any other site-specific matters for the Applicant

Agenda Item	Applicant's Response					
a) The ExA will ask questions of the Applicant and seek updates about negotiations and matters arising from written and oral submissions, unless they have been raised by APs and heard under Agenda item 5, or objections have been withdrawn. b) Questions regarding the inclusion of CA of rights sought for parts of Pickworth Road (including Plot Nos. 02-39, 02-40, 02-48 and 02-69).	In response to the ExA's question about the recent inclusion in the DCO Schedule for Compulsory Acquisition of Rights for Pickworth Road plots (although they had always been shown on the Land Plans and the Works Plans), Mr Matt Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, said that the Traffic Regulations Measures Plan – Temporary Road Closures had not shown traffic management measures relating to the cabling works for these plots and this plan had now been corrected at Deadline 5 [REP5-048]. Mr Fox explained the reason for including the Pickworth Road plots was to provide a level of optionality but having done further work and following discussions at the Compulsory Acquisition Workshop the previous week, the Applicant was prepared to remove the powers from over Pickworth Road and amend the relevant plans and update the DCO to reflect this. This would ensure that if the Network Rail archway option should be approved there would be no cabling required through the village at all. Mrs Holloway queried why, if this change was made, even accounting for powers being needed to carry out street works as shown on the Works Plans, the plots to the west of Uffington Lane would need to be retained. and Mr Fox said the Applicant would consider this further and respond as part of its Deadline 7 submissions. Post-hearing note (and in response to Action Point 16):					
	Plots 02-29 to 02-36 and 02-38 are still required to provide working room for the installation of the cable from Plot 02-23. This is to reflect that it is unlikely that the cable will go straight from plot 02-23 to plot 02-34/02-36, due to the presence of vegetation at the southern edge of that field (although that has been kept in as an option via HDD if plot 02-028 was not feasible for any reason). As such, the cabling will pass through plot 02-028, and then along the A6121, necessitating also the use of those plots to deal with any constraints in the road.					
	Updated Land Plans, Works Plans, Access and Rights of Way Plans, and associated DCO Schedules to reflect removal of cabling plots on Pickworth Road have been submitted at Deadline 7.					
	Whilst the Access and Rights of Way plans have been updated to remove any street works along Pickworth Road to reflect that the cabling works are no longer being applied for in this location, it is still proposed to retain the powers shown on the Traffic Regulation Measures - Temporary Road closures plan to implement temporary road closures on Pickworth Road. This is to accommodate potential cabling works along the mouth of the junction of Pickworth Road and the A6121 – which due to the proximity of the railway bridge and narrow footway on the southern side, could constrain where the cabling could sit in the carriageway and the range of traffic calming options available for the principal contractor. This is due to the narrow width of Pickworth Road and that there are no suitable places to turn a vehicle around once joining from the High Street, which could mean a vehicle travelling south from the High Street could get stuck in the event that the cabling works need to cross the mouth of the A6121 / Pickworth Road junction. The ability to close Pickworth Road to manage that risk is therefore required.					
8. Statutory Undertakers						

Agenda Item	Applicant's Response				
a) The Applicant to update on the current position in relation to negotiations with Statutory Undertakers, including whether Protective Provisions have been agreed.	Please see section 4b above where this point was discussed.				
b) Any relevant submissions from Statutory Undertakers.	N/A – there were no statutory undertakers present to speak.				
9. Any further Human Rights	considerations				
	N/A - there were no considerations or questions arising for this agenda item.				
10. Any other relevant matter	rs				
	Mrs Holloway, speaking on behalf of MPAG, asked for clarification about Mr Matt Fox's comments at the Compulsory Acquisition Workshop meeting held between the Applicant's representatives and the villagers in Essendine about the powers in the DCO being limited to five years and then reverting to New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and then talking about retaining controls for the duration of the scheme?				
	Mr Fox, on behalf of the Applicant, clarified that the requirements of the DCO and management plans last in perpetuity (i.e. provisions in the CEMP) but, in contrast, if the compulsory acquisition powers have not been used after five years then they cannot be used.				
11. Review of actions arising					
	Please see the Applicant's submissions in this document as to how the Action Points have been dealt with.				

Appendices

Appendix A Table of other schemes approach to plan technology flexibility

Project (Technology)	Installed Solar DC Capacity (MW)	Order Limits (ha)	Works Number 1 ¹ Area (Ha)	Land area to Installed MW Ratio Ha / MW Acres / MW	Mitigation and Enhancement Areas (Ha)
Mallard Pass (FSF & SAT)	350	852	420	1.2 Ha / 1 MW 2.9 acres / 1MW	395ha
Longfield (FSF)	371	453	275	0.74 Ha / 1MW 1.8 acres /1MW	Habitat Management Areas: a minimum of 55.8ha. In addition Work area no.6 which totals 370.09ha includes among other components, 'landscaping and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures including planting', however the percentage for landscape is not specified.
Little Crow (FSF)	150 - 200	225	153.4	0.77 – 1.02 Ha/ 1 MW 1.90 – 2.5 acres / 1 MW	59.826 Ha ecological corridor
Cleve Hill Fixed East West	350	491.2	176.3	0.50 Ha / 1MW 1.23 acres / 1MW	50.1 ha of functional habitat management land
Sunnica (FSF)	627	981	621	0.99 Ha / 1 MW 2.44 acres / 1 MW	
Cottam (SAT & FSF)	8712	1451.23	879.39	1.0 Ha / 1 MW 2.47 acres / 1 MW	Works No 10 – 80.93 ha
Heckington Fen (FSF)	500	542	417.07	0.83 Ha / 1 MW 2.05 acres / 1 MW	Work No 9A – 16.5ha (Biodiversity Net Gain Areas)

⁻

¹ Being the area of the solar generating station for each project. The other projects also had battery development taking up agricultural land that would add to these figures, but have not been included to provide a 'clean' like for like comparison.

² The installed DC MWp has been based upon 1,320,624 PV Modules, as referenced within the Cottam Climate Change chapter (paragraph 7.8.15) and an assumption of a 660w panel to enable a comparison with Mallard Pass.

Project (Technology)	Installed Solar DC Capacity (MW)	Order Limits (ha)	Works Number 1 ¹ Area (Ha)	Land area to Installed MW Ratio Ha / MW	Mitigation and Enhancement Areas (Ha)
				Acres / MW	
West Burton	661 ³	886.4	733.99	1.1 ha / 1 MW	Works No. 9 – 98.81 ha
(SAT & FSF)				2.71 acres / 1 MW	
Gate Burton	531	824	474	0.89 ha /MW	11.3Ha ⁴
(FSF)				2.19 acres / 1MW	

To put the land area to installed MW capacity ratio into context the draft NPS EN-3 provides a guide for the size of solar farms. At paragraph 2.47.2 it states that "Along with associated infrastructure, generally a solar farm requires between 2 to 4 acres for each MW of output." The Mallard Pass land area to installed MW capacity ratio lies in the middle of this range.

The table above presents a simple comparison of the installed DC capacity and land required for PV Arrays. The calculations do not take account of or provide commentary on the spatial requirements for different PV Table configurations or technologies such as Single Axis Trackers vs Fixed South Facing. However, it can be seen that those seeking flexibility in technology (Mallard Pass, West Burton and Cottam) have a higher land take in terms of Ha/MW.

The information presented within the tables has been complied using information that has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in support of the respective NSIP Applications.

The Applicant has also undertaken a review of the Solar Farm Projects that are registered on the National Infrastructure Planning website. The list below provides a summary of the technologies being considered.

- 1. Botley West FSF.
- 2. Byers Gill Solar FSF and SAT.
- 3. Dean Moor FSF.
- 4. East Yorkshire Solar Farm FSF, Fixed East West and \$AT.
- 5. Fenwick Solar Farm FSF, Fixed East West and SAT.
- 6. Foose Green FSF and SAT.
- 7. Frodsham Solar Project FSF.
- 8. Helios Renewable Energy Project SAT.

³ The installed DC MWp has been based upon 1,001,808 PV Modules, as referenced within the West Burton Climate Change chapter (paragraph 7.8.16) and an assumption of a 660w panel to enable a comparison with Mallard Pass.

⁴ As indicated by estimated ALC area in Table 12-12 of the ES, which is not proposed to be used for solar panels, battery storage or the substation s

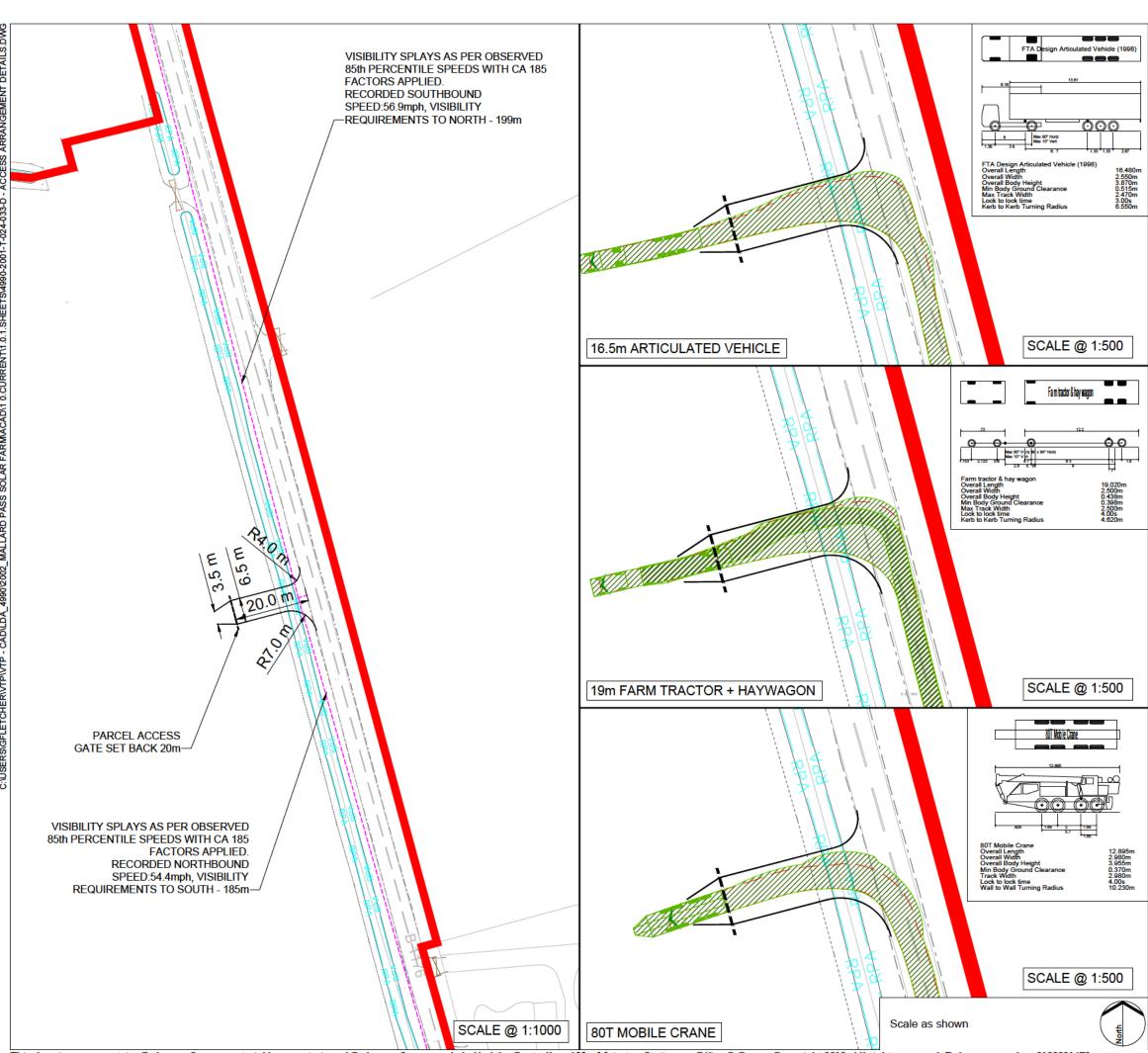
- 9. Oaklands Farm Solar Project Not specified.
- 10. One Earth Scoping Request not yet submitted.
- 11. Peartree Hill Solar Farm Scoping Request not yet submitted.
- 12. Rosefield Solar Farm Scoping Request not yet submitted.
- 13. Springwell Solar Farm FSF and SAT.
- 14. Stonestreet Green Solar FSF and SAT.
- 15. Temple Oaks Renewable Energy Park FSF.
- 16. Tillbridge Solar FSF and SAT.
- 17. Tween Bridge Solar Farm FSF

Of those projects listed where a Scoping Request has been submitted – 8 out of 13 projects are seeking flexibility for the inclusion of SATs. It is not possible to undertake land take comparisons for these projects as information regarding the extent of Works Number 1 is not known.

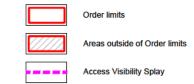
Mallard Pass Solar Farm

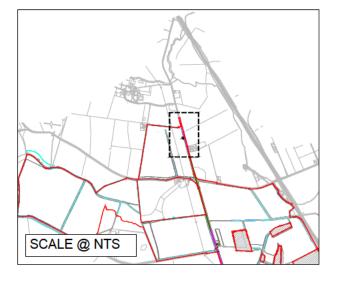
9.43 - Summary of Applicant's Oral Submissions at CAH2 & Appendices - Appendices A - C

Appendix B oCTMP Appendix F Extract (Woolley Response)



LEGEND





REV. DESCRIPTION

APP. DATE

LDĀDESIGN

PROIECT TITL

MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM
OUTLINE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT PLAN

DRAWING TITLE

ACCESS H SITE ACCESS JUNCTION - SWEPT PATH ANALYSIS

ISSUED BY Oxford T: 01865 887 050

DATE 04/03/22 DRAWN GSF
SCALE@A3 As shown CHECKED CR
STATUS Sketch APPROVED MK

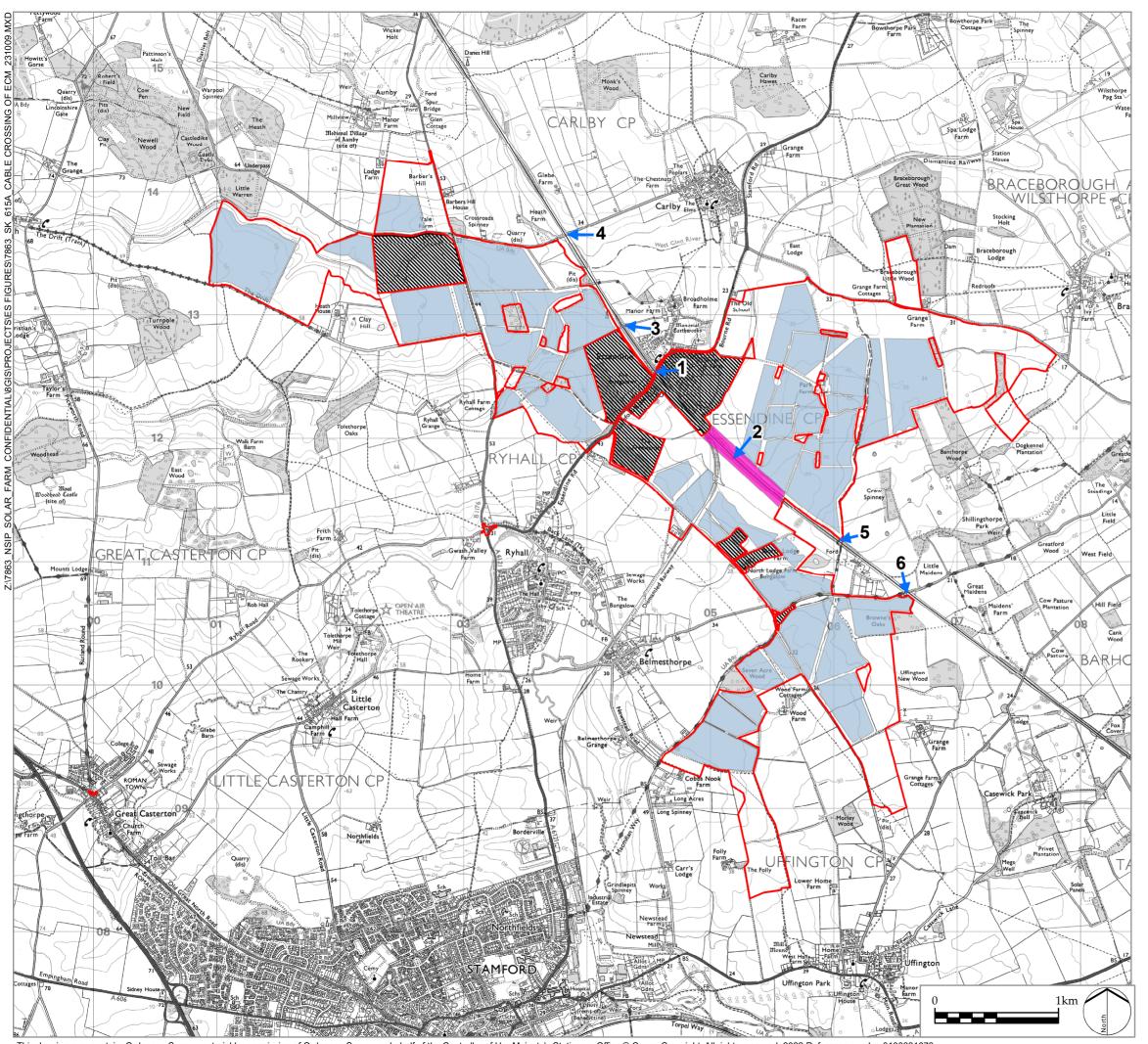
DWG. NO 4990-2001-T-024-D

No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing. All dimensions are to be checked on site. Area measurements for indicative purposes only.

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Sources Ordnance Survey

Appendix C Alternative Rail Crossings Plan



Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Regulations 2010

PINS REFERENCE NUMBER

EN010127

LEGEND

Order limits

Solar PV Site

Zone for Horizontal Directional Drilling

Areas outside the Order limits

Cabe Crossing Locations

Locations of Potential Railway Cable Crossings:

- 1 Road Bridge through Essendine
- **2** Existing culverts/arches
- 3 Manor Farm access bridge
- 4 Underpass between Castle Bytham and Carlby
- 5 Bridlepath bridge
- 6 Level Crossing on road to Greatford

P0 DCO Submission REV. DESCRIPTION

RP 06/11/22 APP. DATE



PROJECT TITLE

MALLARD PASS SOLAR FARM

Alternative Rail Crossings Plan

 ISSUED BY
 Oxford
 T: 01865 887050

 DATE
 Sep 2023
 DRAWN
 AG

 SCALE @A3
 1:30,000
 CHECKED
 PD

 STATUS
 Final
 APPROVED
 RP

DWG. NO. 7863_SK_615a REV: P0

No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing. All dimensions are to be checked on site.

Area measurements for indicative purposes only.

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Sources: Ordnance Survey